



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship March 29, 2026 9:30am
Palm Sunday

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER "Bless His Holy Name" by Andraé Crouch

All

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. (2x)
He has done great things, he has done great things, he has done great things;
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

ALL: Hosanna in the highest!

ONE: Today we gather with the crowd on the road, waving our palms and lifting our voices.

ALL: We welcome you, Jesus, Son of David, King of all creation!

ONE: Yet we also know where this road leads: to the upper room, to the garden, and to the cross.

ALL: We dare not look away. We follow where you go. Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

*SONG TO PRAISE "Hosanna" by Michael W. Smith, Deborah D. Smith

All

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord ~ Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna! (2x)

King of Israel, welcome to our hearts here to reign in righteousness.

O Ruler of the world, ruler of our hearts, now ascend your throne:

You are the king of kings. Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord ~ Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna! (2x)

To Jerusalem, to the sons of man, riding on in gentle strength.

O come to save your own, come to give your life, the kingdom is at hand.

You are the king of kings. Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord ~ Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna! (2x)

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna! (2x)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:1–11 (NRSVue)

Tom Stroud

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

**“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, **“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”**

PROCESSION OF PALMS

“Bakken Overture”

Brian Nozny

Christopher Culp, Jill Endaya-Allen, Keith Langabee, & Patrick O’Halloran, percussion

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

On this day, we remember that the crowd who cried "Hosanna" were the same people who would later cry "Crucify him!" We are not so different. Let us come before God in honest confession

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises and to receive us as your own. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

For Christ came into the world not to condemn the world but that the world through him should be saved. Therefore, as beloved children of God, let us walk in love as Christ loved us. Hosanna!

ALL: Hosanna! Amen!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

***SONG OF PEACE**

"Grace Flows Down"

by Bell, Giglio & Padgett

All

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound:
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me.**

**It covers me, it covers me, it covers me
And covers me.**

Equipping

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SONG TO REFLECT

"Amazing Grace"

Craig Courtney

Allen York, soloist

Carrie Devries, accompanist

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

*Amazing grace!
So vast and yet so free!
The Son of God, the righteous One,
Is crucified for me.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.*

*Amazing grace!
So vast and yet so free!*

*The Son of God, the righteous One,
Is crucified for me.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 27:11–26

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“At the Threshold”

Rev. Karen Wright

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

SONG FOR GIVING

“St Basil’s Hymn”
Cal Sweeten, dulcimer

Traditional

[Sending](#)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SONG TO SEND

“Be Still (Psalm 46)”

by Shive, Benet Aguirre

All

Mason, Westlake, Barnard & Fowler

**Be still though all the earth is shaking,
though rivers rise in flood, though mountains turn to dust.**

**Be still; know you are not forsaken.
Your god is ever near. O child, do not fear.**

**Look up, behold the Lord has heard our crying.
Our help will come, the Lord of angel armies.
Be still and know that the Lord is on his throne.**

**Be still though round you nations crumble.
The powerful and proud, they rise and they die down.
Be still; he is your help in trouble.
You are his chosen child. He'll never leave your side.**

**Look up, behold the Lord has heard our crying.
Our help will come, the Lord of angel armies.
Be still and know that the Lord is on his throne.**

**Be still; the lord of hosts is with us.
He causes wars to cease, brings evil to its knees.
Be still; he is our mighty fortress.
From age to age he proves that he will not be moved.**

**Look up, behold the Lord has heard our crying.
Our help will come, the Lord of angel armies.
Be still and know that the Lord is on his throne.**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org

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