

Service of Worship, Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020, 10am

Gathering All People in a Caring Christian Community

PRELUDE

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Albin Whitworth

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*unison*)

**Though we have known hardship and pain,
though life has not always turned out as we had hoped,
we will stand here and say:
God’s steadfast love endures forever!**

**And though the pain of the world
often seems more than we can bear or address,
we will stand firm in our faith and say:
God’s steadfast love endures forever!**

PRAISE TEAM

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

by Stephen Schwartz
from GODSPELL

HYMN #197

[“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”](#)

ELLACOMBE

PRAYER OF ASKING (*unison*)

O God of infinite patience, help us to see the world around us with clarity and perspective. After years and years of failing to appreciate all that we have been blessed with in our society, our eyes have been opened. This disease that increases our fear also makes us aware of more important aspects of life – the simple touch of others, a sense of community, and gratitude for the work of those we have taken for granted. Laborers, cashiers, servers, teachers, nurses, doctors, all those whose lives are dedicated to making our lives easier, deserve more than our simple gratitude. They deserve our respect and a change in the way we live. When at last this disease subsides, may we seize the opportunity to start anew, to reshape our world according to the way of love, the teachings of Jesus. We pray this, knowing our need is great. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you and everyone. **And also with you and all others!**

“Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have,
and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone.
But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have
and all that they are.” —*Hafsat Abiola*

SINGING

“Hosanna, Praise Is Rising”

by Paul Baloche

Praise is rising	‘Cause when we see You
Eyes are turning to You	We find strength to face the day
We turn to You	In Your presence
Hope is stirring	All our fears are washed away
Hearts are yearning for You	Washed away
We long for You	Hosanna! Hosanna!
‘Cause when we see You	You are the God
We find strength to face the day	who saves us
In Your presence	Worthy of all our praises
All our fears are washed away	Hosanna! Hosanna!
Washed away	Come have Your way
Hosanna! Hosanna!	among us
You are the God	We welcome You here
who saves us	Lord Jesus
Worthy of all our praises	Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna! Hosanna!	You are the God
Come have Your way	who saves us
among us	Worthy of all our praises
We welcome You here	Hosanna! Hosanna!
Lord Jesus	Come have Your way
Hear the sound of	among us
Hearts returning to You	We welcome You here
We turn to You	Lord Jesus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

...as Jesus taught his disciples to pray, saying:

**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.**

Equipping People to Develop and Share a Faith That Works in Real Life

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON The Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11 (Common English Bible)

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. ² He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away. ⁴ Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, ⁵ *Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.”*^[a] ⁶ The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

⁸ Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*”^[b] *Hosanna in the highest!* ¹⁰ And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked. ¹¹ The crowds answered, “It’s the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words. **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“Come With Me”

by Patti Drennan

Chancel Ensemble – David Sutherland, soloist

Come with me to the sea of Galilee; come with me, come apart with me.

Come with me, leave the multitude; come with me to a place of solitude.

Come with me, watch and pray, come with me for soon I go;

But I will leave my spirit to guide and comfort you, and I will come again for you.

Come with me to Gethsemane; come with me, come and pray with me.

Come with me as I am betrayed; come with me, see my Father’s will obeyed.

Come with me, watch and pray, come with me for soon I go;

But I will leave my spirit to guide and comfort you, and I will come again for you.

Come with me, come to Calvary; come with me as I do my Father’s will.

Come with me, see me lifted up; Come with me as I drink death’s cup.

Come with me, watch and pray, come with me for soon I go;

But I will leave my spirit to guide and comfort you, and I will come again for you.

SERMON

“What if we threw a party, and no one came?”

Rev. Mitch Trigger

ONLINE OFFERING

(You may submit your offering through our online giving portal at www.gcpc.org/give)

HYMN #198

["Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"](#)

ST. DROSTANE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SOLO

"Carry Him Gently"
Donna Goeckler, soloist

by Buryl Red
from *Celebrate Life*

POSTLUDE

"God So Loved the World"
From *The Crucifixion*
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Albin Whitworth