

First Presbyterian Church Worship Bulletin 4.2.23
Palm/Passion Sunday (Communion)

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, you brought your son Jesus into Jerusalem to show people the radical grace of your love. Show us this grace, and give us eyes to see your goodness. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Remembering our Baptism

Remember your baptism **and be thankful.**

Prelude

All those who wish to participate in the procession of palms, please gather at the back of the sanctuary during the prelude.

***Call to Worship**

We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope
the palms of deliverance of God's people.

Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!

Our hearts are filled with expectation
as we welcome the coming king.

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

We receive into the crowded streets of our lives
the one who is Savior, not only of us, but of all the earth.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

***Hymn of Praise Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #89**

*1 Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.*

*2 From Olivet they followed
'Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving,
And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven
Ride on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.*

*3 "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice.*

Unison Prayer

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people and the ways of our world in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love. Show us again the image of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience, so that self-emptying may be our pathway, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Reflection and Confession

(Worship leader will pause for 60 seconds then read the following:

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray, Amen.)

***The Gloria Patri**

Prayer for God's Wisdom

Eternal God, whose word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.

The Passion of Our Lord, According to the Gospel of Matthew

Reading 1

Matthew 26:14-29

Keith Hudson

Communion

All those who trust in Jesus Christ are invited to come forward and receive communion. Please come down the center where you will receive a piece of bread and a small cup of juice. Return to the seats via the outer aisles. You may partake of the bread and the juice in your pews when you are ready.

Reading 2

Matthew 26:30-56

Tracey Smith

Hymn

Go to Dark Gethsemane v1 #97

*1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away,
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

Reading 3

Matthew 26:57-27:23

Wendi Stein

Hymn Go to Dark Gethsemane v2#97

*2 Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of Life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn from Christ to bear the cross.*

Reading 4 Matthew 27:24-44 Sam Richardson

Hymn Go to Dark Gethsemane v3#97

*3 Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

Reading 5 Matthew 27:45-54 Laura

Moment of Silence

Litany on the Mind of Christ (based on Philippians 2)

Let us remember Jesus:

Who, though he was rich,
for our sakes became poor and dwelt among us;

Who was content to be the child of a poor family;

Who lived the common life,
earning his living with his own hands
and declining no humble tasks;

Whom the common people heard gladly, for he understood their ways.

Let us remember Jesus:

Who was mighty in deed, healing the sick and afflicted,
using for others the powers he would not invoke for himself;

**Who was master and Lord to his disciples,
yet was among them as their Companion
and as one who served.**

Let us remember Jesus:

Who loved people, yet retired from them to pray,
rose a great while before day,
watched through the night,
stayed in the wilderness,
went up into a mountain,
sought out a garden;

**Who prayed for his tempted disciple,
and for the forgiveness of all who rejected him,
and for the perfecting of those who received him;**

Who observed good customs,
but defied conventions that did not serve the purposes of God.
Who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness,
of cruelty and impurity—the cost to humanity and to God.

May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

Let us remember Jesus:

Who, when he was reviled, did not retaliate,
and when he suffered did not threaten;
who emptied himself and carried obedience to the point of death,
even death on the cross.

May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

Let us pray for Christ to dwell within our hearts.

**O Christ, our only Savior,
so come to dwell in us
that we may go forth with the light of your hope in our eyes,
and with your faith and love in our hearts. Amen.**

***Hymn of Response** We Sang Our Glad Hosannas STF#2111 (vs. 1-4)

*We sang our glad Hosannas,
and waved our branches high,
but some were silent, frowning,
as Jesus rode on by.*

*They sought a royal Savior
but did not understand
a king could rule by loving,
instead of by command.*

*We heard an angry Jesus
in Temple courts declare,
"Be gone, you moneychangers!
This is a house of prayer."
Though many came for healing
and stayed to hear his word,
still others, hostile, plotted
and thus his death assured.*

*We served him at the table
with wine, unleavened bread.
"The one who will betray me
now eats with me," he said.
His friends would not believe him,
but one by one that night,
as soldiers came to take him,
they scurried out of sight.*

*We saw a suffering Jesus
alone, without a friend,
and heard the voices shouting
abuse until the end.
We wept as we stood watching
Love's light grow dim and die,*

*and cried, "Why did this happen?
God, tell us, tell us why!"*

Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of all good gifts, we thank you for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are homeless. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***Charge and Benediction/Passing the Peace of Christ**

Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Look not to rewards and celebrity for your good deeds.

Do unto others what will nurture God's will for them.

Listen to the word of the Lord, and believe.

May the peace of Christ be with you and guide your path this Holy Week.

And may his peace be with you.

Let us greet each other, sharing signs of Christ's peace with one another.

If you wish, you may place your palm branch at the base of the cross.

Postlude

Holy Week Happenings-All at First Presbyterian Church

April 2-Palm Passion Sunday Worship Service, 9:30AM

April 5-Community Fellowship Night Dinner, PFC, 6:00PM

April 6-Maundy Thursday, No Footwashing this year, 5:30PM

April 7-Good Friday, 6:30PM

April 9-Easter Worship Service, 9:30AM. Bring a flower to place on the Blooming Cross. Easter Egg hunt to follow the service for younger members of the church

Easter Lilies-If you would like to honor a loved-one with an Easter lily, please contact the office by March 28 with information about person(s) donating the lily and those who are to be honored. There is no set donation for the lilies, just whatever you are able to do.

CCLI Streaming License #2652405

On-line donations are now being accepted. If you wish to support the church ministry by donating with your credit or debit card, click on the "Give Now" link on the church webpage, www.fpclagrande.org, or use the QR code.

