

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – April 5, 2020
Palm and Passion Sunday
Join us on You Tube!

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Jesus is coming!

From the mountainside, from the seaside,

from the homes of the rich

and the company of the poor,

from the bedside of those who are sick,

Jesus is coming!

Along dusty roads,

with a ragged band of travellers,

Jesus comes to Jerusalem,

Jesus comes to worship.

Will we greet him with Hosannas?

Jesus, King and Lord of all,

we worship and adore you

Great high priest,

living forever to intercede for us;

Jesus, King and Lord of all,

we worship and adore you.

Pioneer of our salvation,

you bring us to glory

through your death and resurrection;

Jesus, King and Lord of all,

we worship and adore you.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

God who is ever constant Love,

you pave the way to the kingdom,

but we prefer to stub our toes on the potholes of temptation.

You would touch the cup of grace to our lips,

but we hunger for the ashy taste of bitterness.

You beg us to learn the songs of salvation,

but our ears are stopped up.

Have mercy upon us, God of Holiness. As you come to us, you bring healing for our brokenness, peace for our troubled lives, hope for our doubting minds. May we empty ourselves of everything which keeps us from following you, so we may receive these gifts, and more, from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon *[responsive]*

Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption;
setting aside anger, God embraces us with love;
letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us.
This is the good news, my friends:
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God!

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture Readings **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-23**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' ⁴This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
⁵'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.'

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!'

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' ¹¹The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

We Act

Rev. Mary Austin

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity

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.

We Depart for Service

***Announcements**

Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

***Commission & Benediction**

The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are adapted from the writing of Thom Shuman.