

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – March 28, 2021**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Opening Music**                    “Fanfare in D major”                    Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

**Greeting**

**Invitation to Holy Week** [*responsive*]                    Mark 11:1–11                    The Story of Palm Sunday

This is the day of triumph and joy!

**We give thanks for this day that leads to new life.**

<sup>1</sup> When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Gathering Hymn**                    “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”                    Glory to God #196

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession** *[together]*

Let us face this day of palms and Jesus' passion with honesty, confessing our sin before God.

**Prayer of Confession** *[together]*

Gracious God, we admit that our hosannas never last long. Before their joy fades away, we find ourselves arguing with each other, posturing for power, turning away from neighbors in need, and even betraying you. The violence of the cross, and the violence of our own hearts, horrify us.

In your mercy and loving-kindness, pour your grace upon us once more. Let the love of Jesus overwhelm us again. Let your goodness shine for all the world to see. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and help us to live for the praise of your glory. Amen.

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

**Assurance of Pardon** *[responsive]*

The astonishing news is that Jesus entered into suffering in order to raise us to new life. The Lamb of God took upon himself the sin of the world, so that we might be free to love God and to love others. All of this is God's great gift to the world. Love wins.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**Music for Reflection**

"A Stable Lamp Is Lighted"

Glory to God #160

**We Listen to God's Word**

**Children's Message**

Carolyn Hayes

**Scripture**

Psalm 118:19-29

<sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.  
<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>25</sup>Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!  
<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.<sup>[b]</sup>  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.  
<sup>27</sup>The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.<sup>[c]</sup>  
<sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.  
<sup>29</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

### Mark 9:30–37

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

**Sermon**

**Now, Where Do We Find a Horse?**

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

## We Respond to God's Grace

### Invitation to Generosity

### Invitation to Prayer

### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer *[together]*

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 and Passing the Peace

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

Response: "And also with you."

### Commission & Benediction

### Holy Week Continues

Mark 14:1-2

"It was now two days before the Passover and the feast of the Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth, and kill him; for they said, 'Not during the feast, lest there be a tumult of the people'"

### Closing Music

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

Glory to God #158

### Participating in the service:

Allison Howlett, Worship Leader  
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts  
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children's Message  
Rev. Mary Austin  
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence