**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023



*“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!’"*

*(Matthew 21:9)*

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**Palm Sunday**

**April 2, 2023**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good

**P: His steadfast love endures forever**

L: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD

**P: You have answered me and have become my salvation**

L: The LORD is God, and he has given us light

**P: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you**

L: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it

**P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” #124 (vv.1-4)

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!**

**Let angels prostrate fall**

**Bring forth the royal diadem**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**Bring forth the royal diadem**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Ye chosen seed of Israel's race**

**Ye ransomed from the fall**

**Hail him who saves you by his grace**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**Hail him who saves you by his grace**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Let every kindred every tribe**

**On this terrestrial ball**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng**

**We at his feet may fall**

**We'll join the everlasting song**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**We'll join the everlasting song**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, has sent thy Son our savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection. Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn:** “All Glory Laud and Honor” #215 (vv.1-3)

**All glory, laud, and honor to**

**Thee, Redeemer, King**

**To whom the lips of children**

**Made sweet hosannas ring**

**Thou art the King of Israel**

**Thou David’s royal Son**

**Ho in the Lord’s name comest**

**The King and Blessed One**

**The company of angels**

**Are praising Thee on high**

**And mortal men and all things**

**Created make reply**

**The people of the Hebrew**

**With palms before Thee went**

**Our praise and prayer and anthems**

**Before Thee we present**

**To Thee, before Thy passion**

**They sang their hymns of praise**

**To Thee, now high exalted**

**Our melody we raise**

**Thou didst accept their praises**

**Accept the praise we bring**

**Who in all good delightest**

**Thou good and gracious King**

**Congregational Reading:** A Prayer of Restoration

**P: To you, eternal God, fountain of mercy, I come, a sinner. May you wash away my impurity. O son of justice, give sight to the blind. O eternal healer, cure the wounded. O king of kings, restore the despoiled. O mediator of God and man, reconcile the sinful. O good shepherd, lead back the straying. O God, have pity on the wretched, show leniency to the guilty, bestow life on the dead, reform the impious, and give the balm of grace to the hard of heart. O more merciful God, call back the one who flees, draw back the one who resists, lift up the one who falls, support the one who stands, and accompany the one who walks. Do not forget those who forget you. Do not desert those who desert you. Do not despise those who despise you. Amen.**

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 21:1-11

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, saying, “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.”

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response****:** “I Know Whom I Have Believed” #443 (vv.1-3,5)

**I know not why God’s wondrous grace**

**To me He hath made known**

**Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love**

**Redeemed me for His own**

**But I know Whom I have believed**

**And am persuaded that He is able**

**To keep that which I’ve committed**

**Unto Him against that day**

**I know not how this saving faith**

**To me He did impart**

**Nor how believing in His Word**

**Wrought peace within my heart**

**But I know Whom I have believed**

**And am persuaded that He is able**

**To keep that which I’ve committed**

**Unto Him against that day**

**I know not how the Spirit moves**

**Convincing men of sin**

**Revealing Jesus through the Word**

**Creating faith in Him**

**But I know Whom I have believed**

**And am persuaded that He is able**

**To keep that which I’ve committed**

**Unto Him against that day**

**I know not when my Lord may come**

**At night or noonday fair**

**Nor if I’ll walk the vale with Him**

**Or meet Him in the air**

**But I know Whom I have believed**

**And am persuaded that He is able**

**To keep that which I’ve committed**

**Unto Him against that day**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Let the people rejoice, let the heavens resound, let the name of Jesus, who sought us and freed us forever ring out. Give praise to the King, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Hosanna” (vv.1-2)

**Hosanna, hosanna**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Hosanna, hosanna**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Lord we lift up your name**

**With hearts full of praise**

**Be exulted o Lord my God**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Glory glory**

**Glory to the King of Kings**

**Glory glory**

**Glory to the King of Kings**

**Lord we lift up your name**

**With hearts full of praise**

**Be exulted o Lord my God**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**\*Benediction**

L: May we hold fast to God’s vision of goodness and purpose for our lives. Let ourselves be overtaken by God’s love and pour it back out into the world, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.