

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

April 2, 2023
Palm/Passion Sunday



10:00 a.m.

*If you are able, please stand.
Please turn off cell phones.

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

“We like to think it’s true, that given the opportunity to go back and do things differently, we would. We would, as improved, wiser people, make completely different choices. After all, we are better versions of ourselves now. And I kind of think that’s true, and I kind of don’t.

I mention this because of how uncomfortable the Palm Sunday story always makes me. As we read about the fickle crowds waving their palms and laying down their cloaks and shouting *hosanna in the highest* to the guy riding into Jerusalem on an unimpressive animal, I cringe. I am embarrassed about how sure they seem of themselves and how miserably they are about to fail when put to the test; how quickly their shouts go from *hail him* to *nail him*.”

Nadia Bolz-Weber – April 2022



Prelude

Introit

Ride On, King Jesus!
Ravon Middlebrooks, tenor

spiritual

*Call to Worship – from Psalm 118

Graham Bridgeman

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
God’s steadfast love endures forever!

All: Let the people say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever!”

Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may enter through them
and give thanks to my God.

**This is the gate of the LORD;
those who seek God shall enter through it.**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Processional Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
(verses 1, 2 & 3)

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

[You are invited to join the children and wave your palms as we sing!]

Invitation to Worship and Confession

We come with glad shouts of “Hosanna!” and joyful songs of praise, yet when trouble comes, we will keep ourselves a safe distance from the One who loves us. We still fall short of the glory of God, so—with faith and hope—let us seek God’s forgiveness.

Prayer of Preparation and Confession (unison)

Triumphant God, we join the crowds of the ages in shouting your praises; yet while our lips give you glory, our lives seldom reflect your vision and your values. We sing easily of your greatness, but following you—being willing to risk ourselves in love, as you do—is usually too much for us. We long for your salvation, Lord, yet our need to control our lives leaves us broken and separated from you. Have mercy on us. Ride into our hearts again, we pray, with healing grace. Forgive what we have done and help each of us to trust the person you created us to be. Lord, save us! Hosanna!

our silent prayers of preparation and confession

Assurance of God’s Love and Forgiveness

*We Give God Glory (#582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Welcome & Life of the Church

Pastor Greg Horn

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along.)

Time for Children

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, children may go to Sunday School.)

We Worship With Our Offerings

the morning offering and
One Great Hour of Sharing offering

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Song (insert)

In Christ Alone

Getty/Townend

verse 1 – women

verse 2 – men

verses 3 & 4 – all

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Dramatic Reading

"From Palm Sunday to Passion"

according to Matthew's Gospel

Tom Jakab

Jeri Leer

Ravon Middlebrooks

Melody Williams

John Weidemann

Christine Orzepowski

Tom Williams

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Choral Response

Requies

Jordan C. Green

(Rest)

Dona Nobis Pacem

(Grant Us Peace)

Chancel Choir

David Rimelis, violin Alonso Restrepo, cello

What evil has he done?

*For God so loved the world,
He gave His only Son.*

*I was there when they crucified your Son.
I was there when they crucified your Child, and I still tremble today.
I still tremble at the child you gave away for me.*

*From manger to the cross,
a shepherd left without his flock.*

*What goodness have I done
for you to send your son?*

*I was there when they nailed him to the cross,
and I trembled. I still tremble.*

*For God so loved the world,
He gave His only Son.*

What evil has he done?

*Requies, Jesu. Requies.
(Rest, Jesus. Rest.)*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Hymn 215 (seated) *What Wondrous Love Is This* American Folk Hymn
(verses 1 & 2)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

One: The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise...

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Interlude

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Jordan C. Green

Prayer after Communion

***Closing Hymn** (seated) *What Wondrous Love Is This* American Folk Hymn
(verses 3 & 4)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

† † † † †

WELCOME and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. After worship, you are warmly invited for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER for anything you might need, and please help fellow worshippers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

CHILD CARE for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall (adjacent to sanctuary). Ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for help finding classrooms. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time and have not yet registered your child, please step out briefly with your children as they are dismissed to Sunday School to fill out an emergency contact form before returning to the sanctuary.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING TODAY – This morning, at the same time as the regular morning collection of offerings, the PCUM worshiping family will receive the special **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offering. Please consider giving gratefully and generously to both.

“Sharing Resources, Changing Lives.” Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through OGHS to share God’s love with people experiencing great need and challenge. Your gifts to OGHS support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance/resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

LORD’S SUPPER TODAY – Today we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, also known as communion or the eucharist (*thanksgiving*). In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal (assurance) of God’s grace in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At the table, Presbyterians trust that God’s Holy Spirit, rather than our effort, brings us into Christ’s real Presence, nourishes us in hope and sends us out to share in God’s work in the world. All are welcome come acknowledging our brokenness and seeking reconciliation with God and each other. Children who are being nurtured in the significance of the Lord’s Supper—at their level of understanding and with parental/guardian permission—are invited to share in communion. Welcome.

SUPPORT THE DEACONS’ MINISTRY – Today and every Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, the PCUM family uses the green envelopes in your pew rack to support the Deacons’ ministries of compassion, care, and community-building. You can also click on “Give” at pcum.org and specify “Deacons’ Fund” or mail your check to the church. Thank you!

TODAY IS LAST DAY TO DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS – Remember or honor a loved one Easter Sunday by dedicating Easter Flowers that will adorn the sanctuary and proclaim the Good News of God’s gift of new and abundant life in the resurrected Christ. Dedication forms are available in your bulletin. Each plant is \$15. Deadline is **today!**



HOLY WEEK @ PCUM

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 6th at 7:30 pm: Plan to take part in this unique and meaningful Holy Week experience as the PCUM family gathers around the Lord’s Table to focus on the great love God of in Christ that sustains us even through the darkest times.

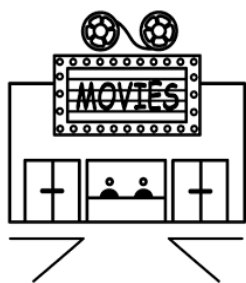
[The name ‘**MAUNDY**’ derives from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “commandment,” referring to Jesus’ commandment to his disciples after washing their feet at the Last Supper: “For I have set you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you.” (John 13:15). **TENEBRÆ** is the Latin word for darkness, which fills the sanctuary as together the PCUM family recounts the story of our Lord Jesus Christ’s journey from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane, to Peter’s denial and the trials before Pilate and Herod. As Jesus’ crucifixion nears, lights in the sanctuary are progressively extinguished.]



EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS on Sunday, April 9th will be at 9:00 and 11:00 am. Coffee Hour will take place between services. The annual Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt & children’s activities will start at 10:20 a.m. on the East lawn (weather permitting). Please sign up for the Easter Egg Hunt on the homepage of the church website at www.pcum.org.

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS? Saturday dates are available for you (& your family) to join other PCUM volunteers to serve hungry neighbors here in Montclair on the 4th Saturday the month and in Newark on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Serving is a great way to help others, make new friends, and experience God's love. **Sign up at www.pcum.org/serve-others/local-opportunities-to-serve-homeless-neighbors.**

PCUM'S MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meets Wednesdays from 7- 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All teens and tweens 6th – 8th grade are warmly invited to come out to have fun, share dinner, and meet old and new friends. Questions? Contact Youth Director, Garrett Pahl at youth@pcum.org.



BROWNIES IN THE DARK EXCLUSIVE MOVIE SCREENING has been rescheduled for **Friday, April 21st at 6:00 pm**. Come see this fun family film, written by 12-year-old Anthony Block and directed by Emmy award winning documentary director (and PCUM's own) John Block! The movie was filmed on location in Montclair, partly here at PCUM. It features acting and cameos from some very familiar faces. The film has been submitted for consideration for several film festivals. Sign-up on the bulletin board during Coffee Hour or online at www.pcum.org!

THE MONTCLAIR MUSIC CLUB (MMC) will host a concert in the PCUM sanctuary tomorrow, evening, April 3rd at 7:30 pm. The program will feature harpist Morgan Lomax playing familiar harp pieces; Soprano Karen Lundry singing works by Bellini, Delibes and Rogers and Hammerstein; violinist Rebecca Harris-Lee playing pieces by Montclair composer Dr. Thomas Parente; and flutist Olivia Chaikin performing the Faure *Sonata in A Major*. Members and guests, please join us for this enjoyable program. Donations welcome.

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PCUMONTCLAIR



PCUM's *Core Values*:

Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship ✝ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth*

Relationships ✝ *Participation* ✝ *Service to Others and to the World* ✝ *Relevance and Authenticity*

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Pastor & Head of Staff:

The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

Director of Music Ministries:

Anne Marie Juliano

Director of Christian Education:

Millie Tourtelot

Pastoral Intern: Graham Bridgeman

Youth Director: Garrett Pahl

Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia

Livestream Techs:

Tres Williams and Jerome Nelson

Sexton: Jimmy Abad