

KIRK IN THE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
PALM SUNDAY  
APRIL 13, 2025





## A Note from Sarah Ford

Do you know you'll only find the actual account of palm waving in the book of John? The scripture we lean on today in worship is from the book of Luke and in that account, people spread their cloaks on the road for Jesus, out of respect, hope, expectation. Leaning on all four gospels, we have a picture of Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem, people putting cloaks on the road, waving palms in the air, shouting "Hosanna!" A few days later, Jesus again predicts his death, overturns tables in the temple, hosts the Last Supper, is betrayed, arrested, crucified, buried, and resurrected. That's a lot.

These are the core memories of faith stories and faith practices (ie. palm waving on Palm Sunday) that we engage with as Christians. Did your children (or grandchildren, or spouse, or friend, or colleague) ask you, "Why do you/we wave palms?" Have you considered the question yourself? How did you answer it?

Can we be worshipful and reverent in palm waving instead of traditionalists and really think through what this is all about? Kids pick up on what's authentic. They are truth seekers and truth tellers. Jesus tells us to have child-life faith, not childish faith, child-like faith. Children seek the truth, let's give it to them. The palms can be a reminder of a people who loved Jesus in one minute and turned away from him in the next. How does that story affect us? They wanted something different than what Jesus was offering, and they quickly realized he wasn't the king they were looking for. We can be like that. One moment our faith is strong and in the next, we're filled with doubt. Maybe that's not you, maybe that's me. Maybe that's a little bit of you. But whatever it is, let's be honest with it. Our faith requires contemplation, consideration, questions, doubts, learning, exploring, failing, believing, sharing, realism, hope, repentance, belief, truth, honesty of heart, a leap in something we trust is true even if we can't touch it all the time. Faith is the real deal, and Jesus isn't messing around. Are we waving the palms at him for *real* or are we going through the motions?

When we wave the palms today, or when someone asks us why we do this, I encourage all of us to stop, pause, reflect, think for a moment, maybe breathe a prayer – and answer authentically. We wave the palms because without the palms, it's hard to reflect on what happened when Jesus came into Jerusalem to do what he had to do. The palms are easy for us to hold, they serve as a tool. We all remember better through symbols.

Today, palms are a symbol of life, resilience, and prosperity. We can wave them in thanks and in praise. We can wave them in joy that we're here now, and didn't live in Biblical times; we can wave them in gratitude that we know how the story ends.

Let your kids, your grandkids, your spouse, your friend, your colleague in on why you wave the palms, even if you're not sure, and definitely if you are. I am grateful that Jesus, the One, with all of his grace, offers indelible hope, indelible life, and an unimaginable quench of love everlasting in my heart, even on the worst days. That's enough to make me want to wave my palm and have a sword fight with my kids because I'm happy, and he makes it so.

Sarah Ford

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 & 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

## PRELUDE

**Fantasia Super: Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 735**

*J. S. Bach*

*(9:00 a.m. only)*

### **Clap Your Hands**

*Jimmy Owens*

*Clap your hands, all you people.*

*Shout unto God with a voice of triumph.*

*Clap your hands, all you people.*

*Shout unto God with a voice of praise.*

*Hosanna! Hosanna!*

*Shout unto God with a voice of triumph.*

*Praise him! Praise him!*

*Shout unto God with a voice of praise. (adapted from Psalm 47:1)*

The Joyful Noise Choir

## WELCOME

Rev. Edwin Estevez

\* *Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the tower bell.*

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jasmine Smart, 9:00 a.m.; Rev. Jim Moseley, 11:00 a.m.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

**Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!**

See, your king comes to you;

**Triumphant and victorious is he,**

Humble and riding on a donkey,

**On a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

## \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196

**All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jasmine Smart, 9:00 a.m.; Jim Moseley, 11:00 a.m.

The streets were crowded.

**A parade mood filled the air.**

Shouts came from deep in the heart.

**Hosanna. Save us.**

Save us from lukewarm faith.

**Hosanna. Save us.**

Save us from callous indifference.

**Hosanna. Save us.**

Save us from paltry hopes and petty dreams.

**Hosanna. Save us.**

Save us from unquenchable greed.

**Hosanna. Save us.**

Save us from lazy habits and faithless commitments.

**Hosanna. Save us.**

Save us from soft-mindedness and hard-heartedness.

**Hosanna. Save us.**

We cry from the depth of our hearts and the very pit of our souls.

**Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.**

\* SONG OF PENITENCE Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

\*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Jasmine Smart, 9:00 a.m.; Jim Moseley, 11:00 a.m.

Hosanna, and blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Friends, believe the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**In Jesus Christ we are a new creation.**

\* SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: grant us your peace.

## WORD

**WORD WITH THE CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAYER** (9:00 a.m.)

Sarah Ford

*Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed for Sunday School.*

**INVITATION HYMN** (See page 7 for music)

*(As the children come forward for the Word with Children the congregation sings while seated)*

**Come! Come! We Welcome You Here!** (see page 7)

Rev. Edwin Estevez (text), M. Biery (music)

**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.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** **Gracious God, Our Way in the Wilderness**

arr. M. Biery

*Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,  
Guide us, by your Word, through these forty days,  
So that we may be restored and renewed,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 19:28-40** (NT, page 83)

Joseph Ashoo, Confirmand, 9:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord.

Elder Jennifer Fickel, 11:00 a.m.

**Thanks be to God.**

**COMBINED ANTHEM**

**Hosanna**

Gregor, arr. Bitgood

*Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!*

Combined Choirs

**SERMON**

**Port of Entry**

Rev. Edwin Estevez

\* **HYMN 209**

**My Song Is Love Unknown**

LOVE UNKNOWN

*(Please be seated after the hymn.)*

## THANKSGIVING

**CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

Rev. Jim Moseley

*Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*

**OFFERTORY**

**Sanctus from *Requiem***

*Gabriel Fauré*

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

**\* DOXOLOGY** (*Hymn 606*)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**  
\* or *God*

**PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (*and The Lord's Prayer at 11:00 a.m. — see page 5*)

Rev. Jim Moseley

**SENDING**

**\* RECESSIONAL HYMN 197**

**Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

ELLACOMBE

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (*seated*)

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**May You Know the Presence of God**

*arr. Marilyn Biery*

*May you know the presence of God our keeper;  
with us by day and with us by night.  
With us in our coming and our going;  
with us all from this time forth and forever. Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**

**Flourish and Toccata on *Vexilla Regis Prodeunt***  
(*The Royal Banners Advance*)

*James Biery*

Come! Come! We Welcome You Here!

Come! Come! We welcome you here! Come! Come!

All God's children, young and old, we welcome you here!

Welcome! Welcome! Come closer, draw near!

All God's children, young and old, you are welcome here!

## INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

**About the Music:** The opening voluntary by J.S. Bach is based on the tune we sing as the processional hymn, *Valet will ich dir geben*. Bach used the tune several times in his organ music, and this festive setting prepares us to sing our opening hymn as we wave our palm branches in celebration. The combined choirs will sing an anthem arranged by Roberta Bitgood (1908-2007), an American organist, choir director and composer. She was the first woman to serve as president of the American Guild of Organists, elected in 1975. She lived in Michigan for a time, serving as violist with the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra and organist at the First Congregational Church in Battle Creek.

The Prayer for Illumination is set to a Scottish hymn tune named ELGIN. Not much is known about this tune, which was first published in the Scottish Psalter of 1564, which was the first psalter or psalm book to be published in Scotland. It was published by the Church of Scotland under the influence of John Knox as part of the Book of Common Order.

The Benediction Response is based on the Scottish tune CULROSS, named for a village and former royal burgh, and parish, in Fife, Scotland. The composer of the tune is not known; it first appeared in the Scottish Psalter.

**Musicians:** Bobby DeLisle, children and youth music director; Carol Beth Litkouhi, Joyful Noise Choir director; James Biery, organist; Marilyn Biery, director.

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**Stephen Ministers** are available for personal, confidential prayer in Melrose Chapel immediately following each service Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691. If you are interested in being connected with a Stephen Minister, please call Robin Brinks at 248-310-2034.



**On the Cover**— **Jesus Riding a Donkey** | Rolf Jansson | from *Goodsalt.org*, used with permission.

**Deacon Flower Ministry:** If you or someone you know needs a little cheering up, our Deacon flower ministry has bud vases each Sunday in the narthex. Please take a flower to remind someone of God's love or to remind yourself of the same.

**The flowers on the altar** are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Kenneth and Martha Gardhouse by Ron and Chris Gardhouse and family.

**Easter flower memorials are due today.** Please make a check payable to Kirk in the Hills for \$25.00 along with your name and person or persons you are memorializing/honoring and drop in the reception area. Online registration also available.



**Meet Our Membership Coordinator!** Stop by the Visitor's Table in the Narthex after service to say hello to our Membership Coordinator, Mercy Adams. If this is your first visit to the Kirk, Mercy would love to meet you and answer all your questions about being a member. If you're interested, she can sign you up for one of our upcoming New Member Classes.