

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

We Gather in God's Name...

Prayer of Preparation for Worship

{for silent prayer before starting the worship playlist}

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.¹ AMEN.

Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 118, *NRSV*; choose one person to lead)

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let all Israel and the church say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest! Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Call to Confession (*led by one*)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God. Let us pray.²

Silent Prayer of Confession (*about 30 seconds*)

Corporate Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Almighty God, we are a people who are often short of memory. As with Israel on Palm Sunday, at times we can shout our Hosannas. Hosanna to the Son of David! But a short time later, we can hide our faith. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Forgive our lack of trust. Forgive our lack of obedience. Grow us into the people you desire us to be;

create a new heart within us that we might acknowledge you and obey you in all our moments. In the name of the One who was and is obedient in all his days and who died that we might live, our Lord Jesus. AMEN.

Anthem

"Lord Have Mercy (Kyrie)"

{I invite you to use this time for reflection. You might consider the following questions. When am I prone to forget or even deny my Lord? How have I been disobedient? What altars and idols have I created? What draws me from God? How can I grow to greater knowledge and obedience of God?}

Assurance of Pardon (*led by one*)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.³ AMEN.

The Passing of the Peace (You may say: "The peace of Christ be with you." and respond: "And also with you.")

...to Proclaim God's Word

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

{Pick someone in your household to read this scripture passage. You may also find the passage at <https://bit.ly/2JvAcZE> (case sensitive).}

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon

Rev. Andy Smothers

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

{I invite you to pray as a household offering your various praises, thanksgivings, and requests to God aloud. Close with 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.

...to Give Thanks to God...

Prayer of Dedication of Time, Care, and Finances (*in unison*)

Gracious God, as our Lord Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem and to the events we remember on Palm Sunday, he knew what he would confront. Even despite the hosannas he would receive from the crowd as he entered, he knew that future days would include false judgment and crucifixion. Thank you for his obedience and dedication that we might be saved in order to continue his work in these days. Thank you for shepherding us in these days, and help us to know your particular callings to each of us. Continue to grant us time, energy, and resources to meet that calling. Father, we thank you for time, for your abundance of resources, and for the blessings you shower upon us. Grant us health and enable us to bless the health of others in these difficult days. For gifts of time, energy, and finance that have been given to your church or to other organizations working alongside you, we thank you and ask that they be used to your glory. Hosanna to the Son of David — the Messiah and Savior to the world. AMEN.

...and to Be Sent in God's Name.

Closing Hymn “O Sacred Heart, Now Wounded”

Charge and Benediction

Response “My Song Is Love Unknown”

First Presbyterian Church



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Interim Pastor: Rev. Andrew Smothers
Clerk of Session: Marla Bruner
Church Secretary: Wendi Dayrider

As before, you can join the online worship playlist from Palm Sunday at 11am at <https://www.conradfirstpres.org/covid-19-worship>. Alternatively, you can listen to the Gospel lesson and sermon at 11:30 am on Sunday by calling (978) 990-5110 and using access code 749966# when prompted. Make sure to include the # key on your phone.

¹ Book of Common Worship, 254.

² Book of Common Worship, 52.

³ Book of Common Worship, 56.