

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a welcoming community~



Palm Sunday

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!

We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us"
rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks
and placed in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Palm / Passion Sunday
April 2, 2023 - 11:00 AM**

** Indicates congregation standing if able.
Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

Palm Procession

Worship will begin at the Office doors; we will process around the building, waving our palms and shouting "Hosanna" entering the sanctuary through the Gathering Area doors.

Those who cannot process are invited to assemble in the sanctuary and wave their palms as the procession enters.

As the procession enters the sanctuary we will sing:

* Hymn No. 197

"HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA"

ELLACOMBE

***Ho-san-na, loud ho-san-na, the lit-tle chil-dren sang;
through pil-lared court and tem-ple the joy-ful an-them rang.
To Je-sus, who had blessed them, close fold-ed to his breast,
the chil-dren sang their prais-es, the sim-plest and the best.***

***From Ol-i-vet they fol-lowed 'mid an ex-ult-ant crowd,
the vic-tor palm branch wav-ing, and chant-ing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heav-en rode on in low-ly state,
nor scorned that lit-tle chil-dren should on his bid-ding wait.***

***"Ho-san-na in the high-est!" That an-cient song we sing,
for Christ is our Re-deem-er; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ev-er praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his bliss-ful pres-ence e-ter-nal-ly re-joice.***

GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Children's Moment

Welcome & Announcements

Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

P: Give thanks for this day that leads to salvation!

L: Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people
and the ways of our world

in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love.

Show us again the image of humility you desire for us,
and teach us obedience,

so that self-emptying may be our pathway,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

* Hymn No.198

“RIDE ON! RIDE ON IN MAJESTY!”

ST. DROSTANE

*Ride on! ride on in maj-es-ty!
Hark! all the tribes ho-san-na cry;
thy hum-ble beast pur-sues its road
with palms and scat-tered gar-ments strowed.*

*Ride on! ride on in maj-es-ty!
In low-ly pomp ride on to die;*

*O Christ, thy tri-umphs now be-gin
o'er cap-tive death and con-querred sin.*

*Ride on! ride on in maj-es-ty!
The hosts of an-gels in the sky
look down with sad and won-dering eyes
to see the ap-proach-ing sac-ri-fice.*

*Ride on! ride on in maj-es-ty!
In low-ly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mor-tal pain;
then take, O God, thy power and reign.*

* Call to Confession

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

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, sure of your faithfulness even in your dying,
comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age,
we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude.**

**We have looked to you for paltry favors,
when you have given everything.**

**We have withheld from your people, our neighbors,
and from your creation, our Earth,
the care and tending they deserve.**

**We have rejected the cornerstone you sent
to build a people of righteousness even here, today.**

Forgive our failings.

**Heal what we have broken,
nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision,
so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you;
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

* Sung Response No. 437 “**YOU ARE THE LORD, GIVER OF MERCY**”

*You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!
You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!*

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Family of faith, there will be days when we withhold our praise.
There will be days when we dare not follow.
There will be days when we ignore God’s call,
when we choose comfort over courage, and ourselves over others.
But even on those days, even on our worst days, we belong to God.
Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

We are loved, forgiven, and sent out to serve. Hosanna! Amen.

* Sung Response No. 553 “**CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN**” LAND OF REST

*Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.*

THE WORD

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Holy God, sometimes it’s hard to hear you over the hosannas.

Sometimes it’s hard to hear you over the noise of city streets.

Sometimes it’s hard to hear you over our racing thoughts,
our mental to-do lists, or our desire to fit in.

Sometimes it is hard to hear you in this noisy world.

So just as you stopped traffic in Jerusalem, stop traffic here.

Pause the rush. Open the gates.

Dwell among us, until your Word is all we can hear.

We are listening. We are laying down our cloaks. Amen.

Reading from Scripture

Psalter Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (A Song of Victory) Pg. 534

Gospel Matthew 21:1-11 (*Jesus' Triumphal Entry... Jerusalem*) Pg. 21

Sermon "Where Are You Headed?"

* Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world's suffering,
who lights a candle in the darkest night,
who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.**

**We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth,
who is bold in seeking justice, and humble in taking power.**

**We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it,
cocooning us in hope, tethering us to one another.**

**We believe in a God who is always carrying us
from the pain of the world into the hope of a new day.**

That is where God is headed. That is where we follow.

May it be so. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Lord, as you enter into the chaos of Jerusalem,
we trust you come to us in whatever turmoil we are experiencing.

Even as some of us shout our praises,
others among us cannot murmur a word of hope.

You see us all, and you are moved with compassion.

We do not know how to voice our deepest needs or fears
or hopes or longings, yet you know them all
before a word is on our tongues.

We cast everything before you, Lord of all,
trusting your promise of an easy yoke and a light burden.

We call out for healing for the sick, relief for the suffering,
justice for the oppressed, rest for the exhausted,
hope for the downtrodden and comfort for those who mourn.

We look to you, the blessed One who comes in the name of the Lord,
for help, for assurance and for the peace that passes understanding.
As we draw close to you and attempt to follow, even to the cross,
we rejoice in your presence with us
and give thanks for your selfless sacrifice.
United in you, Lord Jesus, we will stand together
and stand up for those who have fallen by the wayside
and walk with those who fear they have been forgotten.
Strengthen us for the days ahead so that we will remain faithful to you,
your will and your call, until we see you face to face.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ,
who taught us to say when we pray, **Our Father...**

The Lord's Prayer (*sins / sin against us*)

**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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call to Offering

Let our hosannas to the one who brings liberation
take form in our tithes and offering.

Offertory

* Hymn No. 606 **“PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”**

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

* Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Let us pray:

God of all good gifts,

we thank you for showing us how to care for each other.

May these gifts lead to great feasting

for those who have no banquets set before them.

May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer

for those who are homeless.

May these gifts proclaim your desire

that all your creation live in peace.

Give us grateful hearts, O God,

in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

* Hymn No. 199

“FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT”

HOSANNA

*Filled with ex-cite-ment, all the hap-py throng
spread cloaks and branch-es on the cit-y streets.*

*There in the dis-tance they be-gan to see,
there on a don-key comes the Sav-ior Christ.*

*From ev-ery cor-ner a thou-sand voic-es sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our ac-cla-ma-tion breaks forth in shouts of praise,
Our tri-um-phant song of joy: “Ho-san-na,
Ho-san-na to Christ! Ho-san-na, ho-san-na to Christ!”*

*As in that en-trance to Je-ru-sa-lem,
ho-san-nas we will sing to Je-sus Christ,
to our Re-deem-er who still calls to-day,
asks us to fol-low with our love and faith.*

*From ev-ery cor-ner a thou-sand voic-es sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our ac-cla-ma-tion breaks forth in shouts of praise,
Our tri-um-phant song of joy: “Ho-san-na,
Ho-san-na to Christ! Ho-san-na, ho-san-na to Christ!”*

* Benediction

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,

go now in peace. Amen

* Sung Response No. 547 **“GO MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”**

(verse 3)

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

Here my Spir-it’s power filled you; here my ten-der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text; rev. The Worshipbook, 1970

Text © 1970 The Westminster Press (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Music © 1972 The Westminster Press (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

“Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text;

Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Filled with Excitement”

Text: Rubén Ruíz Ávila, 1972; English trans. Gertrude Suppe, 1979, alt.

Music: Rubén Ruíz Ávila, 1972; arr. Alvin Schutmaat, 1979

Text & Music © 1972 The United Methodist Publishing House

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“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Welsh melody

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“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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