



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Palm Sunday  
28 March 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Heroic March

Georg Philipp Telemann

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\*Call to Worship**

Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold

Leader: Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!  
People: **Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!**  
Leader: Come with your coats, branches, hosannas, and songs!  
People: **Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!**  
Leader: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!  
People: **Friends, let us worship together.**

Psalm 118:26a

**\*Lenten Candle Service**

We begin Holy Week with the triumphant entrance of Christ when he traveled the via dolorosa. As we extinguish the sixth Lenten candle, we remember Christ's resilience and courage on his journey home.

Let us pray: Holy and Gracious God, give each of us the courage to journey home with grace and to be generous with one another along the way. May we follow the path of our Savior and may we live lives which honor the covenants written upon our hearts. Amen.

**\*Processional Hymn**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Vallet Will Ich Dir Geben*

*(Refrain)* All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanna ring!

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One. *(Refrain)*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. *(Refrain)*

To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *(Refrain)*

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious king! *(Refrain)*

Children's Sermon

Rev. Christian K. Choi

## One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication

**Pastor:** O God, you have called us through One Great Hour of Sharing to go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

**People:** **Send us forth, O God, with your mercy and kindness.**

**Pastor:** Keep our gaze fixed on the world's pain, but also allow us to see beyond need to the richness of humanity and depth of faith that exist within all.

**People:** **Send us forth, O God, with open eyes and grateful hearts.**

**Pastor:** Strengthen us to be present with one another at the place where joy and sorrow meet, echoing the cries of despair and sharing in the songs of hope.

**People:** **Send us forth, O God, with open hands.**

**Pastor:** Make us givers and receivers of your grace, that we may become part of a full circle where all share in the promise of abundant life.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Response** Spirit of the Living God

David Iverson

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

*Children pre-K through grade 5 go to Sunday School with Mrs. Sherrick in Parish Hall following the response.*

## \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

**Holy God, you chose to join us in our humanity in Jesus Christ and on a journey of love, he entered Jerusalem to die. We come before you, conscious of the way religious words and holy phrases can slip so easily from our lips. What do we know of your choice, your integrity, the depth of your suffering for love of us all? Strengthen us for the journeys before us, individually and as a community. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.**

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

## \*Declaration of Pardon

**Pastor:** Friends, believe the good news.  
**People:** **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be with you.  
**People:** **And also with you.**  
**All:** **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

## First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup> The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore. I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be

put to shame; <sup>8</sup> the One who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? Amen.

**Solo** O Divine Redeemer Charles Gounod

O Divine Redeemer, I pray thee, grant me pardon and remember not my sins. Forgive me, O Divine Redeemer. Night gathers round my soul; fearful, I cry to thee. Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste thee, Lord, haste to help me. Hear my cry. Save me Lord in thy mercy. Come and save me O Lord. Save, in the day of retribution, from death shield thou me, O my God! O Divine Redeemer, have mercy.

**Second Scripture Reading** Mark 14:1-9

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; <sup>2</sup> for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."<sup>3</sup> While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. <sup>4</sup> But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup> For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** The Journey Home Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: "She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial." Mark 14:8*

**Solo** Agnus Dei Georges Bizet

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

**The Church at Prayer**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings  
I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

**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.

## Introduction to the Offering

**\*Offertory Response** Doxology

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Loving and Holy God, we give thanks for your saving love made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Bless these gifts that they may bring life on earth as in heaven. Amen.

**\*Hymn** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna Ellacombe

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;  
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

## \*Charge and Benediction

**Voluntary** Maestosamente Enrico Bossi

*(\* The congregation is invited to stand.*

**The Holy Week Art Display and Labyrinth** – Following worship all are invited to view the art display in Parish Hall which brings together artistic interpretations of scenes of the events of the final week of Christ's life through the eyes of Fra Angelico, DaVinci, Durer, Caravaggio, Dali and many others. Westminster's Labyrinth is also located in Parish Hall for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

**The Maundy Thursday Communion Service** is April 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Dale T. Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Mike Tungett, Trumpet     Adam Miller, Tenor     Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers

Jeanne and Peter VanGieson, Greeters

Rich Canady, Terry Haynor, Julie Pittman McDonough, Ushers

Mary Ray and Pete VanGieson, Safety Team