

Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - Song of Peace - Arnold Shermom

Call to Worship

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Hosanna in the Highest!

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

Hosanna in the Highest!

Opening Hymn No. 278** - Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang,
through pillared court and temple
the lovely 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!*

Invocation

Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Let those branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. In his name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Children's Anthem (11:00) - *Little Gray Donkey* - Natalie Sleeth

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:1-11 (New Testament p. 31/30)

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.' After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Anthem

8:30 - *Behold, the King of Zion Comes* - Joseph Martin

11:00 - *Shout Hosanna* - Nagy

Shout! Daughter of Jerusalem: see your King comes to you riding in majesty. Sing out, O daughter of Zion! See your King comes to you riding in splendor. Your King comes to you

righteous and having salvation. Sing out, O people of Israel. See your King: Hail the Messiah, Jesus Christ, Wonderful Counselor, Light of the world. Hosanna, King of Kings. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Sermon - *He Gets Us: Jesus Was Rejected*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Apostles Creed**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* - J. S. Bach
(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pews.)

Doxology**

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Communion/The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal p. 12)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Closing Hymn No. 301** - *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

*Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.
Refrain:*

*In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me.
(Refrain)*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.
(Refrain)*

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river.
(Refrain)*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 292)

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my
soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

Postlude - Fanfare - John Cook



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given

in honor of Erin Ball and Ryan Bard;

in honor of the Epworth Choir, by Don and Pat Richwine.

Service Music: 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 Chancel Choir

Music: One License A-731491

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday - April 6 at 7 p.m.

First UMC will host

Father Brian Bechtel (St. John's) preaching
Community dinner at 5:30 p.m. before worship

Good Friday - April 7 at 7 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal will host

Rev. Jon Priebe preaching

Easter Sunrise Service - April 9 at 6:30 a.m.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ will host

Pastor Mike Ward preaching

Easter Sunday Services at First Church at 9 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Jon Priebe preaching

CHURCH NOTES

Epworth Home Concert Tonight: Join us this evening at 7 p.m. when the Epworth Choir will present their tour concert to the folks here at home. It's always a wonderful way to spend an evening and appreciate the youth of First Church.

Stations of the Cross: The Confirmation classes prepared a Stations of the Cross prayer journey as a thank you to the First Church congregation for your support. The devotional exercise of visiting and praying in front of each of the stations and meditating on the Passion of Christ stems from the practice of early Christian pilgrims who visited the scenes of the events in Jerusalem and walked the traditional route from Pilate's house to Calvary. There are fifteen stations which will be up through April 16. One - eight are in Confirmation 1 (across from the youth lounge) and nine - fifteen are in the Confirmation 2 room (the corner room in the Sunday school halls, where the 2 hallways meet).

Need Youth Names: If you have a student who will be entering 7th grade in the fall and would like to receive information on Epworth Choir and YF, please send an email to epworthyouth2@gmail.com. There will be an opportunity for your youth to come to Youth Group on Sunday, May 2, to see what it's all about!

We would also like to have the names of all graduating seniors so that they can be recognized at the church service on Sunday, May 21, Senior Sunday. Please send it to Jen McKenna at epworthyouth2@gmail.com or call the church office.

Interested in joining First Church? We will hold a Discovery Class to learn more about the Methodist Church in general and specifically First Church for anyone interested in beginning the membership journey. The classes will be held in the Parlor at 9:45 on Sundays, April 23 and 30 and May 2. We will also be starting the two courses that are on our pathway to membership on Sunday, April 16 which will run for 6 weeks. You may register for them at the Welcome Center or on the pew pads.

Ministry By Strengths will be held Sundays at 9:45 am. The only cost is \$20 for the Clifton Strengths assessment which we will use during the class.

"Disciple Like Jesus" will be on Sundays from 4pm to 5:15pm. There is no cost unless you want a hard copy of the book. You will receive a digital version.

Rejoicing Spirits Worship and Reunion: Saturday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. in Asbury Hall. Come share God's love and celebrate Christ's Resurrection!

Operation Christmas Child: Acts of Grace Circle, in conjunction with the First Church Youth Group, are starting a campaign to collect items for shoeboxes. Our goal is to pack 100 shoeboxes in November. We will post information about items to be collected each month. Items for March are: toothbrushes, yo-yos, and hair accessories for girls. Contact Linda Demeter at 740-334-9290 with questions.

Good Neighbors: Good Neighbors has supplied us with a list of items that they need in March. If you would like to contribute some of these, you may leave them in the bin outside the church library. The items are: peanut butter, ramen noodles, jelly (in plastic containers), canned fruit, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom tissue, Kleenex, and canned cat food.

Next Steps

Which Jesus?

Matthew 27:17 – Barabbas and our Lord have the same name

Jesus is the Greek form of *Joshua* which means “the Lord is salvation”

A Crowd is Fickle

Matthew 27:22 – The crowd’s shouts of Hosanna turned to “crucify him”

Jesus’s victory brought Salvation through his death, not the deaths of others

Questions for Reflection: The crowds seem to have turned on Jesus in part because of a susceptibility to the influence of the religious leaders of the day. However, the roots of this vulnerability are exposed by Pilate’s offer to release either Jesus the Messiah or Jesus Barabbas, the revolutionary. One will transform the world through his death and resurrection while the other sought to change the world through the deaths of others. *Am I more inclined to seek to change the world by changing others or by my own transformed actions?*

Question for Discussion: In Matthew 21, the crowds call Jesus “Son of David,” “the one who comes in the name of the Lord,” and a “prophet.” His name means, “the Lord saves.” Pilate notes that he is also being called “the Messiah.” *What do these names of Jesus mean to you?*

Memory Verse: **John 15:13** – *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

Readings for this Week: John 18-20

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
APRIL 2, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser	Robert Boyd Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost	Jim Henes Phil Hennen Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw David Townsend Ken Tunstall
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Carol Lewis and family on the death of her husband, member Gerald Lewis on 3/30.

Marge Blocksom and family on the death of her husband, member William Blocksom on 3/16.