

All: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.

HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* 221

SERMON “Just Because They’re Yelling...” Rev. Mark R. Curtis

After mocking him, they stripped Jesus of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

HYMN *Beneath the Cross of Jesus (verses 1 & 2)* 216

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

All: “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

All: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if God wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”

The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Arr. Gilbert M. Martin
One License #207286

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! All vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood. See, from His head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realms of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.

Now from the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

About the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

All: “This man is calling for Elijah.”

At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

All: “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

HYMN *Were You There? (verses 1-3)* 228

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Meredith Loftis

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.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

All: “Truly this was the Son of God!”

***HYMN** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* 223

***DEPART IN PEACE**

There is no benediction offered on Palm Sunday; the service continues on Maundy Thursday.

***POSTLUDE** *Hosanna* Paul Wachs

***Please stand if you are able.**

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right,

or through social media.



Power Play By Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Matthew 21:1-11

First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor
Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor
Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *All Glory Laud and Honor* Arr. Matt Limbaugh

***CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 118

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

**This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* 196

PALM SUNDAY The Entrance Into Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21:1-9 Rachel Patton McCord
(Pew Bible NT, p. 23)

RESPONSE (sung) 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**For all that we ought to have thought, and have not thought,
for all that we ought to have said, and have not said,
for all that we ought to have done, and have not done;
for all that we ought not to have thought, and yet have thought,
for all that we ought not to have spoken, and yet have spoken,
for all that we ought to not to have done, and yet have done;
for thoughts, words, and works,
forgive us, O God, that we may start anew...**
(a moment for silent confession)

***DECLARATION OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI** *Glory Be to the Father* 581
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. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* 197
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.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM *My Eternal King* Jane Marshall
One License #71401

My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heaven thereby, nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally. Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me upon the cross embrace; for me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace. Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well? Not for the hope of winning heaven, or of escaping hell; not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward; But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord! E'en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing; solely because Thou art my God, And my Eternal King.

THE PASSION STORY Matthew 27:11-54

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our Redeemer,
you sent your Son to be born of a woman
and to die for us on a cross;

**By your Holy Spirit, illumine our lives with your Word
so, as the Scripture is read and proclaimed this day,
we may be reconciled and won wholly to your will;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,
"Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so."
But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.
Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how
many accusations they make against you?"
But Jesus gave him no answer, not even to a single charge,
so that the governor was greatly amazed.*

HYMN *What Wondrous Love Is This* 215
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 heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Jesus over. While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said,

All: "Barabbas."

HYMN *Ah, Holy Jesus* 218

Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
That mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said,

All: "Crucify him!"

HYMN *Ah, Holy Jesus* 218

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone You.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You;
I crucified You.

Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more,

All: "Crucify him!"

HYMN *Ah, Holy Jesus* 218

For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion,
For my salvation.

*So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing,
but rather that a riot was beginning,
he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,
"I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."
Then the people as a whole answered,*

All: "His blood be on us and on our children!"

SPECIAL MUSIC *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* American Spiritual
(v. 1 soloist, vv.2 and 3 congregation)

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial, You have to stand it by yourself,
O, nobody else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by yourself.

So Pilate released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thurs, April 6 Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service
Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The service will start at 6:30 p.m.

Fri, April 7 Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.
“Stations of the Cross” service will be held in Market Square (approximately 55 minutes). This ancient service reenacts Good Friday, with a “station” in or near Market Square for the events of Jesus’ crucifixion. Participants will also have the opportunity to assist in carrying a large wooden cross, as Jesus did on the first Good Friday. This service brings the Christian family of all denominations together as well as individual families together. All are welcome.

Sun, April 9 Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Turnip Patch Deck

8 - 10:30 a.m. Easter Light Refreshments

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

10:45 a.m. Prelude
Musical selections for trumpet, timpani, and organ, featuring guest artists

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary and by Livestream
“He is not here. He is risen!” Join us for a time of worship and celebration as we rejoice that the tomb is empty and Christ is risen!

The Easter Egg Hunt is immediately following the 11 a.m. service.

We are excited to announce that The Gray Havens, a Christian folk pop band are coming to play a concert at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, April 12th at 7:30 pm. Don't miss out! There will be a limited number of comped (free) tickets available for First Presbyterian members / attendees. You can email Joanna Pennoyer at joan-napennoyer@bellsouth.net for more information. Admission: \$25 ADV / \$35 DOOR / \$12 AGES 4-12 (limited). Buy tickets in advance online.

Congregational Retreat at Montreat on April 28-30th!

EASTER FLOWERS

Over the years, your generous donations have served to support the flower ministry of our devoted flower guild. We celebrate the Holy Easter season this year with displays inside the sanctuary and around the church grounds. We hope you will honor a special family member or donate in memory of a loved one. The deadline for inclusion in this year's Easter flower bulletin is NOON, Monday, April 3, 2023. When filling out the form, please enter one name per line. Suggested donation is \$20.00 per name. You can drop your form and payment in the offering plate (please write "Easter flowers" in the memo line), at the church office, or by emailing Laura Harmon at laura@fpcknox.org. You can pay online by going to our website www.fpcknox.org and clicking "Giving" and then clicking on "Online Giving." Be sure to designate your gift "Easter Flowers" in the online giving category. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the flower guild.

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

Given By

