

LENT THEME: TO BE MORE

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

Prelude

The Palms

Fauré

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 118

Kerrie Kleppin Winn, liturgist

Give thanks to God, for God is Good all the time.

All the time, God is Good.

God's love endures forever and ever.

God sees us where we are and welcomes us home.

In our homes and in the streets, on our screens and in our hearts,

God is with us and God is our salvation.

This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Invocation

God of unfailing Love, we come before you on this day with thankful hearts because your love knows no bounds. No boundaries, limits, or obstacles can separate us from that love and from one another. And yet we begin our own journey into Holy Week within our own homes. Separate from our friends and our families, separate from one another. Gather our hearts and our spirits together this week, one journey and one people.

*Gloria

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Contemporary Lesson

The Poet Thinks of the Donkey

Mary Oliver

Word in Song

All in the April Evening

Roberton

Claire Bouma, soloist

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible, Pages 21-22

For the Word of God in scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hosannas at Home

Rev. Katie Miller

*Hymn

I Am the Light of the World

Black Hymnal, No. 584

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

O God, you know us well. We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to live it fully. We shout "hosanna" as Jesus approaches, as did the people of Jerusalem many years ago; but sometimes we do not want him to come too close -- not close enough to really see. We are quick to claim Christ but slow to live fully and everywhere as faithful disciples. We are quick to want the blessings of faithfulness; but slow to accept the difficulties of the journey.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

God brings light to those in darkness, and love and hope to all. Rejoice today that the steadfast love of the God endures forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

The King's Majesty

Stevens

*Hymn of Dedication

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Offertory Prayer

We cast these gifts before you, O God, as palms were cast before Jesus long ago. We lay them before you in praise, thanksgiving, and joy. Receive them from us, that they may become a greater blessing in your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

In the beginning, God danced through the universe, bringing light to the darkness, form to the void, and separating the water into earth and sky. God blessed the world with love and joy. But, despite all of God's attempts to save humanity from themselves, peace and harmony seemed out of reach for God's people. Never giving up, God became human. Born into humble beginnings, God, through Jesus, experienced the fullness of earthly life-- the glory of a sunset, the relief of laughter, the deep sorrow of loss, and the frustration of being misunderstood. Jesus told stories of compassion, forgiveness, and justice. Jesus loved his enemies, ate with sinners, and healed minds, bodies, and souls. By his example, we now live, in communion with one another. Today we join with all people on earth and all the company of heaven to praise God's holy name:

Holy, holy, holy... (See the Sanctus inside back cover of Black Hymnal.)

Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table Gluten-free bread is served.

The Bread and the Cup Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts Black Hymnal, No. 329

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Recessional Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Black Hymnal, No. 198

CRUCIFER

*Benediction

Benediction Response

Bouma

Postlude

St. Theodulph

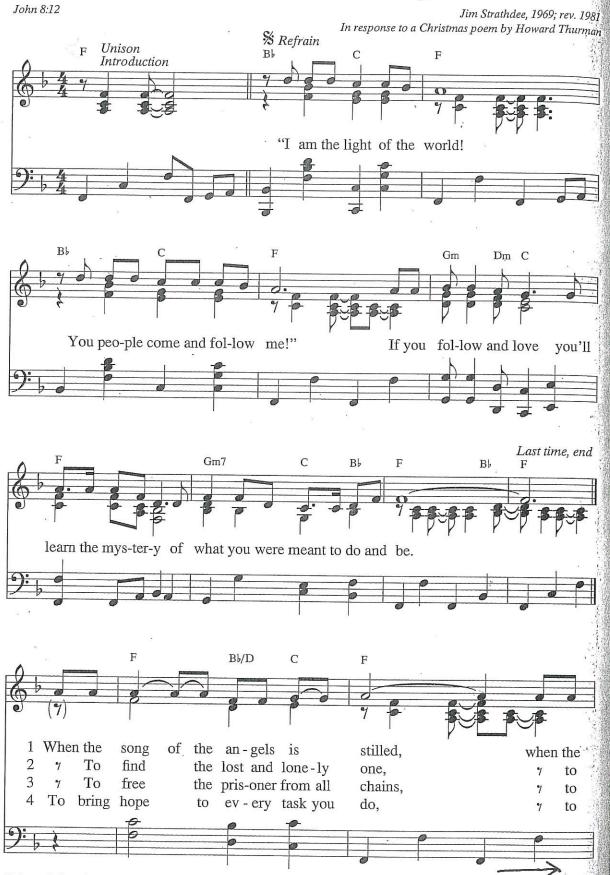
arr. Willan

You are invited to remain for the playing of the postlude.

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt. Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15 1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil-dren sang; 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer-ing crowd, high - est!" That 3 "Ho - san - na in the an - cient song is ours. through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang; vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant-ing clear and loud. hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers: To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold-ed to his breast, one whom an - gels ship rode on in low-ly wor state, "Ho - san - na, Christ, we you with heart and life and voice. praise chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the glad to and see the chil - dren, slowed down the don-key's gait. Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

I Am the Light of the World







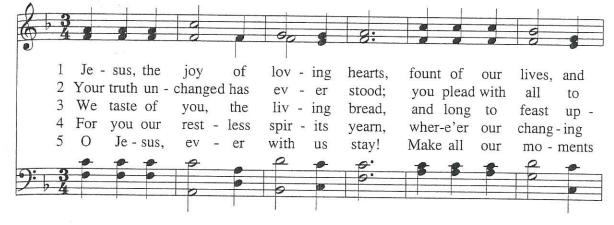


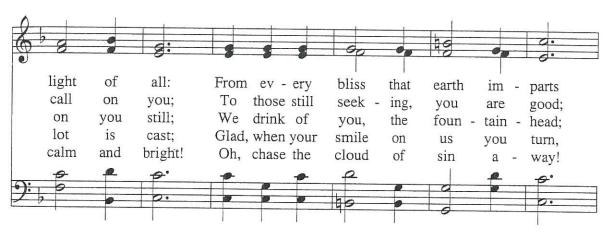
Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

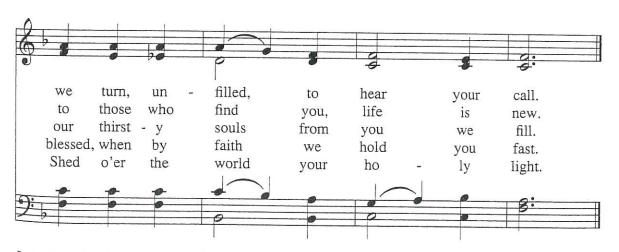
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Attrib. to Bernard of Clairvaux, c. 1150 Transl. Ray Palmer, 1858; alt.

John 6:52-58; Heb. 13:8



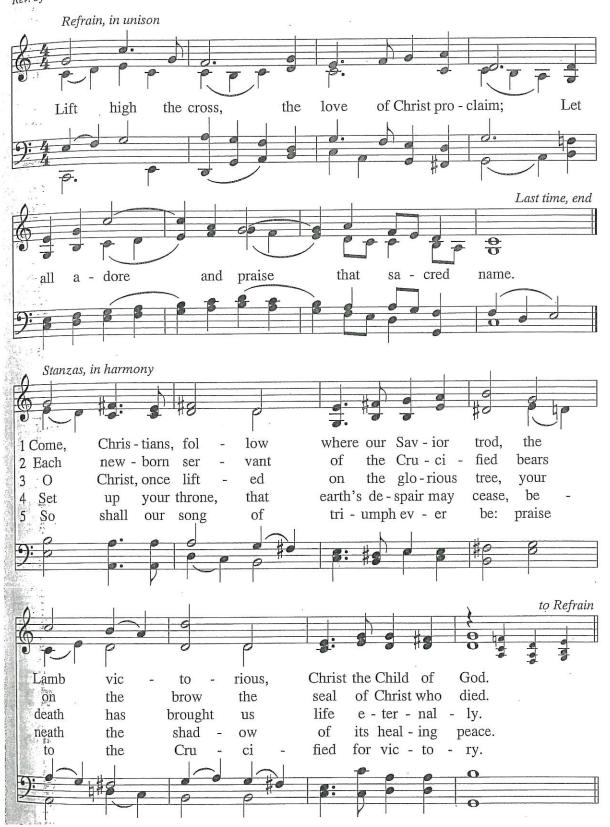




Bernard, founder of the monastery at Clairvaux, was respected by popes and royalty alike. From the forty-two-verse Latin poem, American Congregational minister Ray Palmer freely translated selected verses to create this version.

Tune: HESPERUS L.M. (QUEBEC) Henry W. Baker, 1854 George William Kitchin (1827–1912) Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.

John 1:29-34; Rom. 5:6-11; 6:3-8; Rev. 7:9-17; 22:1-5



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Announcements Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

Prayers: *Sharon Heater*, whose mother died last week; Becky Aschinger, who continues in hospice care.

Joys: celebrating the baptism of Luci Quenaud last week!

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by friends and family of First Central.

Happy Birthday this week: to Jenny Pfeifer, David Fortina, John Martinez, Susan Robinson, Emily Epperson, Mike Kratville, Kelly Beaman, Merle McAlevy, and Jake Sharpe.

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month are Steve & Susan Dolezal; Scott Jones & Michael Cich-Jones; Julie McKillip; Luther & Barb MacNaughton.

FirstKids: 1 p.m. on Zoom. Kids through sixth grade.

Activities for the Coming Week, April 6 - April 11

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54.

Monday:

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.

Stewardship and Capital Campaign Committees: 7 p.m. on Zoom

Tuesday:

Eves, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Wednesday:

Bible study, 3 p.m. on Zoom

FirstYouth, 8 p.m. on Zoom

Thursday:

Maundy Thursday meditation available on YouTube and FaceBook.

Friday:

Good Friday meditation available on YouTube and FaceBook.

Easter Sunday, April 10

Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m. on FaceBook Live – on the First Central PUBLIC page.

Easter Celebration: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube

FIRSTKids: 1 p.m. on Zoom. Kids through sixth grade.

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