

April 2, 2023

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Cry out, people of faith; rejoice and praise God!

People: If we did not sing praise, the very stones would cry out!

Leader: Cry out, people of faith; for your Savior draws near to Jerusalem.

People: (wave your palm branches) Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

Leader: Blessed is Jesus Christ, who did not turn back for fear of the cross. Praising the God who loves us, let us share Christ's sufferings and face our path of faith with courage and hope.

ALL: (wave your palm branches) Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name.

***Hymn #216: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"**

***Passing of the Peace**

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 21:1-11

Jim Miers

Anthem

Time With Young Disciples

Litany for Palm Sunday

ALL: Surprising God, you come to our lives in ways we do not expect.

Leader: We ask for success;

People: you teach us acceptance.

Leader: We ask to be loved;

People: you ask us to love.

Leader: We ask for ease;

People: you challenge us.

Leader: We ask for a triumphant Messiah;

People: you come as one obedient to death.

Leader: We glorify the winner;

People: you glorify the loser who died on a criminal's cross.

ALL: Walk among us, surprising God of peace. Sanctify our joys and our successes; turn our hearts to you.

**At the name of Jesus, we bow before you.
May your name be glorified in your church,
now and always. Amen.**

Sermon: "God's Peace Initiative"

***Hymn #215:** "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"

The Community at Prayer (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

To be a Christian is to offer up our lives and deaths to God. These gifts are a sign of the offering of our whole selves.

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of all true power and glory, we thank you that Jesus Christ came to Jerusalem not with a sword to challenge the power of this world, but with love, announcing the good news of your realm on earth. Enable your church to choose your ways, winning the victory over sin and death. Establish your righteous reign on earth. Use our gifts and our lives to your glory, through Jesus, who comes in your name. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall not thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God!

Let us give thanks to God Most High!

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Hymn #213:** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

*Commissioning and Blessing

*Choral Response

*Postlude

Holy Week Calendar

Sunday April 2	10:15am	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday April 6	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Sunday April 9	7:00am	Easter Sunrise Service at Buddy Attick Lake Park (at Greenbelt Community Church if raining)
Sunday April 9	10:15am	Easter Sunday Service at GCC