

**March 24, 2024**

Palm Sunday

## **Prelude and Chimes**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Holy Word, holy Breath, holy Mystery, on this day of Palms and Passion, you call us to remember your life and death among us.

**People:** **You call us to witness your triumphal procession, your challenge to worldly power, your humble service to those who love you, your self-giving in bread and wine.**

**Leader:** You call us to be present at your final meal as incarnate being, at your prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, at your agony and death upon a cross.

**People:** **As we wave our palms of anticipation, waken us in the awareness of your presence within us, among us, and around us, that we may be joined with you as members of the incarnate, risen Body of Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**\*Procession of the Palms and Hymn #216: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"**

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**The choice is ever before us: discipleship or rejection, authentic response or play-acting, commitment that will go all the way to a cross or hypocrisy which is a living denial and death. Like the fickle crowds of the first Palm Sunday, we need to examine ourselves and question the genuineness of our commitment.**

### **Confession of Sin**

**God of all times and places, we confess that we would rather join the crowds than stand alone. We prefer the popular point of view to a solitary witness for justice and truth. We like safety and security while shrinking from the risk of involvement. We'll sing "Hosanna" when everyone else is doing so – but not when the hostile Good Friday" forces may hear us. We do not like to admit our lukewarm response to you, but neither do we want to be considered fanatics. We believe Jesus Christ came into the world to confront the sins of the world. We know that includes our complicit behavior. We ask you to be patient with us, to help us understand our own guilt. Then pour out your forgiveness in such a way that we are forever transformed. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Assurance of Grace

God sweeps into our human scene, redeeming all who turn from evil and do good. There is grace, mercy, and renewed strength for all who earnestly seek the new life Christ brings. Let us rejoice together, for even the stones cry out with good news. God forgives. We are freed from the burden of our sin. Praise God!

## Scripture Readings:

Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29  
Mark 11:1-11

Young Disciples  
Karen Yoho

**Anthem:** Entry into Jerusalem, by Nancy Price and Don Besig

## Time With Young Disciples

### Unison Prayer

**Living God, you give us this day, full of hope and promise. As our ancestors waved palms in praise of Christ, we bring our praises, too, that in joy you may take our lives and transform us into the new life Christ brings. Amen.**

**Sermon:** "Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death"

**\*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

*(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.)*

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

## \*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 the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.**

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

**\*Commissioning and Blessing**

**\*Choral Response**

**\*Postlude**