

Sunday, March 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY



*The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury
352 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702*

March 24th, 2024

Palm Sunday

Our PCAS Vision: "To be a Light by Living, Loving, Learning,
and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Order of Worship

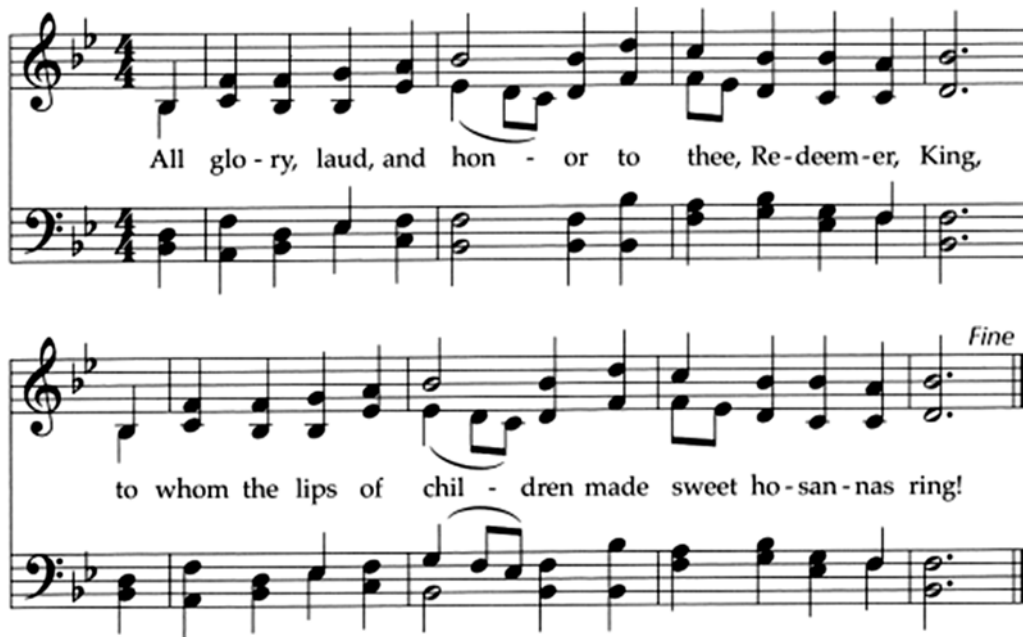
*(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)*

You are invited to gather at the church house at 9:45am, and join in the procession to the sanctuary. We will have palms and bulletins at the church house for those who would like to participate. Our procession will include handbells, palms, and singing. You may also wait for us to arrive in the sanctuary and join in singing the processional hymn when we get there.

Procession:

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*The bells will lead us in singing the refrain repeatedly
until we arrive at the sanctuary!*



***Hymn #196**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**People: We will journey through praise, with joy on our
lips;**

**we will travel through betrayal and death,
cradling hope deep in our hearts**

Leader: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for,
he is the Word who sustains us.

**People: We wave palm branches in anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Leader: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

People: Hosanna! Hosanna!

**Blessed is the One who brings us
the kingdom of God.**

Call to Confession

Leader: It is easy to let the immensity of this week pass us by if
we stand on the sidelines and look on. Let us confess the mild
curiosity that would make us spectators, and pray for the faith
that fully involves us in the journey to the cross and to the
resurrection, so that we might experience the miracle!

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Gracious Lord, your triumphant arrival is either a miracle or
a spectacle. For some in the gathered crowd, you were a
miracle. For others, a spectacle.**

**Some of us have come for the miracle, and some for the
spectacle.**

**Some to shout and sing “Hosanna!” as the soul’s deep
yearning for salvation, and some for the novelty of the palm
branches.**

**We pray, O Lord, that whether miracle or spectacle has
brought us here, that you would meet our faith or doubt, our
hope or fear, our love or sin with the overwhelming sense
that God has arrived in our lives, mighty to save. Remove
from us anything that would distract us from your holy
purpose in this holy week. Take our brokenness and make us
whole. Take our lives and make them new. Take our world
and give us hope. Give us such faith as to welcome a miracle
where the powers of evil tried their best to make Jesus a
spectacle.**

Amen.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: At his birth, Jesus comes bringing us hope. Entering Jerusalem, he brings us assurance. Walking to Calvary, he leads us to new life.

All this was for us - so we could bend our knees before God in humility and praise. God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God!

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Psalm 118:19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, **"His steadfast love endures forever."**

Let the house of Aaron say, **"His steadfast love endures forever."**

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. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! **O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church

***Passing of the Peace**

***Hymn** #197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Second Scripture Lesson Matthew 11:1-11

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

Sermon Daring to Hope

Offering

Offertory Hosanna setting by Marcello Velame

***Doxology**



***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #268** Crown Him with Many Crowns

Announcements

***Benediction**

Postlude Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

*The flowers today are in memory of Doris & Ed Coccaro
and Jean & Elwood Carter by Mike & Debi Coccaro*

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Liturgist:	Mike Coccaro
Director of Music Ministries	Marcello Velame
Ministry of Music:	Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth
	The Chancel Choir
Ushers:	Sue Starke
	Jim Wright
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Jim Wright
Coffee Hour:	Palm Sunday Brunch

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

to Refrain

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab-sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub-lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

We Celebrate with Eco-Palms!



Eco-Palms Create Economic Opportunity

More than 300 million palm fronds are harvested each year for US consumption. Most are sourced from Mexico and Guatemala.

At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds, and more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.

Eco-Palm harvesters often earn 5 to 6 times more per frond than traditional palms, and a portion of the purchase price goes directly back to the community. About \$1 million dollars are infused into local communities through this initiative. The annual Palm Sunday premium has provided scholarships for elementary school children who would not otherwise have attended school and has helped young women to attend college. It has also provided jobs that did not exist previously for women in the communities, who sort and bundle the palms locally rather than sending them off to a distant warehouse.

Eco-Palms Promote Environmental Sustainability

Eco-Palm harvesters are trained on what to look for when harvesting and therefore only gather the fronds of the highest quality, leaving trees to regrow in a sustainable way. This protects both the forests and their future livelihoods. Traditional harvesters strip trees bare of leaves of varying qualities, many of which get discarded. This harms future regrowth and sustainability of both the forest and the jobs which depend on the trees.

All of the harvesting communities either have or are in the process of obtaining an outside sustainable certification from SmartWood, a division of Rainforest Alliance.

Maundy Thursday - March 28th

Maundy Thursday

A Commemoration of the Last Supper
& Service of Tenebrae

*Communion, reading & singing the story
of the last events of Jesus's life
as candles are snuffed and darkness descends*

Worship Service @ 7:30pm, Sanctuary

Followed by the **Maundy Thursday Vigil**

*A private hour of silent reflection in the sanctuary
Sign up for a vigil time slot between
9pm and 9am via Church Office
or Website*

Vigil Sign-up

Take an hour for personal prayer and reflection in the sanctuary between 9pm and 9am, 3/28-3/29. Sign-up at church, or using the link below:

Come in person, or virtually connect to the sanctuary via Zoom. We'll send those who sign-up the link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A4A72FA2FE3-48382675-maundy>

Easter Sunday - March 31st

Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen! Join our celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord!

Easter Service @10am, Sanctuary

Rev. Katja Gruening, preaching
Choir, Handbells, Trumpet
All invited to join in singing
the Hallelujah Chorus