



PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

April 2, AD 2023 10 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

This is the day our Lord Jesus rode into the Holy City as King. Yet he came to us humbly, riding on a donkey. He came to fulfill his mission: to be obedient to his Father. Even unto death, to death on a cross. For a brief moment, as Jesus entered Jerusalem, God's people recognized their King. They spread their cloaks before him. They waved the palm branches of victory. They cried out praise and they cried out for salvation. On this Palm Sunday, we join the festival. We bless our King and welcome him. Even as Jesus prepares to journey to Golgotha, we call out our encouragement. We cheer him on, for he carries our lives, our fate, on his shoulders.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hosanna to the King of kings!
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Behold, our King comes to us, humbly and riding on a donkey.
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Our King rides to be enthroned on the rough wood of the cross.
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Our King rides to destroy sin by taking it as his own. He rides to conquer death by dying.
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

We go with him! Raising the palms of victory, joining all creation to acclaim our King.
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

Please join the children as we process around North Boulevard.

PRELUDE

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name” arranged by Christopher Phillips

*SCRIPTURAL WELCOME

Zechariah 9: 9-12 Whitney Alexander

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG OF PRAISE

No. 234 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (vs. 1, 2, 4) DIADEMATA
Arranged by Christopher Phillips

*PRAYER OF PRAISE Darin Travis

ANNOUNCEMENTS Darin Travis

Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children’s Church.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

“The Great Day” by Bernie Herms and Nichole Nodeman

Arranged by Christopher Phillips

Angelle High, alto

Khary Wilson, tenor

PASTORAL PRAYER Scott Graham



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*SONG OF PREPARATION

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

John 12: 20-26

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
And that by believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

“Sir, We Wish to See Jesus” Gerrit Dawson



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

TIME OF REFLECTION

“Press On” by Keith Getty and Ben Shive
Joyful Noise Children's Ensemble

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

No. 88 “Be Thou My Vision” (vs. 1, 3, 4) SLANE



BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Blessed be the LORD I AM, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen!

POSTLUDE

“The Great Day (Reprise)” arranged by Christopher Phillips

MUSICIANS:

Blake Hanna, trumpet
Megan George, trumpet
Lauren Braud, French horn
Corey Knoll, trombone
Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violin
Kristina Graham, violin
Susannah Knoll, cello
Steve Gustafson, organ

SHOFAR:

John Isaac Wood

JESUS:

Clint Nicholson walking Sam, the donkey.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome. We are glad you're here. If you are visiting, please use the New Here card in the pews, or fill out the Connect Card in our church app (FPCBR in the App Store) or online (fpcbr.org/connect).

Prayer Requests. We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to prayer@fpcbr.org, through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

Crawfish Boil Today! You're invited to stay after worship for a crawfish boil on the Boulevard and children's activities in the Terraced Garden. In case of inclement weather, children's activities will take place in the basement. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Hotdogs are available for the children.



Crawfish Code

Egg Hunt Details. Nursery-aged children will hunt for eggs in the 8th Street playground during worship. Parents, please bring kids aged 4 through 4th grade to the gym after worship to gather before hunting. Children aged 4 through kindergarten will hunt for eggs in the Memorial Garden. Children in grades 1-4 will hunt for eggs in the Terraced Garden. Parents with children in both egg hunts can either split up or keep the younger child with the older in the terrace. 5th graders will hide eggs for the younger children beginning at 9.45 am. Please meet in the Terraced Garden.

No Wednesday Worship This Week. We encourage you to rest, pray and contemplate Christ's Passion this Holy Week. Join us for our Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows (details below).

Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows. On Holy Thursday, April 6 at 7 pm, we will move through the passion story with a feast of visual, musical and spoken offerings. We'll be stopping along the way to the cross to ponder six magnificent paintings, vividly displayed on our high-definition screens. We'll have communion, extinguish candles and conclude quietly at the garden tomb.

Easter Sunday, April 9. We'll gather around the empty tomb in the Terraced Garden for a brief sunrise service at 6.30 am followed by breakfast. We will also have two festive worship services in the Sanctuary at 9 am and 11 am. If rain, the sunrise service will meet in Dunham Chapel. Sunday school classes will meet as usual.

Easter Flowers. Don't forget to bring fresh flowers next Sunday to decorate our Easter cross on North Boulevard.

A Holy Week Prayer for the Heart. Does the cross seem more like a formula than an event? Explore Gerrit's collection of prayers and poems specifically gathered to help shake our indifference in his most recent article for desiringgod.org, "Break the Hardness in Me." Copies available at the Connection Center.

Church Office Closed Easter Monday. Would you like to reach a pastor after hours? Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.

Discover First Dinner, Sunday, April 23. Senior pastor Gerrit Dawson hosts a Discover First Dinner several times a year. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Emily Viguerie (emily@fpcbr.org or 225.333.9084).

Related Media in the FPC Church App. The FPC church app now automatically feeds related media to the ESV Bible feature. For example, do you want to dig deep into Psalm 107? After reading the passage in the Bible feature, click one of the sermons related to Psalm 107. Search FPCBR in your favorite app store to download the app.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Energizing Marriage Seminar. FPC will host Dee and Pete Adams leading a Created for Connection marriage seminar Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29. Past participants describe the weekend as “enlightening, encouraging, revealing, hopeful, powerful, safe, loving and renewing.” Sign up at createdforconnectionbr.org. Visit fpcbr.org or scan the QR code to register. 50% discount to FPC church members. Just email jaci@fpcbr.org to let us know you’re attending.



C4C Code

Meal Ministry Needs Volunteers. First Presbyterian’s Meal Ministry provides meals and welcoming hospitality to those in need. A focus is placed on developing a sense of community among our members, guests and partner ministries as we live out our mission to go deeper in Christ and further into the world. Please contact Emily Viguerie to volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal (emily@fpcbr.org).

Assistance for the Hard of Hearing. We are pleased to offer headphones to assist the hard of hearing during our Sanctuary services. Headsets and packs are available to check out at the Connection Center.

How Can Your Amazon Purchase Help FPC? Start your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com. Shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you, without creating a separate account. Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price from your AmazonSmile account to the church.

Give Online. Visit fpcbr.org or go to the church app to make your gift online. You may also give through the U.S. mail.

Calling All Greeters! If you feel led to be a greeter at 9 or 11 am worship, please contact Emily Viguerie (emily@fpcbr.org)!

First Presbyterian Church and Social Media (Instagram, YouTube and Facebook). Sanctuary services are livestreamed on the web and we frequently post photos of members engaged in fellowship at our small groups, worship services and events. If you have any questions, contact Katie Robinson (katie@fpcbr.org) or Jay High (jay@fpcbr.org).

Staying in Touch with You. If you’ve moved, changed your email address or have a new phone number, we’d like to know about it. Help us keep our membership database updated. Please call us with your changes, 225.387.0617.

Sanctuary Flowers: Today’s flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lamar Boydston, Ms. Martha Wilbourne Nabers and Mr. Fred Foster Nabers, Jr., parents of Nan and Herb Boydston.

Scripture for Next Week: John 14: 1-7

Services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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