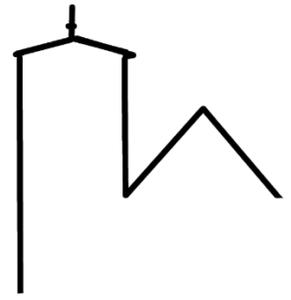


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



PALM SUNDAY

5 April 2020

Ten O'clock

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Marche Triumphale: Now Thank We All Our God

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *We gather together in spirit, though in separate places.*

All: **Raising our branches of praise! Joining all who wish to see Jesus - eager for a healing touch, a blessing received.**

One: *We gather together,*

All: **Raising our branches of hope! Joining all who wish to hear Jesus, longing for a message of welcome and acceptance on our journey.**

One: *We gather together,*

All: **Laying down our branches of joy in fear, wondering if we are able to walk with Jesus through the week ahead, through anguish, accusations, despair.**

One: *We gather together,*

All: **Waving branches of prayer, walking toward the Cross, and the empty tomb.**

*THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 88

Valet will ich dir Geben

All Glory, Laud and Honor

*Refrain: All glory, laud and honor To thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children, Made sweet hosannas ring.*

**1. Thou art the king of Israel
Thou David's royal Son.
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed One. ... Refrain**

**2. The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went:
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before thee we present. ... Refrain**

**3. To thee, before thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise:
To thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. ... Refrain**

**4. Thou didst accept their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delighteth,
Thou good and gracious King! ... Refrain**

*CALL TO CONFESSIONS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(praying together)*

ETERNAL GOD: In Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem to die for our sins. We confess that we have not hailed you as King, or gone before you in the world with praise. For brief faith that fades in trouble, for enthusiasms that fizzle out, for hopes we parade but do not pursue, have mercy on us. Forgive us, God, and give us such trust in your power that, in every city, we may live for your justice and tell of your loving-kindness; for the sake of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

*KYRIE



Lord, have mercy up-on us. Christ, have mercy up-on us. Lord, have mercy up-on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PALM SUNDAY RESPONSE *(singing together)*

Westminster Abbey

**Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run.**

(If you are not familiar with the tune, it can be found at number 415 in the Hymnal)

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

THE PSALTER:

Psalm 118

Nun danket all' und bringet ehr'

**1. This is the day the Lord hath made;
The hours are all God's own,
Let heaven rejoice, let earth be glad,
And praise surround the throne.**

**2. Hosanna to the anointed King
To David's holy Son!
Help us, O Lord, descend and bring
Salvation from the throne.**

**3. Blest be the Lord, who comes in power
With messages of grace,
Who comes in this accepted hour
To save our sinful race.**

**4. Hosanna in the highest strains
The church on earth can raise!
The highest heavens in which God reigns
Shall now resound with praise.**

... Text: Isaac Watts, 1719

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.^[a]" ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 146

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Vineyard Haven

1. Rejoice ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.
Hosanna, hosanna,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

2. Yes, on through life's long path
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe.
Hosanna, hosanna,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

3. At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest,
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest.
Hosanna, hosanna,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

4. Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.
Hosanna, hosanna,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

... Text: Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1865
... Music: Richard Wayne Dirksen, 1974

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Reading together)

from *Philippians 2*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THE OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

(... *In your mercy* ... Lord hear our prayer)

THE LORD'S PRAYER [*praying together*]

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN**

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

Winchester Old

1. A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd
had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud,
waved branches in the air.

2 They laid their garments in the road
and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed
With royal hymns and psalms.

3. When day dimmed down to deepening dark
the crowd began to fade
till only trampled leaves and bark
were left from the parade.

4. Lest we be fooled because our hearts
have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts
Where Christ has fixed his gaze.

5. Instead of palms, a winding sheet
will have to be unrolled,

a carpet much more fit to greet
the king a cross will hold.

Text: *Thomas Troegger*, ©1985
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***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

HOLY WEEK AT WESTMINSTER CHURCH

Good Friday, 12 noon Service of Scripture and Music
Easter Day, 10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament

ON GOOD FRIDAY at noon, there will be a web-cast of a service of scripture, prayer and music for your meditation on this holiest of days. Join us as we mark the passion of Our Lord and give thanks for his great sacrifice for us.

EASTER MORNING at ten o'clock the Easter Worship will be web-cast. Come, sing Alleluia! All web-casts are available at www.westminsterpeoria.org.

THE FINAL HYMN this morning is by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Troegger, professor of preaching and Christian communication at Yale Divinity School. Tom is ordained in both Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches and is one of his generation's most distinguished preachers. He spends a significant portion of his time writing poetry, much of it for use as hymn texts. This text was included in the new hymnal called "Glory to God". Unfortunately the new tune was not as distinguished as Dr. Troegger's text, so we have mated it to the glorious old tune known as "Winchester Old". We hope you will enjoy this wonderful new hymn of praise on Palm Sunday.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

GETTING THE MOST from these web-cast services during this time of separation due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

There is nothing like worshipping together. We know this and long for the day when it will be safe to return to our usual worship schedule, meeting in the church at ten o'clock on Sunday mornings. However, these web-casts can be meaningful as you follow along and participate in the liturgy.

We suggest you print off the bulletin, which contains everything needed for worship before the service begins so you can follow along and participate. Even though it might seem uncomfortable, say your parts of the service aloud. It makes you feel more a part of the entire community.

When you come to a hymn or liturgical response, Sing! And encourage others who are with you to do the same. If you happen not to be able to sing for one reason or another, take the time of the hymn to read through the text verse by verse. Some of the greatest theology of the church is disguised as religious poetry used for hymn texts. Even read the text aloud, if you wish, and also listen to the tune as played on the organ to help fully engage your senses.

Listen to God's Word! Sometimes it is more meaningful to listen carefully, rather than read along with the text. Try that, and also know that the texts for each of the lessons are included in the leaflet. Take some time to reflect on the sermon and what it might mean for your Christian walk. The nice thing about the web-cast is that you can always go back and listen to the sermon again and again to get its full meaning and subtlety. We need to look at all of this as an opportunity.

The offertory is omitted in this web-cast. However, the needs of the church continue on even during this time. So try to remember to fulfill your pledge each week by sending your check in to the church finance office. It's a lot easier than trying to catch up all at once when we return to regular worship service.

During this time, we will try to keep everything moving forward here at 1420 West Moss. The weekly distribution of food from the West-Mark Food Pantry goes on in spite of the conditions as we realize that many more of our brothers and sisters will find themselves in need of food. Keep them ... and all our members and friends in your prayers.

