



11 am Livestream Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday
March 28, 2021



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God — the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God's unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ's radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2021 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Les Rameaux (The Palms)”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Jean-Baptiste Faure

*Join all and sing his name declare, let every voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord! Bless him, who cometh to bring us salvation!*

OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **Y también contigo.**

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest!**

OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let the branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Mark 11:1-11

The Rev. Dr. Bush

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

HYMN #197

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

ELLACOMBE

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; in Christ's name we pray, one God, Mother and Father of us all. **Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 118:19-29

The Rev. Woodworth

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. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**



SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Holy City”

Charlene Canty, *soloist*
Stephen Adams

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Kathryn Ophardt

SPECIAL MUSIC

“No Greater Love”

Keith Irvin, *handbells*
Christine D. Anderson/Douglas Wagner

WORDS OF TRANSITION

Palm/Passion Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HYMN #220 (*vs. 1, 3, 4*)

“Go To Dark Gethsemane”

REDHEAD 76

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete;
“It is finished!” hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay:
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:36-46

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

SERMON

“Prayer Vigils”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

We offer our gifts in response to God's love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation. Please visit www.ELPC.church/donate if you would like to make a contribution.

HYMN #209 (*vs. 1, 3, 5*)

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the day hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
And for his death we thirst and cry.
Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

Dr. Moore, *organ*
Karl Osterland



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists:	The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf The Rev. BJ Woodworth Kathryn Ophardt
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore, <i>Organist/ Music Director</i> Charlene Canty, <i>Cantor/Soloist</i> Michael Painter, <i>Cantor</i> Keith Irvin, <i>Handbells</i>
A/V:	Tim Benedict Wayne Gaines Matt Stuftt

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hospitality to all, our full worship service
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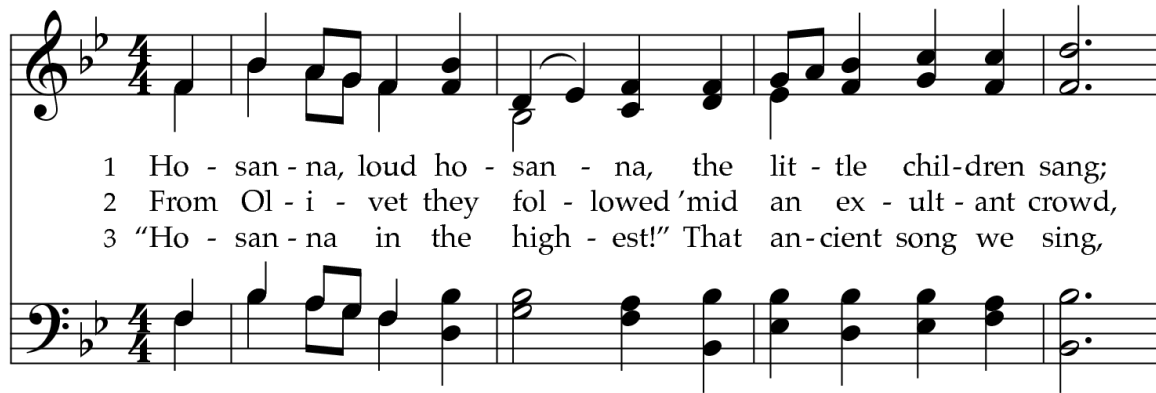
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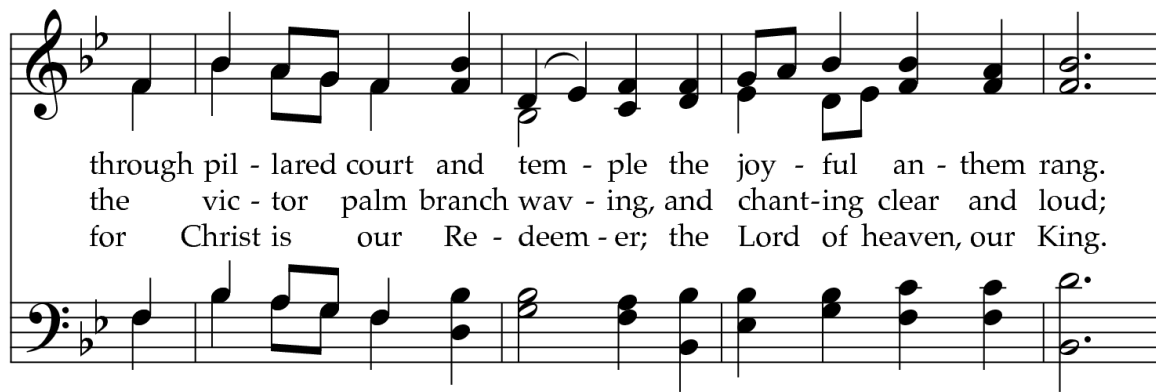
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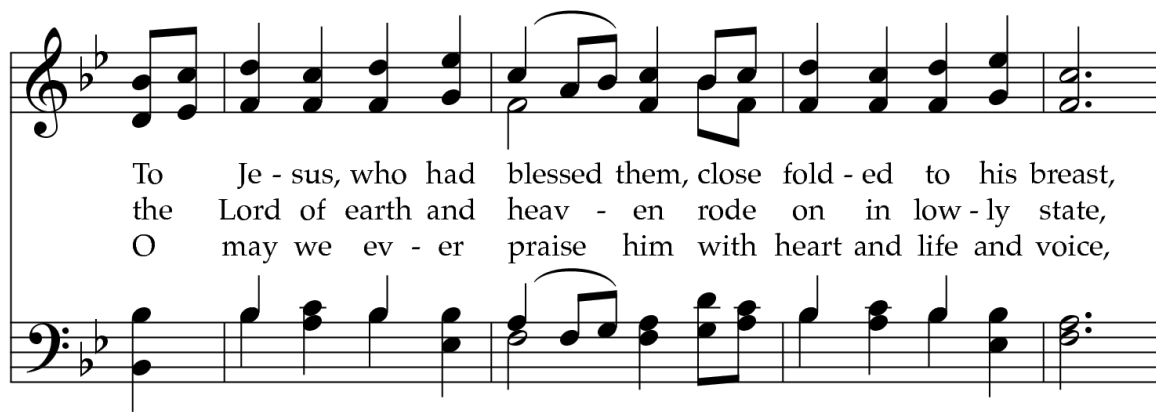
HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA



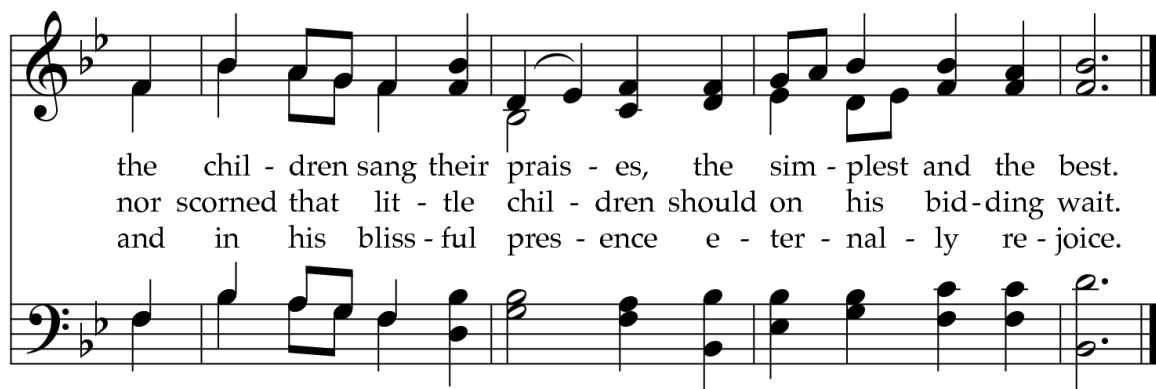
1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil-dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



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.



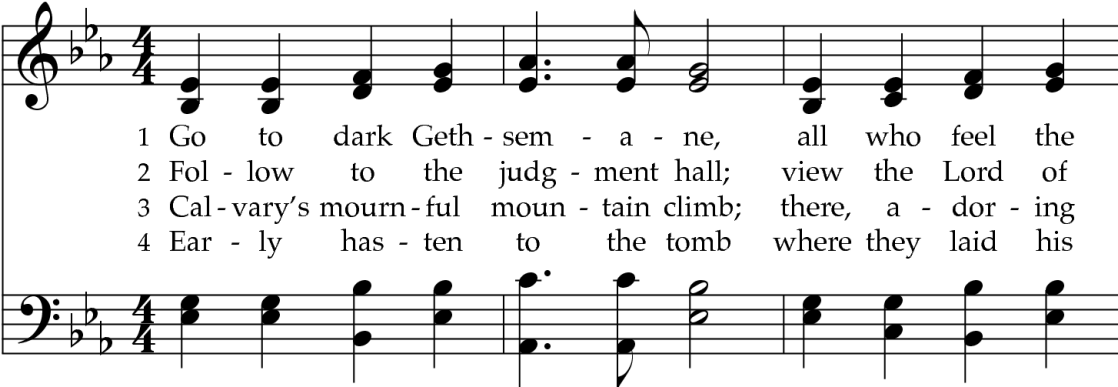
To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,



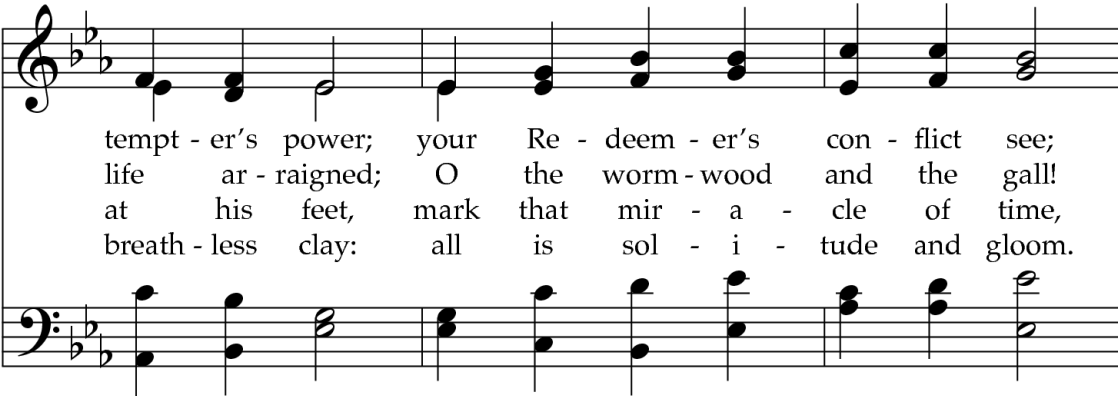
the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid-ding wait.
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

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.

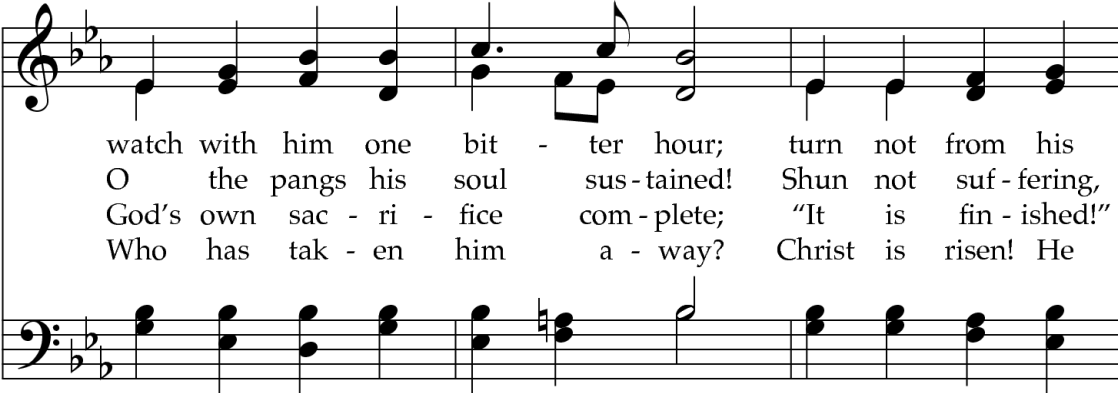
GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE (vs. 1, 3, 4)



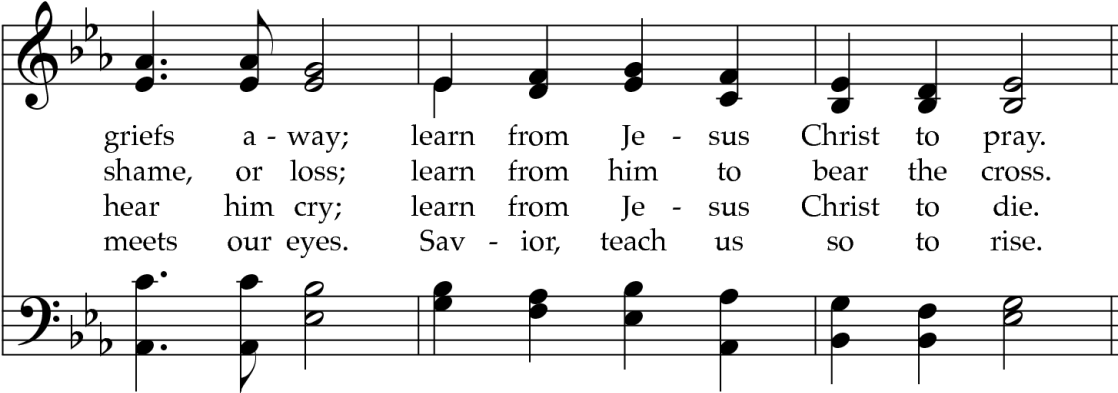
1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
 life ar - raigned; O the worm - wood and the gall!
 at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay: all is sol - i - tude and gloom.



watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete; "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He



griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

The composer intended this tune for "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (no. 438), but its solemn tone and small range make it an effective setting for this series of somber vignettes portraying what Christians can learn from Christ: to pray, to bear the cross, to die, and to rise.

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN (vs. 1, 3, 5)

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be. O who am I that for my sake my
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fer - ing goes, that
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier's lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ's Passion. This 17th-century text is beautifully embraced by its sensitive and lyrical 20th-century tune.