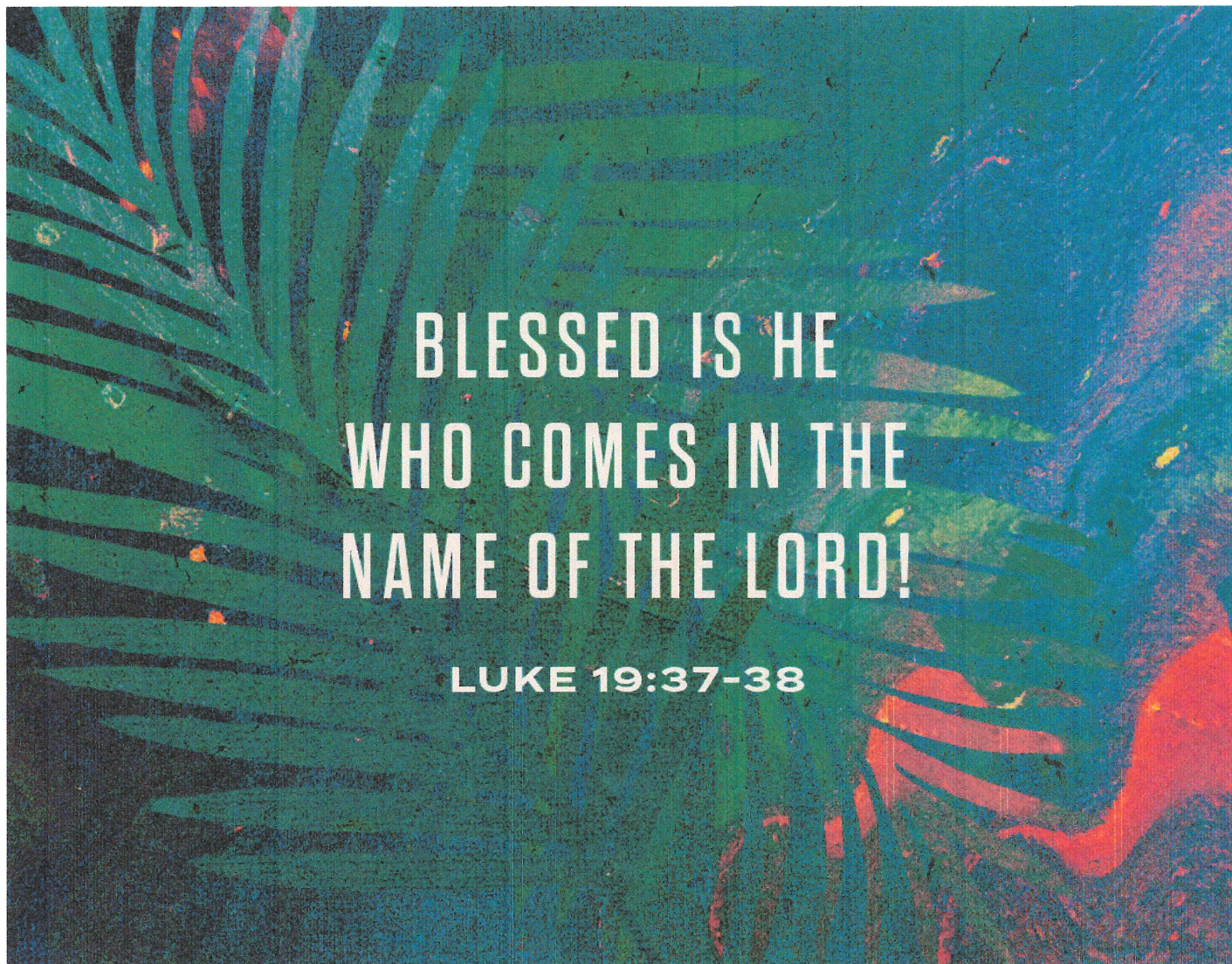


First Presbyterian Church



Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024



**BLESSED IS HE
WHO COMES IN THE
NAME OF THE LORD!**

LUKE 19:37-38

700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org

www.clarionfirstpresby.org

We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Palm Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kathy Larimer

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Prelude

Open the Gates of the Temple

J. F. Knapp

Chiming of the Trinity

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in bold.

Introit (Processional)

Blessed Is He Who Comes

Lloyd Larson

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! (sing 4 times)

Hosanna to the King, Hosanna to the King, Hosanna to Jesus the King!

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

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

Call to Worship

We claim God's salvation in Christ our Savior with the word:

Hosanna, hosanna!

An unlikely king, he rides into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey never before ridden

And still we recognize him:

We find God's majesty in this humble man who leads a bunch of ragtag followers!

Let us worship Christ with thanksgiving for his hope-filled entry into our lives.

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✦ Hymn No. 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

✦ Call to Confession

Christ comes to the center of our busy, conflicted lives. He comes in triumph and humility. He comes in glory and in mercy. He comes knowing the best of who we are, and he comes knowing our worst. Trusting in God's grace, let us make our confession.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Hosanna, we pray. Save us Lord. Save us from ourselves, when we trip over pride, doubt, or fear. Save us from the systems that keep us bound, when we cannot see the way out. Save us from our sins, when we feel their weight pressing on our hearts. Remind us, O Lord, that crowds shouting "Hosanna" will soon be screaming "Crucify Him." Save us we pray, O Lord, and do not let us be among them. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Even in the face of hatred and violence, we know that Christ loves us. Even when enduring death, Christ cares for us and Christ forgives us.

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✦ Gloria Patri

GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Kathy Larimer

First Scripture

Isaiah 50:4-9a

(p. 681)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Give and Take Chatter”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✠ Hymn No. 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith

5.130 *The Second Helvetic Confession*

This holy Church of God is called the temple of the living God, built of living and spiritual stones and founded upon a firm rock of Jesus Christ, upon a foundation which no other can lay, and there it is called “the pillar and bulwark of the truth.”

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Blessed Is He Who Comes

Lloyd Larson

✠ Doxology

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✠ Hymn No. 197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

The Palms

Faure

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“Fairest Lord Jesus” from *Glory to God* #630. Text: Münster *Gesangbuch*, 1677; stanzas 1-3, trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt.; stanza 4, strans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873, alt. Music: Silesian folk melody; *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” from *Glory to God* # 196. Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt. Music: Melchior Teschner, 1614; arr. William Henry Monk, 1961. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

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CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman
Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer
Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis	Robin Cable
Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble
Mary Swanger	Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector: Kathy Larimer
Time with Children: Debra Owens
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
Acolytes: Gavin Kunselman, Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy
Ushers in Charge: Lee Seitz, Mary Swanger, Amy Widmer

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

3/17/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,695.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$174.00
Total Contributions	\$1,869.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$295.00
Men's Fellowship	\$275.00
Easter Flowers	\$126.00
OGHS	\$190.00
Total	\$886.00

Total \$2,755.00

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, March 26

6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Wednesday, March 27

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Chapel

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Seder Dinner, Social Hall

No Bell Choir practice

Friday, March 29 Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Crosswalk

Next Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

No Children's Sunday School

No Confirmation Class

11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

PRAYER LIST

Ruth Ann Minnich

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Don McCord

Rick Goble

Robin Cable

Shirley McKinley

All our homebound members

Mary Biser

Charlotte Hartman

Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Ben McKinley

David Mahle

Laurie Dickey

Rebecca Irwin

Anthony Louder

Pat Hargest

Michael McConnell

Alice Davis

Alexandra Sharrar

Dr. Shannon Penland

Mary Kay Arth

Tracey & Jody Hall

Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio

Jeri Reddinger

Joe Amato

Tom Minich

Rob Summerville

Bereaved

Louise Swarm Family

Doris Mintz Family

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in

Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Tim Fulton

Clarion Health Care & Rehab

999 Heidrick Street

Clarion, PA 16214

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cross Walk, Good Friday. This Friday, March 29, local churches will gather at noon at the courthouse for a Good Friday Cross Walk. We will walk to First Presbyterian Church where we will remember Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. All are welcome. If it rains, the walk will be from Grace Lutheran to FPC.

Holy Moments: A Program for Hope. The Lent adult study class meets on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Sunday School room. We will focus on the book Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life, by Matthew Kelly. If you plan to participate, please call Jim or Pat McConnell at 814-229-0168, or Deb Owens at the church office 814-226-8145.

Want to learn about the meal when Jesus introduced the Lord's Supper? Want to see how the Jewish people celebrate Passover? Want to spend an evening of fellowship with the Body of Christ? Join us for a Seder dinner on Thursday, 3/28, at 6 p.m. Sign-up in the Ramp Room is required. Bring a dish.

This is the last Sunday to give for One Great Hour of Sharing. For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Repairing the breach, providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed, your gifts are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund applications are available in the church office and on the Resources page of our website. The deadline to apply is March 31.

Bell Choir Practice times are changing to accommodate church functions and the Music Director's availability. As of this bulletin printing, I do not have that information, so please be sure to mark any changes on your personal calendars this week.

Mission's Coat Project continues. The coat rack is on the walkway between the Ramp Room and the CE Building. Coats hung on the rack are for anyone who needs a coat. If you need a coat, please take one. If you have a coat or two that are new or still in great shape, hang them on the rack so someone else may be blessed with their warmth. New or gently-used boots are also needed.



MARCH 24, 2024
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY

taking
faith
home

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem gives us hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Mark 14:1—15:47	The passion of Jesus
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	A servant song
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	The Christ hymn
Thursday	Zechariah 9:9-13	Judgment on Israel's enemies
Friday	John 18:1—19:42	The passion of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 11:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to see beyond our short-sightedness to the hope that is for all of us through the cross of Christ, that we may have life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, blessed are you, the one who comes to us with this gift of food in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and hope.

MARCH 24, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know felt rejected or sad.
- What is it about God's steadfast love that is deserving of your praise, especially as you think about Jesus' journey to the cross?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 11:1-11.

It is not just by chance that the crowds who shout, "Hosanna!" days later also shout, "Crucify him" (Mark 15:13). This contrast leads us to look back to the beginning of the Gospel of Mark where Jesus' first message is, "the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15b). To repent is to change one's mind, to see new things, and to see things differently. The crowds shouting, "Hosanna" have a customary view of power and authority. The power Jesus brings is quite different from the authority of leaders filled with jealousy and fear like the high priests and Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus' humble rule is displayed from a colt and is filled with self-giving love that conquers all, even triumphing over his own rejection and death. Palm Sunday points to a kingdom with good news and hope for the rejected and those who feel powerless. To truly hear the good news is to repent of anything less than Jesus' rule that alone gives us reason to say, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (v. 9).

Discuss: What makes it difficult for you to see Jesus' power and glory from the cross?

Pray: **God of power and might, in a world torn apart by fear and jealousy, help us to see in your reign on earth the true source of hope through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bring hope to someone who may be feeling rejected?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he knows the week will not end the way the people praising him will want. And yet, Jesus accepts the people's dreams and hopes and takes them to the cross with him. He turns those dreams and hopes into something more. Light six candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us. Help us to live for you. Amen.**