
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY + MARCH 28, 2021



“Through the Palms” by Lauren Wright Pittman | Inspired by John 12:1–19
Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper (*see page 11*)

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO



Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28, 2021

✧ Liturgy of the Palms ✧

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Processional William Mathias
- A Stately Processional Eric DeLamarter
- Processia Nova Kenneth L. Delong

Introit ✠ “Hosanna to the Son of David” Jody W. Lindh

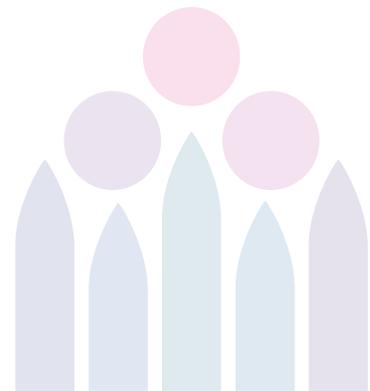
*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Glory be to God on high! The people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.
 Riding on a donkey’s colt, palm branches spread before him. The disciples didn’t
 understand what was happening at first, but when Jesus, the King, was glorified,
 then they remembered it had all been written. Hosanna!*

*Doxology (sung)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below;
 praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.**

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayer of Praise



†Or “praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

Hymn “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!

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David’s royal Son,
who in the Lord’s name comest, the King and blessed One. *Refrain*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. *Refrain*

To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King! *Refrain*

Moment with Our Children

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of palm branches and hallelujahs,
we confess we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.
We love the sound of a joyful parade.
We love shouting “hallelujah!”
We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.
We love good news.
However, if we slow down and pay attention,
we know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.
There was risk. There was fear.
There was the threat of violence.
You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire,
and the whole world knew it.
Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.
Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage
and even we can do hard things.
With hope we pray. Amen.

Extinguishing the Sixth Lenten Candle

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Anthem :: “O Savior of the World” John Goss

*O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us,
save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare, open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

“This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter.”

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

Hosanna! O Lord, save us! We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!

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 has given us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.

Gloria Patri (*unison*)

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.

†Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Scripture Lesson Mark 11:1–11, 14:3–11
Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

✧ *Moving from Palms to Passion* ✧

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo ♯ “Crucifixus” from *Messe di Gloria* Giacomo Puccini
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “They Crucified My Lord”

They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
they crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin’ word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.

They nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
they nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumbalin’ word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.

They pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
they pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumbalin’ word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Ah, Holy Jesus Johannes Brahms



Each Sunday during Lent we are extinguishing a candle during worship. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion.

Today is the last day to make Easter flower gifts in honor or memory of loved ones. The Easter flowers will decorate the Sanctuary for our online Easter service, and a list of those individuals remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts and must be received **by today, Sunday, March 28** for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, email Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org).

On this Palm/Passion Sunday, as we celebrate online with loud hosannas, we invite you to download, print, and color **a palm from our website** ([www bit ly/palmcolor](http://www.bit.ly/palmcolor)). Then take a photo of your palm, or of you and your palm, and share it on social media, **tagging @FourthChurch**. Together we can create a virtual crowd welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem!

Our Palm Sunday celebration leads us into Jesus' Passion and **Holy Week**. We hope you will join us online this week as we pause to observe these solemn days. During worship on Thursday and Saturday—as well as Easter Sunday—we encourage you to have **bread and juice on hand** as we share in the Lord's Supper from our homes.

Our **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae** service, with Communion, will take place online Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Our online **Good Friday service** on Friday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. will include the pastors sharing short meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

The **Easter Vigil** on Saturday, April 3 will take place via Zoom at 8:00 p.m. and will include the celebration of Communion. For the vigil we invite you to have on hand a candle, a noisemaker, a small bowl of water, and bread and juice (for details, see www.fourthchurch.org/lent-easter).

The vigil will take place only via Zoom; for the link, sign up at www.bit.ly/eastervigil21

Our **festive Easter service online** will include Communion as well as the joyous music of brass and organ, handbells and jazz, and the hymns of Easter. This online celebration of the resurrection takes place next Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 a.m. We hope you and those you know will not only mark this and the Holy Week dates on your calendars but also **invite others to join us in worship online** as our journey takes us to the cross and eventually the empty tomb!

All services other than the Easter Vigil (*see above*) will be online at [www.bit.ly/FPC worship](http://www.bit.ly/FPC_worship), **Facebook Live** (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), **our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and by phone (for those without Internet access) by **calling 888.916.9166** (*toll-free*).

Throughout the Lenten season we receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. This special offering supports the work of **Fourth Church Meals Ministry; Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center;** and the work of **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs**. To make a One Great Hour of Sharing gift, use the designation “OGHS Lenten Offering” when giving at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online or write it on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Each Sunday we host a **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom**, which begins immediately following the postlude. You can join this time of fellowship at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship (Zoom details are also posted at www.fourthchurch.org). You can take part in Coffee Hour **by phone** as well: dial 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#.

TwentiesThirties Bible Study for young adults meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * Also meeting via Zoom is **Men’s Bible Study**, which meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **Lenten and Holy Week devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff are available by email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) as well as online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago).

Sunday School and family activities meet online. For details about these children and family opportunities, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). * For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * Adults sixty and over are invited to take part in the **Center for Life and Learning**; for details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cll

The **First Tuesday Book Club** meets via Zoom on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss **Just Faith: Reclaiming Progressive Christianity** with its author, Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons; for Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks * **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group of those fifty and over, next meets via Zoom on Friday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. The program will feature **Andrea Denney**, Executive Director of Operational Ministries, **talking about “Our House: Managing and Caring for Fourth Church’s Physical Spaces.”** For the Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/cornerstones0421 * **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss **Olive Again** by Elizabeth Strout. Email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details. * A four-week series **“Generosity as a Spiritual Practice,”** begins Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. For details, including the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/generosity0421 * **“Why Do Presbyterians Do Interfaith?”** will be the topic of a Zoom conversation led by Nanette Sawyer on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

If you are interested in learning about **becoming a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to join us online for a one-session Inquirers’ Class on Sunday, April 11 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class (*required for membership*) and discover more about Fourth Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA), sign up online at www.bit.ly/inquirer0421 to receive Zoom details.

Congregational leaders are working to develop the guidelines that will inform our future reopening of the Fourth Church campus. Alongside that process, we would find it helpful to know **what criteria will you use to inform your participation choices in the months ahead.** Thus we would appreciate your **taking a brief survey online at www.bit.ly/onlineonsite21**

For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship.** In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. service at **www.bit.ly/FPCworship** (*where the service is available throughout the week*), the service is available via **Facebook Live** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. * Those without Internet access are invited to **listen to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (toll-free)** at the time of the service (*the prelude begins around 10:45 a.m.*). * During the week we make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify** (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast); you can also receive our sermons **by email** (www.bit.ly/fpcsermons).

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom.** Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for details. * **If you have a prayer request,** Dave Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries. * **If you would like to talk to a pastor,** please call the church (312.787.4570). * **Those looking for personal support who would like to explore options for teletherapy** are encouraged to call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. * If you would like to have a **one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks,** please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

We are looking for church members to serve as **adult volunteer leaders with youth ministry** (for grades 6–12) in one of three roles during the 2021–2022 program year: **Sunday Morning Leader, Zoom Small Group Leader, and Committee Member.** Those interested in learning more are invited to sign up at www.bit.ly/youthleaderinfo2021 * **Fourth Church Meals Ministry** is looking for people to assist with Bag Lunch distribution, sandwich making, Monday Night Supper, Sunday Night Supper, the Baking Team, and bulk item breakdown and special projects. **To sign up to help,** please use VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform, at **www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers** * The **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **Blue bows** will be tied to the fence at the corner of Michigan and Chestnut on April 1 as public witness to **Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.**

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) and follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) for resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on the church calendar at **www.fourthchurch.org/calendar**

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at **www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc**

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

Extinguishing the Lenten Candle

Angela Giles and Gabby Singleton

The Music Today

Members of the Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choirs

Members of the Morning Choir: *Carol Carpenter, Daniel Henry, Carla Janzen, Cole Seaton*

Bill McMurray, Soloist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

TODAY'S CLOSING HYMN, "THEY CRUCIFIED MY LORD," is an African American spiritual recalling Christ's Passion. Spirituals like this one and the well-known "Were You There" provide poignant evidence of the empathy and power born of shared suffering. The call-and-response singing style of both hymns provides a means of affirming the communal wisdom expressed in recurring phrases and refrains.

OFFERING GIFTS can be made at fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the "To Make a Gift" button on our website: www.fourthchurch.org); via Venmo (@Fourth-Church); or via a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

David Handley Interim Minister for Caring Ministries

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus



(On page 1)

“Through the Palms”

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by John 12:1-19 | Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper

Jesus lies down on the donkey’s back, steeling himself before his journey through the palms. He has a target on his back—he’s a disruption to the status quo upheld by the Pharisees and chief priests and a threat to the power of the empire. His friend Lazarus is caught up in it all too. I imagine as Jesus closes his eyes and strokes the donkey’s hair, he hears the anguish in Mary and Martha’s voices as they cried out to him, wondering why he took so long. I imagine he smells the pungent fragrance of the burial perfume poured on his feet, bringing into clarity the reality of his impending death. I imagine he sees the judgment on Judas’s face as Jesus was scrutinized for wasting perfume and neglecting those in desperate need.

Jesus plans to enter the city in a way that symbolically subverts power, taking a route opposite of the military leaders who oversee the festival celebrations. His entry would make a definitive statement, imaging an alternative kind of power, a servant leader riding a humble donkey. He knew this act would inch him closer to state-sanctioned torture and death.

We are in a time when we need to draw on courage to call into question the structures that uphold systems of oppression. We are in a time when we need to subvert the powerful and protect the vulnerable. The crowds close in on Jesus. Some lift their hands in praise; others point accusingly. I hope this image serves as a reminder to call upon God for the courage you need, to rest and recharge for the work ahead. But I hope it also heartens you to move forward in courage, even in the midst of great resistance, toward the work God is calling you into.

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