

PALM SUNDAY AND THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

MARCH 16, 2008

10:00 AM

MINISTERS:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR:

THE REV. JOHN DAVID HEECKT

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

JEAN EARLY

Relying on the Holy Spirit to lead us and empower us, we worship God, and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ with loving service and commitment to justice and peace.

GATHERING AND PREPARATION AT SHIELDS HALL

The Church Bell Call Us to Worship

Call to Worship

One: Jesus sent two of his disciples into the city, saying to them:

All: **Go into the village ahead of you. There you will find a colt tied. Untie it and bring it to me.**

One: As the disciples were untying the colt, they were asked, "Why are you doing this?"

All: **"Jesus has need of it and will send it back here immediately."**

One: And as Jesus entered the city, many of the people shouted:

All: **"Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of our God!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven! Hosanna!

Blessing of the Palms

One: Let us pray.

All: **Triumphant God, who comes to us as one who seeks and serves, lead us through the events of this Holy Week, that we may receive Christ afresh in our lives, and embody his spirit in the world. Fill now our hearts with gospel joy, as with anticipation we enter the sanctuary. Bless us and these branches we bring, that our very being shall cry aloud, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven."**

Hymn in Procession

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Insert

*(*Those who are able, please stand.)*

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Declaration of Pardon

One: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: "Hear of Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is not another commandment greater than these.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence stand together and draw near to the throne of grace, that we might receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

***All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*One: Almighty God have mercy on you, and forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

***The Lord's Prayer** (*using "sins"*)

***Hymn:** *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*

PH 6

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

N.T. pg 23 (L.P. pg. 27)

Responsive Psalm Psalm 118:19-29

O.T. pg. 565 (L.P. pg. 695)

Second Reading: Matthew 26:36-56

N.T. pg. (L.P. pg. 37)

Anthem: *The Palms*

G. Faure

Time With the Children

Hymn: *Were You There?*

PH 179

Sermon

The Rev. John David Heeckt

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Apostle's Creed:

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: *Pie Jesu* A. Lloyd Weber

*Doxology PH 515

*Unison Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self:

What can we give in the name of the One who gave everything for us? Our gifts can never match your goodness towards us. We can only offer ourselves, all that we have and are, in response to the good news of Christ's coming. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble gifts. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*Hymn: *Go To Dark Gethsemane* PH 158

Benediction

Choral Response: *When Jesus Wept* W. Billings

RIDGEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED IN 1760

PALM SUNDAY

AND

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

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