



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 16, 2008

Eleven o'clock

PALM SUNDAY

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Please place the prayer cards in the offering for inclusion in the Pastoral Prayer. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

** Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

The Royal Banners

Richard Purvis

* HYMN 88

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who seek to serve the Lord and worship!

People: **May we seek to make God's ways our ways.**

Leader: Let us see in the palms the praise of the world for Jesus.

People: **And in Jesus the total obedience that led Him to walk toward the cross.**

Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise and song for God's love in Christ!

People: **Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

INTROIT

Hosanna to the Son of David

Harold Owen

They cast their garments in the road; they cut down branches leading his way. They called him the King of Israel; they went before him, and they followed him shouting: Hosanna to the Son of David.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshipping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

MINUTE FOR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING *Natalie Beaumont*

MINUTE FOR MUSIC

Ricky Ryerson

MINUTE FOR SERVICE

Beneranda Baez

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, we are like the people who welcomed you to Jerusalem. We are happy to be with you when things are going well and inclined to run away when the going is tough. We know that you are a special friend to the poor, neglected, hungry or sick, but we do not always love your friends. Help us to praise you with heart and life and voice, not only with outward signs such as palm branches or the occasional "Hosanna", but with lives truly turned towards you. Forgive us when we think too highly of ourselves. Forgive us When we fear that humbling ourselves would be seen by others as weakness. Forgive us When we have betrayed your love for us through our lack of love for you and our fellow humanity. Remake us in your likeness; empty us of all that hinders us from following you. Empower us with the Holy Spirit so that our lives continually glorify you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

KYRIE Hymnal No. 565

Lord, Have Mercy

Weaver

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. We are God's new creation. Believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*)

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

ANTHEM

The King of Glory Comes
JUNIOR CHOIR

Jim Taylor

TIME WITH CHILDREN

+ *Children leave for their classes. Youth remain in Worship +*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 118:19-29

* HYMN (see insert)

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty

Wareham

(The singing of the hymn is preceded by a choral introduction)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON

"Confronting Ourselves" Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY

The Royal Banners Forward Go

arr. James Laster

*The royal banners forward go, The cross shines forth in mystic glow;
Where He in flesh, our flesh Who made, Our sentence bore, our ransom paid.
Fulfilled is all that David told In true prophetic song of old,
Amidst the nations, God, saith he, Hath reigned and triumphed from the tree.
O tree of beauty, tree of light! O tree with royal purple light!
Elect on whose triumphal breast Those holy limbs should find their rest.
Blest tree, whose chosen branches bore The wealth that did the world restore,
The price of humankind to pay, And spoil the spoiler of his prey.
O cross, our one reliance, hail! Still may thy power with us avail
To give new virtue to the saint, And pardon to the penitent.
To Thee, eternal Three in One, Let homage meet by all be done:
As by the cross Thou dost restore, So rule and guide us evermore.*

* THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

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

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

THE SENDING OUT

* HYMN 371

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

* BENEDICTION

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Hosanna Filio David”

Jean Langlais

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 118:19-29 (NRSV)

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This 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." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."