

# First Presbyterian Church of North East PA



**April 5, 2020, 10:30 A.M. | Palm Sunday**  
**Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor | Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music**

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## **GATHERING**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM:** Mark 11:1-11

**GREETING:** Pastor Gregg Townsend

## **OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: O Lord Christ, as you once entered Jerusalem, enter our hearts this day afresh. As you once set your face toward death on a cross, help us this day to walk with you to victory. As the children once cried “Hosanna” to bless you, enable us to confess you openly as Lord and Savior. Grant us your presence by the power of your Spirit, that our worship and our lives may truly honor you.

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

based on Psalm 118:26, NRSV

## **OPENING PRAISES: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”**

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, ride on in lowly state,  
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” the little children sang;  
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.

“Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)”

Praise is rising eyes are turning to You — we turn to You.  
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You — we long for You.  
‘Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day.  
In Your presence all our fears are washed away — washed away.

**Hosanna! Hosanna! You are the God who saves us — worthy of all our praises.  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Come have Your way among us — we welcome You here Lord Jesus.**

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You — we turn to You.  
In Your kingdom broken lives are made new — you make us new.  
‘Cause when we see You we find strength to face the day.  
In Your presence all our fears are washed away — washed away. **(CHORUS)**

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### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted “Hosanna: ‘Save us now!’” On Good Friday they shouted “Crucify!”

**All: We confess our praise is often empty. We sing “Hosanna,” but cry “Crucify.”**

Leader: As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself.

**All: We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:

Let those who fear the Lord say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

**All: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

—based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17, NRSV

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** “Still, My Soul, Be Still”

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Philippians 2:1-11

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**All: Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.**

## **MESSAGE**

### **RESPONDING IN SONG: "Merciful Savior"**

Take my sin and wash me clean, Merciful Savior.  
As I am without one plea, Merciful Savior.  
That Thy blood was shed for Me, so unworthy though I be,  
Lamb of God, I come to Thee, Merciful Savior.

Broken, tossed about; conflict, full of doubt; fighting fears within, without  
Lord, the price you paid for our sin and shame; messy people, lost... seeking grace.  
Take our sin and wash us clean, Merciful Savior.  
Through our darkness, Lord you lead, Merciful Savior.  
In our weakness, we confess, hear our cry and give us rest  
Our redeemer, righteousness, Merciful Savior. Our redeemer, righteousness, Merciful Savior.

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## **PASTORAL PRAYER AND OFFERING**

**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.**

### **CLOSING SONG: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died.  
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God.  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head His hands His feet; sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, demands my soul.  
Love demands my soul, my life, my all.

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## **BENEDICTION**

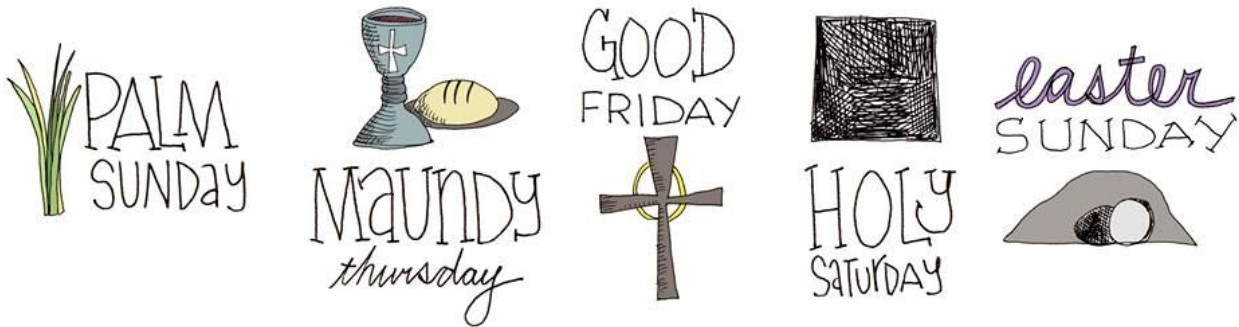
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## OFFLINE: OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

There are three easy ways to give your financial gift to the church during this time:

1. Send in your financial support via the **US mail**.
2. Contact the church office to set up **direct deposit** from your bank account to the church.
3. Download the “**Give Plus† Mobile**” app from the App Store. Enter our zip code (16428) and select “First Presbyterian Church.” It takes about five minutes to set up your account and connect with the church. Then simply select the ‘+’ sign at the top to add your giving.

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## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES.

**STAY TUNED FOR SOME SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT HOW  
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO PARTICIPATE.**

- Maundy Thursday Service, April 9, 7:00 P.M.
- Good Friday Service, April 10, 7:00 P.M.
- Easter Vigil Service, April 11, 7:57 P.M., Sunset
- Easter Sunday Worship Service, April 12, 10:30 A.M.

## Merciful Savior

Take my sin and wash me clean, Mer-ci-ful Sa-vior; As I am with-out one  
 Take our sins and wash us clean, Mer-ci-ful Sa-vior; Through our dark-ness, Lord you

plea, Mer-ci-ful Sa - vior. That Thy blood was shed for me, so un - worth - y though I  
 lead, Mer-ci-ful Sa - vior. In our weak-ness, we con - fess. Hear our cry, and give us

be, Lamb of God I come to Thee, Mer - ci - ful Sa - vior.  
 rest. Our re - deem - er, right - eous - ness, Mer - ci - ful Sa - vior.

Brok - en, tossed a - bout; con - flict, full of doubt; fight-ing fears with - in,  
 with-out. Lord, the price you paid, for our sin and shame,  
 mess - y peo - ple, lost, seek - ing grace.

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 Add'l lyrics by Jane Livingston.