



April 2, 2023—8:30 am and 9:45 am
Sanctuary

No other king could vanquish warhorses, warriors, and all war, riding the foal of a donkey. No other king could break the battle bow and backbone of wickedness, by the brokenness of the cross. No other king could replace the dominion of darkness and the tyranny of evil, with an eternal reign of grace and peace.
-Scotty Smith, *The Gospel Coalition*

Prelude *All Glory, Laud and Honor* arr. Melchior Teschner

Community Life Update

*Call to Worship John 12:12-16

Leader: The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out,

All: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

Leader: And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

All: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Leader: His disciples did not understand these things at first,

All: but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

*Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Entrance Hymnal, 235

¹ 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 Blessèd One.

² The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.
To thee before thy Passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

³ Thou didst accept their praises; accept the praise we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet Hosannas ring!

Words: Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 820; tr. John Mason Neale, 1854; Music: ST. THEODULPH; Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615

* Please stand if you are able.

Choral Meditation

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (by Vicki Wright)

Covenant Singers

Palm Sunday Acclamation

from the Church of Scotland's "The Book of Common Order"

Leader: Humble and riding on a donkey,
Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,
Moving from the peace of the countryside
to the corridors of power,
You are giving the beast of burden
you are giving majesty
you are giving those who long for redemption
With them, with heart and voice, we shout:

**All: We greet you!
we cheer you;

we salute you, Christ our Lord!
a new dignity;
a new face;
a new song to sing.
Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord!**

*Hymn of Praise (9:45 only)

I see the King of glory coming on the clouds with fire--The whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes.
I see His love and mercy washing over all our sin--The people sing, the people sing.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

I see a generation rising up to take their place, with selfless faith, with selfless faith.
I see a near revival, stirring as we pray and seek--We're on our knees, we're on our knees.

Heal my heart and make it clean. Open up my eyes to the things unseen.
Show me how to love like you have loved me. Break my heart for what breaks yours.
Everything I am for your Kingdom's cause, as I walk from earth into eternity.

Words and Music: Brooke Ligertwood, © 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing, Song #4785835, CCLI # 789870

Communicant Vows (8:30 only)

Emma Kate Camp, Harper Church, Kathryn Civils,
Katie Collins, Silas Couch, Emilyn Kneeland, Ethan Williams, Mia Williams

Prayer for Growth

Puritan prayer from "The Valley of Vision"

Leader: Help me, Lord. I am so slow to learn, so prone to forget, so weak to climb;
I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights;
**All: I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days,
my poverty of love, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities.**

Leader: I am blind while light shines around me:
take the scales from my eyes, grind to dust the evil heart of unbelief.
**All: Make it my chiefest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, sit like Mary at your feet,
lean like John on your arm, appeal like Peter to your love, count like Paul all things loss.**

Leader: Give me increase and progress in grace:
**All: that there may be more decision in my character, more vigor in my purposes,
more elevation in my life, more fervor in my devotion, more constancy in my zeal.**

Leader: As I have a position in the world, keep me from making the world my position;
All: May I never seek in the creature what can be found only in the Creator;

Leader: Let not faith cease from seeking you, until it vanishes into sight.
**All: Ride forth in me, King of kings and Lord of lords,
that I may live victoriously, and in victory attain my end.**

Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Grace and Peace

I Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn of Worship

K4-K5 may leave for Kids Ministry.

8:30 am—One parent will need to escort the child to volunteers in the Commons Area for Kids Church.

9:45 am—One parent will need to escort the child downstairs to join Kids Sunday School.

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore; Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord - His mercy is more, Stronger than darkness - new every morn.
Our sins they are many - His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father so tender is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor; Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us; His blood was the payment His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford; Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

"His Mercy Is More" Words and Music: Boswell, Papa © 2016 Getty Music and Songs Song no. 7065053 CCLI no. 789870

Prayers of the People

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:36-46

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Exploring Prayer: Does Prayer Change God?

Andy Lewis, Lead Teaching Pastor

Communion Prayer

Based on The Valley of Vision prayer, "The Lord's Supper"

Leader: God of all good, You have prepared for us a feast; and because we are unworthy in ourselves to sit down as guests, we wholly rest on the merits of Jesus and hide ourselves in His righteousness.

All: In this supper we remember the agony of the cross and the cost of redemption.

We rejoice in Your eternal love, boundless grace, and infinite compassion.

Leader: We proclaim Your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Communion Hymns

Go to dark Gethsemane, you who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross. *(continued)*

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb, there adoring at his feet,
Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" Hear the cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Words: James Montgomery, 1825; Music: READHEAD; Richard Redhead, 1853

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:10, 18

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast. When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold, through life's fearful path. For my love is often cold, he must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast. For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast. Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last. Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

"He Will Hold Me Fast" Words: Ada Ruth Habershon (v. 1-2) and Matt Merker; Music: Matt Merker ©2013 Getty Music, Song No. 7016161, CCLI No. 789870

***Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Response**

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast. Justice has been satisfied, he will hold me fast. Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast. Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last.

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast. For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

"He Will Hold Me Fast" Words: Ada Ruth Habershon (v. 1-2) and Matt Merker; Music: Matt Merker ©2013 Getty Music, Song No. 7016161, CCLI No. 789870

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

We are grateful for your sacrificial giving that supports the work of this church. To give, you can visit give.mitchellroad.org. Tithes and Offerings may also be placed in the giving box at the exits of the Sanctuary as you leave.

Assisting in Worship Today:

Preacher: Andy Lewis, Lead Teaching Pastor

Liturgist: Scott Puckett, Engage the World Pastor (8:30); Jason Yon, Local Outreach and Mercy Director (9:45)

Holy Week is Here!

Find out all of the details on our website at mitchellroad.org/holyweek. No registration for Holy Week events!

Palm Sunday (Today)

Celebrating Christ's triumphal entry with our annual children's palm processional

Maundy Thursday Communion Service (April 6) 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Remembering Christ's Last Supper followed by a free casual meal on the field (bring your chairs and blankets)

Good Friday Communion Service (April 7) 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Commemorating Christ's sacrifice with Scripture and musical reflections

Resurrection Sunday (April 9) 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 am plus a 6:45 am sunrise service, weather permitting

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over death and the grave

Exploring Prayer 2023—This Week's Prayer Focus

Pray for the worship of the church, that we would see God glorified in the services. (Rev 5:1-5)