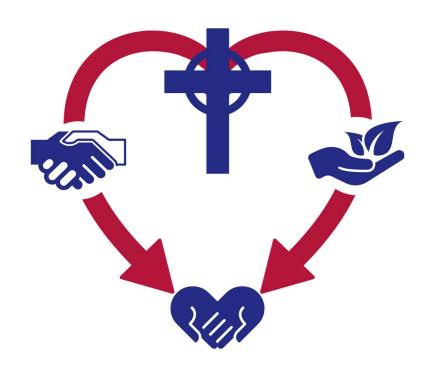
We are imperfect believers, passionate about sharing the love of Christ:

by Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day Passion Sunday / Palm Sunday March 24, 2024

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your information online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.



We Gather to Worship God

*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (from Mark 11)

Leader: With crowds from centuries ago, we call out:

People: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

People: "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

All: Let us worship the living God!

Invocation

*Opening Hymn #197

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!"

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession" Words/Music by Kenneth Jones (front cover of hymnal)

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you. Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, as we enter this Holy Week of Lent, solemnly gathered at your house of prayer, we turn our hearts toward Jerusalem. We want to walk the way with Jesus, to be present each step from the Mount of Olives to the cross to the empty tomb, and yet we fall away. Forgive our stubborn resistance to Christ's work and witness. Inspire us by your Spirit to follow in Christ's way, until we enter with him into the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem. May we strive for your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The one who rode into Jerusalem to cheering crowds knew that the cross awaited. It is Christ's victory over the grave that brings about eternal life. Hear and believe the good news: All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(remain standing)

*Transition Hymn #626

"As the Deer"

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources (see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

*Doxology (#606)

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

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Scripture Reading Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Time for Young Disciples

(Children that have not yet finished 1st Grade are dismissed at this time for Children's Church)

Special Music "Hosanna to the King!" Chancel Choir

Kevin A. Memly

Scripture Reading Mark 11:1-11

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of God's Word Rev. Preston Shealy

"The Life of a King"

Time of Meditation, Reflection

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Our Faith (from The Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. Christ's human life involves the church in the common life of all people. Christ's service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. Christ's suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. Christ's crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of Christ's coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

*Responsive Hymn #196

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Prayers for the People

Margaret Borry

Respond: 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.

Sending Out Into the World

*Sending Hymn #198

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!"

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Benediction

"Love Will Be Our Lenten Calling"

sung to the PICARDY tune ("Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"), words by Elizabeth Smith

Peace will be our Lenten living as we turn for home again, longing for the words of pardon, stripping off old grief and pain, till we stand, restored and joyful, with the Church on Easter day.

*Postlude

<u>Sanctuary Flowers</u>: the flowers were placed in the sanctuary today by Sandee Cribbs, in honor of "the most amazing woman in my life", Shelby Wood, to celebrate her birthday.

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.



Rev. Preston Shealy, Bridge Interim Pastor Kenneth Jones, Director of Music Millie Shiflett, Accompanist Kellen Jones, Lay Leader

