



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY – March 24, 2024

10:30 A.M.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME: On the Patio Outside

The Wilderness Journey from Palms to Passion

Today is a special service, because this week is unlike any other week in the Christian calendar. Today we celebrate Palm Sunday, Jesus' joyous entry into Jerusalem. But we will also turn to the events that followed, walking through the moments that led up to Jesus' arrest. We'll do this as if journeying day by day, because just like our lives, holy week happened day by day.

Today you will hear from five voices: a woman who witnessed Jesus flip the tables in the temple, a Pharisee, the woman with the alabaster jar who anointed Jesus' feet in Bethany, Judas, and one of Jesus' disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested. As you hear these stories read aloud, we invite you to lean in. Imagine yourself there. Feel the truth of this narrative—for it was a holy week, and it was a hard week. Let us begin.

THE RINGING OF THE BELL and A TIME OF SILENCE

A LENTEN INVITATION

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (*refrain only*)

Refrain

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the
wil - der - ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it,
spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id - ness,
wind, wind on the sea.

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PRELUDE "Procession on 'All Glory, Laud and Honor'" arr. J. SOUTHBRIDGE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Len Jagers

Leader: On Palm Sunday, so many years ago, the people saw Jesus and asked, "Who is this?"
People: In worship, we respond. In worship, we declare: Jesus is a miracle worker and
 healer; a teacher and preacher.
Leader: Jesus is our light in the darkness, our source of love, and our path in the wilderness.
People: So may we lay down our hearts like they laid down their coats.
ALL: LET US WORSHIP HOLY GOD.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21:1-11

OPENING LITANY "Who is this?"

*OPENING HYMN NO. 196 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

SCRIPTURE READING: *Tables Turned* Matthew 21:12-13 Rev. Joel Weible

DRAMATIC READING *The Woman in the Temple* Annie Weible

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Confess with me ...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God – for all the things we try to hide from you, forgive us. Hear our silent prayers of return ... (*a time of silence for personal confession*)

SUNG RESPONSE, Hymn No. 215 (*first stanza, seated*)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our hearts are washed anew in the healing waters of God's love.
For the steadfast love of God endures forever ...
Through the Holy Spirit, God nourishes us into life.
For the steadfast love of God endures forever ...
WHAT A WONDROUS LOVE THIS IS, INDEED.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Authority Questioned* Matthew 21:23

DRAMATIC READING

A Pharisee

Rick Fletcher

ANTHEM

“Let the Rocks Cry Out”
PVPC Chancel Choir

L. LARSON

SCRIPTURE READING: *Anointed*

Matthew 26:6-13

DRAMATIC READING

The Woman with the Alabaster Jar

Ashia Stoess

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

from THE IONA COMMUNITY

We believe that God hopes and works for a world where all shall be included in the feast of life
and that in Christ we see how costly it is to bring that world about.

We believe that God of all the earth is at work beyond the churches as well as within them,
working for justice, so that all may have a say in what happens to them.

We long for the time when all who hunger and thirst for justice shall be satisfied and we believe
that despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done
and we *can* make a difference. Amen.

TIME OF GIVING THANKS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Betrayal*

Matthew 26:14-16

DRAMATIC READING

Judas

Matt Killion

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We, too, want to give everything we have, but something within us is unsettled. What would you give if you could settle it once and for all? What treasure, hidden away, may come forth? What love, left untapped, may be loosed in the world? Let us offer now, what we can give – our morning's tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY “Christus factus est (*Christ became obedient*)” A. BRUCKNER

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

God of all true power and glory, we thank you that once again we have arrived with Jesus in Jerusalem, not with a sword to challenge the powers of this world, but with Love to transform them. May these gifts be a sign of the offering of our whole selves in the week ahead. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: *The Garden* Matthew 26:36-46

DRAMATIC READING *A Disciple in the Garden of Gethsemane* Joshua Lenavitt

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 220 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” REDHEAD 76
(verses 1 – 3)

*CLOSING LITANY *Who is He?*

*BENEDICTION Reverend Joel Weible

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE “Come, Sweet Death” J.S. BACH

PLEASE NOTE: Food and drinks are not allowed in the Sanctuary.

PVPC proudly introduces our ***Pray-ground*** in the front of the Sanctuary: a flexible seating space geared toward families with children that offers us the opportunity to teach children how to worship in age-appropriate ways as they grow in their discipleship. All who desire are invited to “come forward!”

All elements of recent services may be found on our website:
PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org