



# Palm Sunday

AT FPC

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

APRIL 13, 2025 | 8:15 AM

# GATHERING

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

This week, we observe Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating in Easter. We'll remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his suffering, and his glorious resurrection.

### A PRAYER...

*God of all time,  
as we prepare to worship you today and this week,  
help us to call to mind these past events in Jesus' life  
so that we can sense their significance for our present lives  
and for the future you are preparing for all creation.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**PRELUDE | All Glory, Laud, and Honor | Arr. Melchior Teschner**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, King Jesus! Come, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah!

#### Hail! King Jesus, King of all!

Recall the words of the Scriptures:

"A great crowd who 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,

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

**In praise we adore you, King Jesus. Enter our hearts today**

**as you entered Jerusalem long ago, and lead us by faith in the way everlasting. Amen.**

## PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

*All Glory Laud and Honor | St. THEODULPH*



1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,  
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing Thee on high,  
3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.  
And mor - tal men and all things Cre - at - ed make re - ply.  
To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.



Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;  
Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the praise we bring,



Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and Bless - ed One.  
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.  
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King.

### Please stand

In the call to worship,  
we declare out loud  
our purpose for being  
here.

To "laud" is to give  
praise.

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring

O Lord Jesus Christ,

on this day you received the worship of those who hailed you as their King:

Accept our praise and adoration, our worship and love;

and grant that we, who now confess you with our lips,

may never fail to give you the service of our lives, for the honor of your holy name,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, world without end. Amen.

## *Hosanna Loud Hosanna* | ELLACOMBE

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na the lit - tle chil - dren sang; Through  
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mong the joy - ful crowd; The  
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we sing, For

pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.  
vic - t'ry palm branch wav - ing, with prais - es clear and loud.  
Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heav'n, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to His breast,  
The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him with heart and life and voice,

The chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on His bid - ding wait.  
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

## Please be seated

Matthew 21:9

## ANTHEM | *Fanfare for Palm Sunday*

Hosanna unto the Son of David. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Jeanmarie Tade

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem

and then later pronounced "Crucify him,"

we are fickle people who often deny Christ

in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Remembering the events of Jesus' last week

helps us see ourselves for what we are:

sinners in need of a Savior, a Savior—praise God—we have in Christ.

In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God, beginning with a moment for silent reflection.

Confession is an important part of the service. We publicly acknowledge that we are lost, and we receive the assurance of God's grace through what Jesus did on our behalf.

*Silence is observed*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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!"

**We confess that our praise is often empty. We sing "Hosanna," but cry "Crucify."**

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

**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**

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.**

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

**Please stand**

**RESPONSE OF PRAISE | *When I Survey* (v. 4)**

4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a pres - ent far too small;

Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

A Creed is a concise statement of the important aspects of faith. It may be affirmed in traditional or contemporary formats.

## SUNG AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *This I Believe*

1. Our Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing\_\_\_ The all cre - at - ing\_\_\_ One\_\_\_  
 2. Our judge and our de - fend - er\_\_\_ Suf - fered and cru - ci - fied\_\_\_

\_\_\_ God\_\_\_ Al - might - y Through Your Ho - ly Spir - it\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ For - give - ness is in\_\_\_ You De - scend - ed in - to dark - ness

\_\_\_ Con - ceiv - ing Christ the Son\_\_\_ Je - sus our Sav - iour  
 \_\_\_ You rose in glo - rious life\_\_\_ For - ev - er seat - ed\_\_\_ high

1. I be - lieve in God our Fa - ther I be - lieve in\_\_\_ Christ the Son  
 2. I be - lieve in life e - ter - nal\_\_\_ I be - lieve in the vir - gin birth

I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spir - it\_\_\_ Our God is three in\_\_\_ One  
 I be - lieve in the saints' com - mun - ion\_\_\_ And in Your ho - ly\_\_\_ Church

I be - lieve in the res - sur - rec - tion\_\_\_ That we will rise a - gain  
 I be - lieve in the res - ur - rec - tion\_\_\_ When Je - sus comes a - gain

For I be - lieve in the Name of Je - sus

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jeanmarie Tade

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
 The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with signs of peace.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Curtis A. Bronzan

**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.**

### PRAISE | *The Lion And The Lamb*

He's coming on the clouds  
 Kings and kingdoms will bow down  
 And every chain will break  
 As broken hearts declare His praise  
 For who can stop the Lord Almighty

#### Please be seated

To intercede is to stand in place for someone else. In this instance, we stand for others in prayer.

(Continues on next page)

Our God is the Lion  
 The Lion of Judah  
 He's roaring with power  
 And fighting our battles  
 And every knee will bow before Him  
 Our God is the Lamb  
 The Lamb that was slain  
 For the sins of the world  
 His blood breaks the chains  
 And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb  
 Every knee will bow before Him

So open up the gates  
 Make way before the King of kings  
 The God who comes to save  
 Is here to set the captives free  
 For who can stop the Lord Almighty

## THE WORD

**MESSAGE | Desperate and Devoted (Matthew 21:1-11)**

Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of  
 Missional Alignment

## SENDING

**SENDING HYMN | The Tree of Life | SHADES MOUNTAIN**

There in God's garden stands the Tree of wisdom,  
 whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations.  
 Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,  
 Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Saviour!'  
 There on its branches see the scars of suffering;  
 see where the tendrils of our human selfhood  
 feed on its life-blood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;  
 our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.  
 Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,  
 nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
 hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary!  
 Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow.  
 I will give blessing.'

**Please stand during  
 the interlude**



5. (all) This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion;  
 6. (all) All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose Pas - sion



in - to your hands, Lord, I com - mit my spi - rit.  
 of - fers in mer - cy heal - ing, strength, and par - don.

(Continues on next page)

This have I searched for; now I can possess it.  
Peo - ples and na - tions, take it, take it free - ly!"

This ground is ho - - - ly.  
A - - - men! My Mas - - - ter!

A blessing.

**BENEDICTION**

Curtis A. Bronzan

*Courtney McLaughlin will be outside the rear doors after the service and would love to greet you.*

**POSTLUDE | Jerusalem | Arr. Homer Whitford**

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The Tree of Life © 1987 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP)

**MUSICIANS**

Dan Wagner (Conductor & Director of Worship), Jeong-Suk Bae (Organist & Accompanist), Vickie Wagner (Worship Leader), Zach Goodrich (Guitar), Owen Teixeira (Djembe), and the FPC Chancel Choir

**FLOWERS**

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today in loving memory of David Miclette by his family.

**SERVE OPPORTUNITIES**

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**Welcome Well This Easter**

Our Connections team is looking for ushers and greeters to serve at each of our Easter services next Sunday (8, 9:30, and 11:15 AM). Please help us as we seek to welcome well both our guests and members of our community. To sign up, please email Robyn LaRocca at [rlarocca@fpchouston.org](mailto:rlarocca@fpchouston.org).

**Sanctuary Flowers**

Each week Covenant Partners of FPC graciously donate flowers for our Sanctuary. If sharing through this ministry is of interest to you, whether it is in honor or in memory of someone, to commemorate a special occasion, or just because, please contact Kathryn Bragan at [klbragan@comcast.net](mailto:klbragan@comcast.net) or 713-622-2762. Currently May 25, July 6, August 10, and August 31 are available. If you are interested in donating another time, please let Kathryn know that as well.

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life  
Rev. Dr. Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Missional Alignment  
Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach  
Rev. Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring

# Holy Week & Easter AT FPC

## Maundy Thursday

April 17 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

## Good Friday

April 18 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

## Easter Sunday | Apr 20

Traditional | 8 & 11:15 AM | Sanctuary

Contemporary | 9:30 AM | Grand Hall\*

\*FPC Kids Easter Fellowship on the lawn after service

Have you considered inviting a friend to Easter worship? Here's a quick message you can share via text: "Have you made plans for Easter? Our church is having three services and there will be something for everyone. I/we would love to have you join us!" More information at [fpchouston.org/easter](https://fpchouston.org/easter).

## Intro to Faith+Work Course

Sundays | April 27–June 1 | 9:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

This spring, we are excited to offer a six-week course on unifying faith and work. Using our Main Street Fellowship program as the foundation, the *Intro to Faith+Work Course* will help participants explore what it means to develop a theologically-informed worldview and for it to permeate every area of their lives.

## Neighborhood Connect

Gatherings on Apr 27 & May 4 | Various Times & Locations

Designed to make the busy church slow down and feel more connected, Neighborhood Connect events allow you to meet and fellowship with others in the FPC Community at a location near you. You should have received an email invitation from your neighborhood team! If you haven't, please email [neighbors@fpchouston.org](mailto:neighbors@fpchouston.org). Visit [fpchouston.org/neighbors](https://fpchouston.org/neighbors) to learn more.

## Explore FPC Class


Sat | May 3 | 9 AM–3 PM | LC 181

We invite you to learn what it means to become a member, or Covenant Partner, of FPC. This class explores the tenets of our Reformed faith and ways to engage in discipleship and community with the goal of spiritual maturity. Register at [fpchouston.org/explorefpc](https://fpchouston.org/explorefpc).

## FPC City Serve: Serve HTX Day

Sat | May 3 | Various Times & Locations

FPC Houston exists to *Cultivate Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City*, so what better way to demonstrate our commitment to this mission than by serving together? Join us on May 3 as we join our partner Houston Responds and other churches across Houston in supporting **Serve HTX**, a month-long effort to serve our city. Visit [fpchouston.org/events](https://fpchouston.org/events) to learn more.

 Look for this symbol to find easy opportunities for an *intentional invitation*. Visit [fpchouston.org/intentional5k](https://fpchouston.org/intentional5k) to learn more.

## Connect

Scan the QR code to let us know you're here!



## Give

Your generosity helps impact the people, places, and ministries we serve. To contribute, scan the QR code or place your gift in an offering box.



## Weekly Giving Report

April 2025

April Goal: **\$608,900**

Giving to Date: **\$88,003**

Amount Needed: **\$520,897**

Needed to meet FYE 6/30/25: **\$1,371,895**