



Palm Sunday

AT FPC

ORDER OF WORSHIP

APRIL 13, 2025 | 11 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 | *Jerusalem* | Arr. Homer Whitford

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

INTROIT | *Let the King Come In!* | Lloyd Larson

Lift up your heads, O gates, and let the King come in!
Lift up your heads, O gates, that the King of Glory may come in.
Who is the King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty.
Who is the King of Glory? The Lord who reigns on high.

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

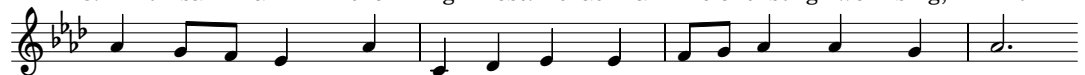
as you entered Jerusalem long ago, and lead us by faith in the way everlasting. Amen.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

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 stand

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

Please be seated

Shout! Shout! Hosanna! | Charles McCartha

Joyful Sound and Alleluia Choir

Shout! Shout Hosanna! Lift up your voice and sing.
Shout! Shout Hosanna! Join us and greet the king!

Jesus is coming, riding on a donkey's colt, like the prophecy of old.

Shout! Shout Hosanna! ...

Wave palm branches. Sing with joy as he goes along; praise him now with voices strong!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Shout! Shout Hosanna!

Please stand

To "laud" is to give praise.

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.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Carol Taylor, Covenant Partner

○ 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.

Please be seated
Matthew 21:9

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.

—based on
Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17,
NRSV

Please stand

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

Carol Taylor

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.

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.

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Nicene Creed

Carol Taylor

Let us now affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. Christian, what do you believe?

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

Please be seated

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

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY | At The Name Of Jesus | Cindy Berry

—Philippians 2:6-11

Jesus though he was God,
did not cling to his rights as God,
but laid aside his mighty power,
his mighty power and glory,
taking the form of a servant,
and becoming a man.

He humbled himself
and became obedient unto death,
even death on the cross.

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow
in heaven and in earth.

That every knee shall bow,
and every tongue shall confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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.

This have I searched for; now I can pos - sess 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 | *Hosanna!* | Theodore Dubois

MUSICIANS

Dan Wagner (Conductor & Director of Worship), Jeong-Suk Bae (Organist & Accompanist), Joyful Sound and Alleluia Choir, Tina Hulton (Director) and Cynthia Blackwell (Piano)

FLOWERS

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

SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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 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.

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. Visit 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.

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 to learn more.

 Look for this symbol to find easy opportunities for an *intentional invitation*. Visit 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**