



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
April 2, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

(Let the notes of our Opening Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)

Opening Prelude

All Glory, Laud & Honor

Melchior Teschner
Arr. Victor Labenske



Opening Sentences (Psalm 118:26)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Larry Volk

Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11, read by Victor Powers

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."



Opening Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff



Offering

Larry Volk

The Lord of heav'n has come to us and we behold His glory. He comes full of truth, of grace, and love, and we behold His glory, and we behold His glory.

The hands of God have come to touch the people with healing and grace. The feet of God have walked the earth to lead us in heaven's way.

The voice of God has preached the Word, astounding us with the truth. The face of God has shone on us and we behold His glory, and we behold His glory, and we behold the marvelous glory of God.

The Lord of heav'n has come to us and we behold His glory. He comes full of truth, of grace, and love, and we behold His glory, and we behold His glory.

The hands of God have come to touch the people with healing and grace. The feet of God have walked the earth to lead us in heaven's way.

The voice of God has preached the Word, astounding us with the truth. The face of God has shone on us and we behold His glory, He has shone and we behold His glory, and we behold the marvelous glory of God.

Come now and lift up your heads, throw open the gates as we behold His glory. And let all the people celebrate as we behold His glory, as we behold His glory. The Lord of heav'n has come to us and we behold the marvelous glory of God.

THE STORY OF CHRIST'S PASSION ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Call to Confession

Matthew 26:14-25, read by Larry Volk

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

Prayer of Confession

Larry Volk

Leader: Holy God, you know our best intentions all too well.
You know our desire to be kind and honest, true to our ideals in all that we say and do.
We don't want to deceive you or betray you.

All: Surely not I, Lord?

Leader: Holy God, you know how hard our lives are.
You know about our full schedules and all the demands on our resources.
It just isn't possible for us to give you more of our time and attention.

All: Surely not I, Lord?

Leader: Holy God, you know that we live in a broken world.
Our lives are shaped by forces beyond our control.
We are part of systems much bigger than we are, inheritors of problems we did not create.

All: Surely not I, Lord?

Leader: Holy God, you know our excuses.
In truth, we have become comfortable with the way things are,
in our life and in our world, even when we know they are not what you would want.
We are afraid to shake things up.
We doubt that we have the power to make a difference.
We do not trust you more than we trust our habits and our culture
and we lack the courage to live into our call.
Holy God, despite our best intentions, we have betrayed you.

(Time of silence)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Psalms 31:14-16, read by Larry Volk

One: I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

**All: My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.**

One: Friends, no matter how far we have wandered, God invites us to return.

This is the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Matthew 26:26-29, read by Heather Kirk-Davidoff

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heather Kirk-Davidoff and Larry Volk

O God, Creator of our wilderness world,
O God, Savior of the lost,
O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,
we give you thanks for your everlasting might;
we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.
For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.

All: We praise you, O God.

For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.

All: We praise you, O God.

For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

All: We praise you, O God.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.

For forty days, with fasting and prayer,
he renounced the power of the devil.

We extol his life.

All: Amen.

We lament his death.

All: Amen.

We celebrate his resurrection.

All: Amen.

Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.
Make this food into manna for our journey,
the body and blood of your Son.

All: Save us, O God.

Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.

All: Save us, O God.

Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.

All: Save us, O God.

Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.

All: Save us, O God.

At the last, lead all your pilgrim people
through our deserts to your Easter garden.
To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sharing Bread and Cup

Hymn #525
Hymn #521

Let Us Break Bread Together
In Remembrance of Me

Scripture Readings

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Matthew 26:30-46 | "Not what I want but what you want." | Ervin Ashburn |
| 2. Matthew 26:47-56 | "Put your sword back into its place" | Andre Ashburn |
| 3. Matthew 26:57-68 | "You have said so." | Shernette Grant |
| 4. Matthew 26:69-75 | "I do not know the man." | Emmanuel Barnes |

Piano Solo

What Wondrous Love is This

Wm. Walker; Arr. Victor Labenske

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| 5. Matthew 27:1-10 | "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." | Angel Sowah |
| 6. Matthew 27:11-26 | "Let him be crucified!" | Jacob Price |
| 7. Matthew 27:27-37 | "Hail, King of the Jews!" | Nate Powers |
| 8. Matthew 27:38-54 | "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" | Willie White |

Solo

"Were You There?"

Christopher Price, Soloist

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 9. Matthew 27:55-66 | "After three days I will rise again." | Carolyn Smith |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|

Prayers of the People

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Closing Hymn #223

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

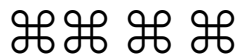
Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Closing Postlude

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

German Tune; Arr. Victor Labenske



We welcome Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher as this week's accompanist. Thank you Darhon!

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Peter McKee, Hannah Ohemaa-Takyi, Susan Schell, Linore Southworth

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David Adjei, Marie McClumpha, Laura Moody, David Norman,
Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Kathy Walter, Peter Wrede

CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor
pastor@wpcalbany.org
Cell: 240-281-5005

Christopher Price, Music Director
music@wpcalbany.org

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education
belindaquaye@wpcalbany.org

CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator
office@wpcalbany.org

Kim Deal, Communications Manager
communications@wpcalbany.org

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer
treasurer@wpcalbany.org

Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

262 State Street (Mail to: 85 Chestnut Street)
Albany, New York 12210
Office: (518) 436-8544
Email: office@wpcalbany.org website: <https://wpcalbany.org>

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

Let Us Break Bread Together 525

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

521 In Remembrance of Me

Capo 3: (G) (Bm) (C) (D7)
B \flat Dm E \flat F7

1 In re - mem - brance of me, eat this bread. In re -
2 In re - mem - brance of me, heal the sick. In re -

(C) (Am) (D) (D7) (Em)
E \flat Cm F F7 Gm

mem - brance of me, drink this wine. In re - mem - brance of
mem - brance of me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of

(C) (F) (D) (G) (Bm)
E \flat A \flat F B \flat Dm

me, pray for the time when God's own will is
me, o - pen the door and let your neigh - bors

1 (C) (D7) 2 (C) (D7) (G)
E \flat F7 E \flat F7 B \flat

done. in, let them in.

(E \flat) (G) (E \flat)
G \flat B \flat G \flat

Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed; drink and re -

(Cm) (G) (Em) (D)
E \flat m B \flat Gm F

mem - ber too, that this is my bod - y and

This text is built on four familiar words of Christ at the Last Supper, as recorded in Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:24–25. Radiating from that corporate memory of the church, additional actions are encouraged in Christ's voice using allusions to other passages of Scripture.

TEXT: Ragan Courtney, 1972

MUSIC: Beryl Red, 1972

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RED
Irregular

LORD'S SUPPER

(C) (G) (A) (A7) (D7sus) (D7)
 E^b B^b C C7 F7sus F7

pre - cious blood shed for you, shed for you.

(G) (Bm) (C) (D7)
 B^b Dm E^b F7

3 In re-mem-brance of me, search for truth. In re -

(C) (Am) (D) (D7) (Em)
 E^b Cm F F7 Gm

mem-brance of me, al-ways love. In re-mem-brance of

(C) (F) (D) (G) (D7sus) (D7)
 E^b A^b F B^b F7sus F7

me, don't look a-bove, but in your heart, look for

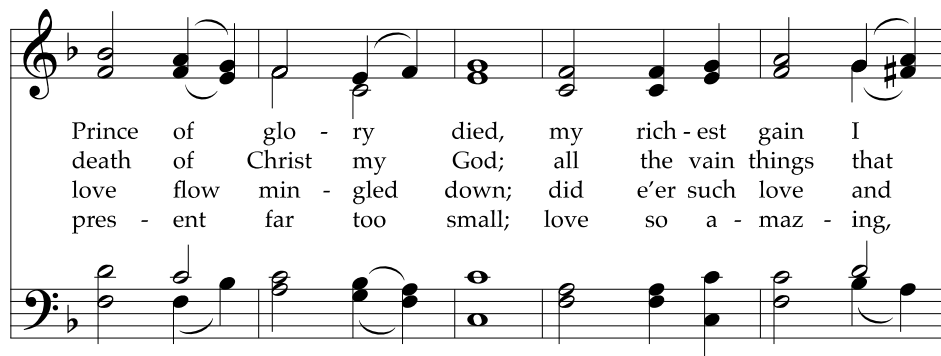
(G) (D7sus) (D7) (G)
 B^b F7sus F7 B^b

God. Do this in re - mem-brance of me.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.