



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
16 EAST FIFTH STREET  
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

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# SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

APRIL 5, 2020

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

## PALM SUNDAY

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE

*(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: 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 fulfil 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 PRAYER

One: We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in

triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*The Palms*

Jean-Baptiste Faure

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

TIME FOR SILENCE

*(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PEACE

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

**All: And also with you.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 31:9-16

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;

my eye wastes away from grief,

my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow,

and my years with sighing;

my strength fails because of my misery,

and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,

a horror to my neighbors,

an object of dread to my acquaintances;

those who see me in the street flee from me.

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;

I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many—

terror all around!—  
as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.  
But I trust in you, O Lord;  
I say, ‘You are my God.’  
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: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness and suffering; therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

One: With boldness, we pray for the church . . . Let the mind of Christ Jesus be in us— giving away the riches of heavenly glory, taking the place of humble service on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

One: With boldness, we pray for the earth . . . Let the whole earth tremble this day— not with the fear of destruction, but with the hope of redemption. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

One: With boldness, we pray for all nations . . . Let the nations see your suffering servant—who vindicates victims of violence, who sustains the weary with a word. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: With boldness, we pray for this community . . . Let us stand with those who suffer—the outcast, despised, and forsaken; prisoners, and those condemned to death. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . . Let your face shine upon the weak—those who spend their lives in sorrow, those whose souls and bodies waste away. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: To you, O God, we entrust these prayers, knowing that you alone can provide grace to help in our time of need; in the name of our great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior, who taught us to pray - Our Father...

## LORD'S PRAYER

# BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 216      *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*      (page 8 of bulletin)

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:14-19

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.

## BLESSING

One: May the steadfast love of God, the abundant grace of Jesus Christ, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

**All: Amen.**

# CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## POSTLUDE



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Presbyterian Church worship services will be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday at 11:00 am until further notice to comply with the social distancing due to the Corona Virus.**

**Join us on Facebook at fpc roanoke rapids or YouTube using “First Presbyterian Church - Roanoke Rapids, NC Worship Service” in the YouTube search bar. A recorded version can also be found later on the church website—[www.fpc-rr.org](http://www.fpc-rr.org).**

All other church activities at the church have been canceled until further notice.

#### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

**Maundy Thursday Service (April 9th) will be at 7:30 pm via Facebook and YouTube.**

**Easter Sunday Service (April 12th) will be at 11:00 am via Facebook and YouTube.**

All committees are encouraged to meet using Zoom which is a web video conference service. The Session met last Sunday evening using this service. If you are interested but not sure how to do this contact Joe.

**Offerings can be made by mailing your checks to the church at 16 East 5th Street, RR, NC 27870 or placing them in the letter slot in the Administration Building.**

**Although the church is not open physically, the work of the church continues, so please remember your tithes and offerings.**

## Prayers for the Healing of Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks  
Bill Howell  
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels  
Sally Ray Warren  
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil  
Ken and Holly Phipps & family  
Kevin and Michael  
David and LaNae Grimes  
Sandra Stephenson  
Mary Francis Fisher  
Harrison West

Ellen Burnett  
Diane Bone  
Eula Cutler  
Yvonne Joyner  
Susan Horrell  
Delbra Davis  
Betsy Medlin  
Al & Benjamin Hayes  
Benjamin Hayes  
Larry Spears  
B.T. Brown  
Bill Davis  
Billy Green  
Joyce Thomas  
Jason Mitcham  
Yvonne Joyner  
Tim Hardy  
Susan Lloyd  
Frank Lonesky  
Jeff Peedin  
Amy Browder Heybrock  
Roger Fuester  
Linda Ray  
Beth Beirbauer  
Doug Hayes & family

## Concerns Outside of our Community

- \*SYRIA and YEMEN
- \*SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- \*EGYPT and LIBYA, political unrest
- \*ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA peaceful coexistence
- \*IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- \*USA, war in Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan
- \*NIGERIA, abducted Chibok school girls
- \*Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- \*People of Sudan
- \*Victims of gun violence in our country
- \*People in Nashville, TN
- \*People who have the coronavirus, been exposed or caring for others with the virus

## 216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.  
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

For sheer intensity of feeling few hymns can match this meditation on the cross; impressive images and strong contrasts combine to give the text its ardor. The passionate language is augmented by the highly chromatic tune later composed for these words.