

# The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

Sunday, April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday Worship



## Preparation

Fair and eloquent flowers have the children strewn before the King...  
Let the preachers weave together homilies like flowers,  
Let the elders make a garland of their ministries,  
The deacons make their readings and service into fair branches of glory,  
Let young men make jubilant shouts,  
Young women and children make their manner of life a prayer;  
Blessed is the Lord who gives us so many opportunities to do good!

--Ephram the Syrian, 4<sup>th</sup> century

**Prelude** Intrada on *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

[Langlois]

## Opening Sentences

When God incarnate appeared on earth in the person of Jesus, most of the world did not recognize him. Today, we are called to worship, and though we are separated in different places, we are united in faith—a faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is. Lord, open our eyes to see his glory; open our ears to hear his wisdom; open our hands to offer him gifts; open our mouths to proclaim his praise; open our hearts to his abundant love.

## Prayer of Confession

This day, Jesus Christ rides toward Jerusalem. He is humble and rides on a donkey, carrying mercy in one hand and peace in the other. Hosanna—save us, Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Let us pray:  
**Loving God, as we walk the road of palms and blessing, as we near the hallowed ground of Gethsemane and Golgotha, we confess our unworthiness. Our deprivations are so few, our scars so scarce, our courage so seldom summoned, our passion so wasted on self. Who are we that we should bear Christ's name or claim to be Your people? Forgive us, O God, for we know not what we do. Help us to come as the sinners we are, that we may obtain mercy and find help in our time of need. Through our lives and by our prayers, may Your kingdom come.**

*(silent prayers)*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us, **And grant us Your peace. Amen.**

## The Promise of the Gospel

**Sacred Song**

*There in God's Garden*

Connor Koppin, soloist

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 Savior!"  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;

See there the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its life blood.  
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."  
This is my ending; this, my resurrection;  
Into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.

**Scripture Lesson**                      John 12:12-19

**Sermon**                                      "The World Has Gone After Him"                      Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

**Musical Interlude**                      Ave Venum Corpus    [Mozart]  
Adam Epler, saxophone

**Prayers of the People**

Like splendid palm branches, we are strewn in the Lord's path. Let us lift our hearts to God in prayer. Let us pray:

**The Lord's Prayer**                      *"...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**                                      Hosanna, Loud Hosanna                                      [Robert Powell]

## WAYS TO HELP IN THIS TIME OF COVID-19

April 5, 2020

### DONATE FUNDS

**Continue to support our church annual operating needs through pledging and meeting your pledge as you are able.** With no in-person church services, we are seeing a drop in giving. The ministry of the church continues through phone, email, texts, and online worship, classes, meetings and care. We need to support the church during this crucial time.

**Continue to support this final year of our Roots and Wings Campaign.** This campaign has been successful so far and has allowed us to enhance mission giving, programs of worship, music, and study, staffing and building repairs.

**Consider donating to our current special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing.** The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Right now, a disaster focus is on providing assistance for the COVID-19 response both nationally and internationally. You can give online [here](#) or mail a check to PCO. If you mail a check to PCO, please indicate it is for One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing is generally a special offering around Easter, but donations can be made at other times, too.

**Consider additional contributions for our church mission activities.** The Mission Committee has a budget of \$40,000 which includes \$3,000 reserved for emerging needs. We have made donations to St. Vincent Catholic Charities Refugee Services, Cass Community Services, and Communities in Schools of Michigan. We plan to send gifts to St. Vincent Catholic Charities Immigration Law program, Michigan Refugee Hope, Global Institute of Lansing, AFAR, Advent House, Edgewood Village, UKirk, Mikey23 Foundation, Simbolei Academy, Haiti Nursing Foundation, PCUSA Ludwig's Niger mission, and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to support general mission. The COVID-19 pandemic is creating many unexpected needs, even in our local community. Additional funds for emerging needs could be put to good use.

**VOLUNTEER** Many of our hands-on mission opportunities are on hold right now due to the coronavirus pandemic and Michigan Executive Order 2020-21, Stay Home, Stay Safe. We will fully engage again when it is safe and responsible to resume group activities. Meanwhile, there are ways you can still contribute the valuable gift of time:

**Assist with the Michigan COVID-19 Response.** There are activities you can do from home.

[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_98811---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98811---,00.html)

**Assist our Deacons in their current activities to support church members.** Activities at this time are in compliance the many Michigan emergency orders that have issued in the past month. If you are interested in assisting, contact Rev. Alice Townley at [townley@okemospres.org](mailto:townley@okemospres.org).

### STAY UP TO DATE ON COVID-19 IN MICHIGAN AND STAY SAFE

For the Michigan coronavirus website, click [here](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/) [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/).