

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**March 24, 2024**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**



**\*Responsive Reading:** Luke 22:54-62 Peter denies Jesus Rebecca Mattern

**One:** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

**Choir:** "This man also was with him."

**All:** **But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."**

**Choir:** A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them."

**All:** **But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"**

**Choir:** Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

**All:** **But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"**

**One:** At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

**All:** **And he went out and wept bitterly.**

*(Minute of Reflection)*

**\*Responsive Reading:** Luke 22:66-23:3, 13-24 Pilate condemns Jesus

**One:** When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us."

**All:** **He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."**

**One:** All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?"

**All:** **He said to them, "You say that I am."**

**One:** Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!" Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

**All:** **He answered, "You say so."**

**One:** Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

**All:** **Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)**

One: Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again;

**All: but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!”**

One: A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”

**All: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.**

One: So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.