



PALM *Sunday*

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. It is when we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem as King. A large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving him a royal welcome. They shouted “hosanna” which means “save us.” Now we shout “hosanna” again, but not just to ask for rescue, to celebrate that he has rescued us. In this way, “hosanna” now means both “Save us!” and “He has saved us!”

*We focus our  
hearts and  
minds as we  
prepare to  
be served by  
the life-giving  
Creator God.*

## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PREPARATION

In the past, I have questioned the Resurrection’s veracity and suggested that it should not be taken literally. But the more I read the Easter story, the better it seems to fit and apply to the human condition. That, too, is why I now believe in it.

-A.N. Wilson, *Why I Believe Again*

Morality is in many ways the greatest enemy of Christianity... It is this preaching of the ‘good life’, of being ‘a good little gentleman’... that has been the curse. -Martin Lloyd Jones, *Life in the Spirit*

All human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us, and the change is painful.

-Flannery O’Connor, *The Habit of Being*

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. -Book of Common Prayer

## WELCOME

*God Himself,  
through the  
Bible, calls  
us into His  
presence to  
connect with  
Him in worship.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM ZECHARIAH 9 & PSALM 24

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**(Congregation) On that day the Lord our God will save us, as the flock of His people; for like the jewels of a crown we shall shine on His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great His beauty!**

(Leader) Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**(Congregation) Who is this King of glory?**

**(All) The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

*We respond to  
God's gracious  
invitation by  
asking Him to  
empower and  
receive our  
worship.*

### SONG OF PRAISE

PAGE 4

The Old Testament Israelites sang throughout their worship of God. The earliest Christians continued this practice in the first century, and we join our modern voices to this ancient practice in our worship of God.

## INVOCATION

### SONG OF PRAISE

PAGE 5

ALL GLORY LAUD AND HONOR  
#235, Trinity Hymnal

*We sing to declare that our God is  
the Almighty Creator, Redeemer, and  
Sustainer of everything.*

1. All glo - ry, laud, and ho - nor to thee, Re - dee - mer, King,  
2. The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
3. Thou didst ac - cept their prai - ses; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

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

Thou art the King of Is - rael, thou Da - vid's ro - yal Son,  
to thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang the hymns of praise;  
All glo - ry, laud, and ho - nor to thee, Re - dee - mer, King,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bles - sed One!  
to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our me - lo - dy we raise.  
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

# COME, CHRISTIANS, RAISE YOUR VOICES

By Michael Breakall & Leah Moebs

*Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, to save those who are eagerly waiting for him (Hebrews 9:28).*



1. Come, Christ - ians, raise your voi - ces, In thanks to Je - sus Christ.
2. This Christ, though King of Hea - ven Came down to Earth to save.
3. This act of grace so free - ly giv'n Con - ti - nues e - ven now.
4. Come, Christ - ians, raise your voi - ces, Our God, he is not done.



For God, the Son in - car - nate Has come to give us life.  
Not as a vic - tor with a sword, But as a help - less babe.  
God saves us from our for - mer ways; Our wills, to his, we bow.  
He will come back to earth a - gain To claim his church as one.



Come those who feel His good - ness, And those who cry, "How long?"  
He rode up - on a don - key In low - li - ness and peace.  
His Spi - rit works with - in us So we may die to sin  
Christ will re - turn in glo - ry, As sav - ior, judge, and King;



He gives, who ne - ver chan - ges, A new sal - va - tion song. (to vs. 2)  
He bore God's wrath up - on the cross So sin and death may cease.  
And live un - to his right - eous - ness, The i - mage of his Son.  
Be - hold, he'll ride a gleam - ing horse, O let ho - san - nas ring!

## Chorus



Ho san - na! O save us, Lord.



Ho - san - na! Through Christ sal - va - tion comes!

# SCRIPTURE READING

PALM SUNDAY

PAGE 428

*The ancient  
Israelites  
rejoiced  
to hear the  
story of God,  
and the first  
Christians  
treasured the  
communal  
reading of  
Scripture.  
Rooted in this  
tradition, we  
publicly read a  
section of the  
Bible during  
worship.*

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,

2 for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.

3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.

5 He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*

7 Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

8 Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

10 Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! *Selah*

The Word of the Lord.

**(All) Thanks be to God.**



## OFFERING

*We worship God by gladly giving back a portion of what he has provided for us. These resources further his mission in our community.*

*We celebrate  
what God has  
done, giving  
Him all the  
credit for it.*

## OFFERTORY

*In God's  
presence, we  
see ourselves  
as we are. At  
His invitation,  
we confess our  
sin; trusting in  
His promised  
grace.*

## CORPORATE CONFESSION

**O God, you know us well. We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to live it fully. We shout “hosanna” as Jesus approaches, but we do not always want him to come too close - not close enough to see our sin. Like the crowds who greeted his entry into Jerusalem, we are fickle, slow to live fully and everywhere as faithful disciples. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and restore us according to Your Gospel promises.**

*Please silently confess your sin before the Lord.*

*God declares in  
the Gospel that  
all who repent  
and believe in  
Jesus Christ are  
completely  
forgiven from  
the guilt and  
shame of all  
their sins.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FROM ZEPHANIAH 9 & EPHESIANS 1

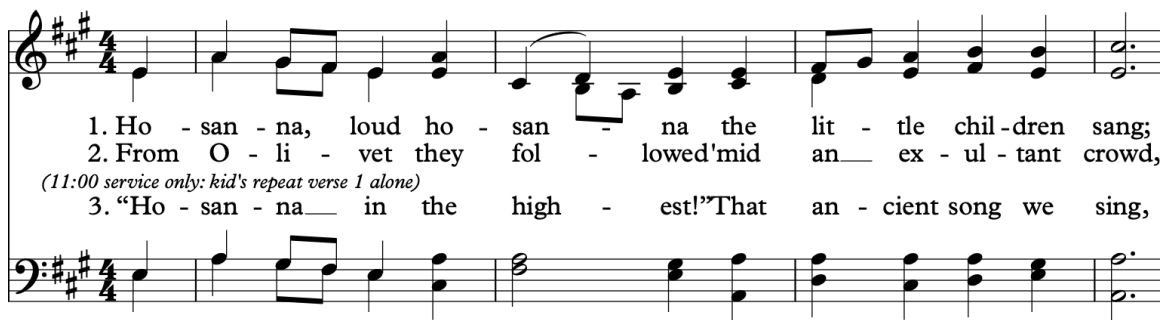
**Rejoice greatly! Behold, your king is coming to you. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.**

## COMMUNITY GREETING

**“...welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Romans 15:7)**

# HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

*We sing, just as the people who  
greeted him in Jerusalem did,  
knowing that he came to save us.*




1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
 2. From O - li - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,  
 (11:00 service only: kid's repeat verse 1 alone)  
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.  
 The vic - tor palm branch wa - ving, and chan - ting clear and loud.  
 For Christ is our Re - dee - mer, 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 hea - ven Rode on in low - ly state,  
 O may we e - ver praise him with heart and life and voice,



the child - ren sang their prai - ses, the simpl - est and the best.  
 Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
 And in his blis - sful pre - sence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.



*One of our  
leaders cries  
out to God  
on our behalf  
for grace  
and mercy,  
especially for  
the hurting,  
needy, and  
broken.*

## **SHEPHERDING PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

"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.

*During the  
11:00 AM  
sermon,  
children ages 4  
years through  
2nd grade are  
invited to Kid's  
Worship.*

### **SERMON SERIES**

**PALM SUNDAY**

### **SERMON TEXT**

**LUKE 18:9-14**

PAGE 10

*God has  
ordained  
the preaching  
of the Bible to  
be the chief  
means  
of proclaiming  
the good news  
of Jesus Christ.*

### **SERMON**

**THE PRESBYTERIAN & THE DEALER**

**SEAN SAWYERS**

*God sends approval down to us because we can't climb up to it.*

### **SERMON OUTLINE**

Climb up & Claim it? (vv. 11-12)

Fall Down & Beg for It? (vv. 13-14a)

Look to Jesus & Rest In It? (v. 14b)

*If you do not  
have a Bible at  
home, please  
take one from  
the chair in  
front of you as  
our gift.*

## SERMON TEXT

PAGE 824

LUKE 18:9-14

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## SYCAMORE KIDS' VERSION

[9] Jesus told this story about people who thought they impressed God, and so they looked down on other people.

[10] Jesus said, "Two men went to pray at the afternoon service. One was sort of a well-known pastor, the kind of religious man people think God really likes. The other was like a drug dealer, the kind of man people think God would never love.

[11] The pastor stood up front and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not one of the bad people, like this drug dealer.

[12] I do everything you ask and extra stuff too. I know you see how good I am.'

[13] But the dealer tried to hide in the back and wouldn't even look up. Instead, he cried as he prayed, 'God I am the sinner here. Please show me grace.'

[14] Listen to me," Jesus said, "the dealer was made right with God--not the pastor. Everyone who tries to climb up to God fails because God comes down to sinners."



# HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

By Sandra McCracken

*We sing praise to the Promised One  
who came to redeem and make all  
things new!*

Hail to the Lord's a - noin - ted, great Da - vid's\_ grea - ter Son!

Hail in the time ap - poin - ted, His reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!

1. He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,  
2. He comes with com - fort spee - dy to those who suf - fer wrong,  
3. To give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,  
5. The tide of time shall ne - ver His co - ve - nant re - move.

To take a - way trans-gres-sion, and rule in e-qui-ty. (chorus)  
To help the poor and nee - dy, and bid the weak be strong. (to vs. 3)  
Whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, were pre-cious in His sight. (chorus)  
His Name shall stand for - e - ver, That Name to us is Love. (chorus)

# Sunday School

*To deepen our understanding of Scripture  
and our love for God through thoughtful  
and engaging studies of God's word.*

**ADULT - 10:00 AM**

**Parlor-** Faith & Fellowship  
**Room 3-** Dust to Glory  
**Sanctuary-** Sycamore 201 (Biblical  
Theology)

**CHILDREN - 9:45 AM**

Kid's Sunday School teaches that it is the  
gospel, not good behavior, that changes  
everything.

## DROP OFF ROOMS

**YOUTH - 10:00 AM**

Middle School students (grades 6-8) and  
High School students (grades 9-12) meet  
to study God's word and be encouraged  
to grow in their faith.

6 Weeks - 23 mo.	Nursery Room C
2 & 3 (Toddlers)	Room 25
4 & 5 (Pre-K)	Room 24
Kindergarten & 1st	Room 24
2nd & 3rd	Room 27
4th & 5th	Room 25
Kids' Worship	Room 25
Middle & High School	Room 2

## Praying Together

For the needs of our mission partners, congregation, denomination and community:

**MISSIONS:** Adam Jones, The Jesus Film Project with Campus Crusade

**CONGREGATION:** First Impressions Team

**DENOMINATION:** Committte on Discipleship

**COMMUNITY:** Donald Marsden, Frontier Fellowship

## Summary of Finances

March offering goal: \$109,320

March offering (through 3/3/24): \$22,833 (21%)

### Year to Date 4/1/23—2/29/24

**Budget:**

YTD offering goal: \$1,227,015

YTD expenses: \$1,241,090

**Actual:**

YTD offering: \$1,131,834 (under \$95,181)

YTD expenses: \$1,188,446 (under 52,644)

## Care

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**Spiritual Care** - If you'd like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus or you have a spiritual need or question, please speak to one of our elders.

**Counseling** - If you are interested in speaking with a trained counselor, we support Wellspring Christian Counseling ([wellspringrva.com](http://wellspringrva.com) or 804-306-0504).

**Financial Care** - If you, or someone you know, needs financial help with basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, and utilities— or special needs like school supplies or medical expenses, we have special funds available. Please call the office or fill out the benevolence form by going to: <https://sycamorepres.com/benevolence/>

## Prayer Request

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Thank you for sharing your prayer request so we can be praying for you. Would you like us to keep this prayer request confidential to pastors? If you check no, that indicates to us that you are comfortable with your request being shared with the staff so we can pray for you.

- ☐ Yes, please only share with pastors.
- ☐ No, this is not confidential.

Name:

Phone Number:

Prayer Request:

# New Here?

Fill out this form by tearing this out and drop it in the offering plate **or** you can scan the QR Code on the bottom of this page to fill it out online.

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

I would like to:

- ☐ Join your general email list
- ☐ Connect with your pastor
- ☐ Share a prayer request (see reverse side)
- ☐ Get connected to a community group.

Or fill this out online!



# Active Elders & Deacons

## Elders

Brian Kaman  
Glenn Kurtz  
Steve O'Brien  
Dennie Pritchard  
Stephen Righter  
Jim Shefferly  
Gene Whitehead

## Deacons

Tyler Burgess  
Doug Castle  
Harry Markland  
Keith Miller  
Dale Moore  
Pat Murphy  
Scott Shefferly  
John Vick  
Paul Walshak  
Cort Van Rensselaer

## UPCOMING EVENTS

There are many exciting events going on at Sycamore this month for all ages! To check out our full list of events, visit:

[sycamorepres.com/events](http://sycamorepres.com/events)

Sycamore Presbyterian Church  
510 Coalfield Road | Midlothian VA 23114 |  
[sycamorepres.com](http://sycamorepres.com) | 804-794-0238

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