



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 25, 2018

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018

PRELUDE

Passepied I and II

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

The Palms

J. Faure
(1830-1914)

James Hoskins, baritone

*O'er all the way green palms and blooms gay are strewn this day, in festal preparation.
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away, e'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.*

*His word goes forth, and people by its might once more regain freedom from degradation.
Humanity doth give to each his right, while those in darkness are restored to light.*

*Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem, of all thy sons sing the emancipation.
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.*

*Join all and sing, His name declare, let every voice resound with acclamation:
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord! Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation!*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE GREETING

At the sound of the chimes, please prepare your heart and mind for worship.

INTROIT

Hosanna to the Son of David

M. Praetorius
(1571-1621)

*Hosanna, hosanna to the Son, the Son of David:
Blessed is He, He that cometh in the name of the lord.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!*

Cover Art: "Breaking of a Palm Leaf for the Entry into Jerusalem," 1304-1306, Scrovegni Chapel. Giotto (1266-1337). from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=46741> [retrieved March 19, 2018]. Original source: <http://www.yorckproject.de>.

PALM SUNDAY

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Evangelist: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

Jesus: 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.

Evangelist: 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,

Crowd: **Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

Evangelist: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,

Crowd: **Who is this?**

Evangelist: The crowds were saying,

Crowd: **This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.**

Evangelist: Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them,

Jesus: It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer"; but you are making it a den of robbers.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Gracious God, you bring joy as you enter into our lives as Jesus Christ. Yet we plot to keep you out. When you challenge us, change us, call us to new life, we hold back. We prefer settled routines to discipleship. We try to follow, but not to your cross. Have mercy on us, Lord, and remove our sin. Transform us completely by your Spirit so that we may live in hope of the new life you bring, through Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN 197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

Evangelist: The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple,

Children: Hosanna to the Son of David,

Evangelist: They became angry and said to him,

Priests: Do you hear what these are saying?

Evangelist: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Yes; have you never read, "Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?"

Evangelist: He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

(At this point in the service, we invite preschool-aged children to follow their teachers to the second floor elementary classroom in the Martin House for "Worship and Play.")

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Evangelist: [Jesus] said to his disciples,

Jesus: You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.

Evangelist: Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said,

Priests: Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

Evangelist: Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said,

Disciples: Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.

Evangelist: But Jesus, aware of this, said to them,

Jesus: Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body, she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Evangelist: Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

Judas: What will you give me if I betray him to you?

Evangelist: 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,

Disciples: Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Jesus: 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."

Evangelist: 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,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Evangelist: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Disciple 1: Surely not I, Lord?

Disciple 2: Surely not I, Lord?

Jesus: 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.

Evangelist: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: Surely not I, Rabbi?

Jesus: You have said so.

Evangelist: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

Evangelist: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: 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.

Evangelist: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Evangelist: Peter said to him,

Peter: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Evangelist: And so said all the disciples.

Disciples: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Evangelist: Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Evangelist: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

Evangelist: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

Evangelist: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Evangelist: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Evangelist: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Jesus: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Evangelist: Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Evangelist: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Evangelist: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi!

Evangelist: And he kissed him. Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Friend, do what you are here to do.

Evangelist: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

Evangelist: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

***HYMN 220**

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Redhead 76

Stanzas 1-3

Evangelist: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

Witnesses: This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days."

Evangelist: The high priest stood up and said,

High priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Evangelist: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

High priest: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus: You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Evangelist: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High priest: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

Priests: He deserves death.

Evangelist: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

Priests: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Evangelist: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant girl 1: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Evangelist: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter: I do not know what you are talking about.

Evangelist: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant girl 2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Evangelist: Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man.

Evangelist: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Bystander: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

Evangelist: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man!

Evangelist: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

Jesus: Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Evangelist: And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

Judas: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

Priests: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

Evangelist: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. . . Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Evangelist: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Evangelist: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Evangelist: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's wife: Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Evangelist: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Evangelist: And they said,

Crowds: **Barabbas!**

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Crowds: **Let him be crucified!**

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Evangelist: But they shouted all the more,

Crowds: **Let him be crucified!**

Evangelist: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Evangelist: Then the people as a whole answered,

Crowds: **His blood be on us and on our children!**

Evangelist: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

Soldiers: Hail, King of the Jews!

Evangelist: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Passersby: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Evangelist: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Priests: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."

Evangelist: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Evangelist: That is, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystander: This man is calling for Elijah.

Evangelist: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

Priests: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Evangelist: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep

were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Soldiers: Truly this man was God's Son!

Evangelist: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

Priests: Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead," and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Evangelist: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

Evangelist: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

ANTHEM

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs

G.F. Handel
(1682-1759)

*Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded
For our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the
Chastisement of our peace was upon Him.*

MEDITATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The 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.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Final Section of St. Matthew Passion

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy
Hear our 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.

*HYMN 228

Were You There

Were You There

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Were You There

African American Spiritual

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)**

*There will be no postlude during the season of Lent.
Please leave the church in a spirit of peace.*



Contact FPC

Phone: 706-278-8161

Rev. Will Scott, Pastor: wscott@firstpresdalton.org

Trent Whisenant, Director of Music: twhisenant@firstpresdalton.org

Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 489

Dalton, Georgia 30722