



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do Justice · Love Kindness · Walk Humbly

The Service of Worship

April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

ABOUT OUR HYMNS *Our Music Minister will play the intro for each hymn, then we will sing only the first verse. You are encouraged to read the remaining verses as the words there offer peace and hope.*

THE ORGAN PRELUDES

The Royal Banners Forward Go (*Vexilla Regis*--from *A Suite of Passion Hymn Settings*)
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Chorale Prelude on *Valet will ich dir geben* (All Glory, Laud, and Honor) J. S. Bach

GREETING

INTROIT

Hymn **466**: *Sung three times* Confitemini Domino
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!
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THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 118) Cherrie Barton Henry
O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
The Lord has answered us and become our salvation.
God has given us light that we may see and rejoice.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
Give thanks! God's steadfast love endures forever!

THE HYMN NO. **196** ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR Valet will ich dir geben

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Chris Tuttle

Why do we confess our sin?
Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
But why do we do this together?
Because we are a community, a covenant people.
Then let us confess our sin.

Merciful and Eternal God, we confess that we have failed to fulfill your will. You have bound yourself to us, but we will not bind ourselves to your Gospel. We have failed to love you, failed to love our neighbor, and failed to love ourselves. We love the noise of the crowd and sing your praises when it is popular and easy - but when your Kingdom threatens to challenge the comfort and security of our lifestyle, our voices fall silent.

Forgive us. In your mercy cleanse us. Give us a thirst for justice and a hunger for righteousness. Allow us to glimpse a vision of the wild goodness of your Kingdom, and guide our feet onto the paths of peace. Amen.

A TIME OF PERSONAL SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON arr. David N. Johnson
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.
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THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE GLORIA PATRI NO. 581

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SHARING OUR MISSION

Westminster's Easter Offering

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hymn **544**: *Sung three times* Bless the Lord (Taizé)
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.
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A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

II Samuel 6: 12-23

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 21: 1-17

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Alex Stayer-Brewington

MOMENTS OF SILENCE

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Individuals on our prayer list will be prayed for by first name only to protect privacy. If you or someone you know needs our prayers, please send an email to prayersandcares@wpcdurham.org, and it will be received by our staff and Congregational Care Committee.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING

You may give your offering through our website at www.wpcdurham.org/give, or through your myWPC account. For questions regarding online giving, please email Sharon Morgan (sharon@wpcdurham.org).

OFFERTORY

Chorale Prelude on *O Sacred Head*

Dietrich Buxtehude

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

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

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GO IN GOD'S NAME

THE HYMN 221 O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

Passion Chorale

THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION

AMEN

Hymn 215, vs. 3

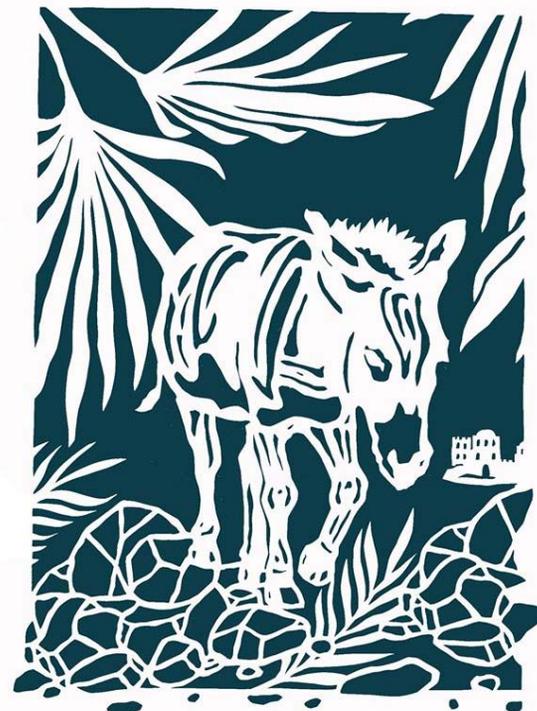
Wondrous Love

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

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Palm/Passion Sunday is a pivotal moment in the church year, turning us in the space of one worship service from the festal joy of Christ's procession into Jerusalem to the solemnity of Holy Week and the darkness of Christ's suffering and death.

Our service music reflects this tension, both in its festive nature and in its gravity and heft. Our first two hymns are appropriately cheerful, allowing us to imagine Christ's joyous entry and the waving of palm branches. But by the end of the service, we sing a far more solemn hymn, the great Passion Chorale – O Sacred Head Now Wounded – which reminds us of what lies ahead. The organ postlude – Bach's magnificent Fantasia in G Minor – captures the intensity and grief of our turn into Holy Week.



All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

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

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221



1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weigh-ed down;
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
 3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,



now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with-out end?



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.



APRIL 5 WEEKLY UPDATE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to learn, serve, worship, grow, and stay connected



CROP Hunger Walk This year's CROP Walk has become a virtual event. Walkers won't gather at Duke Chapel today, but the need to raise funds for hunger relief remains a critical need. Check WPC's Facebook page to watch a video message from Kenzie Brannon about CROP Walk and why it's so important, then visit www.crophungerwalk.org/durhamnc/wpc to sponsor a team member or make a donation to the cause. Help fight world hunger, one virtual step at a time. **Contact:** Neil McElroy (mcelroy_neil@hotmail.com)

Easter Offering WPC's annual Easter offering will be collected from now through April 12. Half of this year's Easter Offering will be given to the **Durham Nativity School** (DNS). DNS provides a tuition-free, enriched learning environment and a twelve-year support system for middle school boys from financially-challenged backgrounds. The school promotes a rigorous academic program and nurtures the whole child to reach his potential through knowledge, moral values, learning skills, discipline, and character development while instilling the value of service for others. Check our Facebook page for a special video message from a former DNS student. He spoke to us



at Westminster about four years ago when he was an eighth-grader at DNS – Find out where he's been attending high school and where he's planning to attend college!

The other half of the offering will support **One Great Hour of Sharing**, an ecumenical effort that began in 1949, and continues to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

You may give to the Easter offering through our website at www.wpcdurham.org/give, or through your myWPC account. We also offer a text-to-give option.

Text **WPCDURHAM Easter \$25.00** to **73256** to give \$25 to the Easter Offering fund using your text messaging. To donate a different amount, just change the amount from \$25.00 to the amount you'd like to contribute. Standard text messaging rates may apply.

You may also mail a check to the church office; be sure to write Easter Offering on the check memo line. Please do not hand-deliver checks to the church while Durham is under the stay-at-home order; the church office is closed through May 17.

Staff Recommendations for Prayer & Devotions Each week a member of our staff is offering a recommendation for daily prayer and devotional reading to help us stay connected to God while we are separated from each other. This week, Alex recommends:

- **A Book:** *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer – Bonehoeffer was a Christian minister who led a secret community of Christians during the Nazi years in Germany. This is a practical guide that he wrote for his fellow Christians about how to grow in love and understanding with God and one another.
- **A Movie:** *Footloose* – Amazing soundtrack, sweet dance moves, and a profound exploration of the importance of joy and celebration.
- **An Album:** *'Nuff Said* by Nina Simone – Nina and her band recorded this live album the day after Dr King's assassination 52 years ago. She is shocked, numb, angry, and confused. She takes the strength of her emotions and turns it into some of the most powerful musical performances you will ever hear. It's my Holy Week record - the only music I know that begins to capture how bizarre it must've felt to be alive on the day Jesus died.

Your Giving is Essential Please continue to give your offering and make your pledge payments even though we can't gather in person at this time. Our Business Manager, Sharon Morgan, has created easy-to-follow, downloadable instructions on giving through your **myWPC** account, either as a one-time or a recurring gift. Visit <https://bit.ly/WPCgiveonline> to access the instructions. Please email Sharon with any questions.

If you choose to give by personal check, please mail it. Please do not hand-deliver checks to the church while Durham is under the stay-at-home order; the church office is closed through May 17.

Thank you for supporting Westminster's mission and ministries!

Weekend Pastors On Call April 10-12, 17-19: Cherrie Barton Henry
April 24-26: Alex Stayer-Brewington
May 1-3: Chris Tuttle