

MIFFLIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY **April 13, 2025**

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Pastor Russel is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

**Order of Worship
11:15 AM**

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: The end of our journey is near.

People: We see the towers of Jerusalem; we hear the shouts of the crowd

Pastor: We still have a distance to travel.

People: But the parade has begun. Let's rejoice and shout "Hosanna!"

Pastor: Keep your eyes fixed on the road.

People: We march into Jerusalem with joy!

Pastor: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Christ Jesus, On Sunday, You Rode Into Town'

(Sung to the tune "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" No. 103)

**Christ Jesus, on Sunday, you rode into town;
The crowds laid their coats and some palms on the ground.
They made you a welcome and called you their king,
But they did not know of the reign you would bring.**

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: We praise and bless you, ever-living God, for the acts of love by which you redeem the world through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: This day he entered into the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way.

Pastor: Let these branches be for us signs of his victory; grant that we, who bear them, may always acclaim Jesus "Messiah," by walking the way of his suffering and cross;

People: that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

*Filled with excitement, all the happy throng spread cloaks and branches on the city streets
There in the distance, they begin to see riding on a donkey, comes the Son of God
From every corner, a thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the Name of God
With one great shout of acclamation, loud triumphant song breaks forth
“Hosanna, hosanna to the King! Hosanna, hosanna to the King!”*

*As in that entrance to Jerusalem, we sing hosannas to the Christ our King
To the living Savior who still calls today asking us to follow Him with love and faith
From every corner, a thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the name of God
With one great shout of acclamation, loud triumphant song breaks forth
“Hosanna, hosanna to the King! Hosanna, hosanna to the King!”*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus rides into Jerusalem.

People: Hosanna!

Pastor: Branches are waved, people shout!

People: Hosanna!

Pastor: Hopes and dreams are running along with the parade!

People: Hosanna!

Pastor: Shout and sing for joy! The Lord comes!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Come, now is the time of dancing and joy!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen

Choral Response:

‘Blessed Is He Who Comes’

Ps. 118-26

Psalm 118:14-29

RESPONSE 1 (Passion/Palm Sunday) Ps. 118:26
William Mathias

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord! Ho-san-na in the high-est!

OPENING PRAYER

Foundation of our faith, your Son humbled himself on the back of a colt. Then he entered Jerusalem in lowly estate to bring joy to the hearts of children. Forsaking his place at your side, Jesus emptied himself of prestige and power to become a servant to all. On this day of joy and remembrance, sing in our hearts once more, that we too may dance with the children—for to such belong the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

INTROIT

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

No. 277, v. 3

*Into the city I’d follow the children’s band, waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, “Jesus is King!”*

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

PROCLAMATION AND ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

(The Palms Speak Out of God's Plan)

Pastor: After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying,

People: "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."

Pastor: So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owner asked them,

People: "Why are you untying the colt?"

Pastor: They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying

People: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Pastor: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,

People: "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."

Pastor: He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

No. 280, vs. 1 & 4

*All glory laud and honor, to Thee Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One.*

*All glory laud and honor, to Thee Redeemer, King
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*To Thee before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to Thee now high exalted, our melody we raise;*

*All glory laud and honor, to Thee Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

CELEBRATING THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Join in the chorus! Give honor to Jesus Christ and bring your offering of praise to him. Rejoice in the coming of our Lord. Lay your treasures at his feet.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

(Sung to the tune of the regular doxology)

*Praise to our God, wave high the palm. Praise to Christ Jesus, God's own Son.
Praise to the Spirit, now we sing, for in our hearts hosannas ring. Amen*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

What can we offer that you have not already offered us? What can we do that you have not already done for us? Lord Jesus Christ, in your gifts to us, you have provided us the way to live and serve you. In both your triumph and your suffering, you deserve our praise. Through the gifts we now offer, we express our longing to serve and to follow wherever you go. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

Pastor: In celebration, we join the crowds of old,

People: waving branches, giving honor to the Messiah.

Pastor: Yet, our celebration is bittersweet, for our story doesn't end here.

People: We know the pain of what lies ahead.

Pastor: Today, anticipates the rest of the story-----

FIRST READING

'The Servant's Humiliation and Vindication'

Isaiah 50:4-9

MOMENT OF SILENCE

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You there' No. 288)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?(were you there)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord (were you there)

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

SECOND READING

'The Lord is Betrayed'

Luke 22:14-23

MOMENT OF SILENCE

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You there' No. 288)

Were you there when they sold him for a price? (were you there)

Were you there when they sold him for a price? (were you there)

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they sold him for a price?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

THIRD READING

'Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives'

Luke 22:39-46

MOMENT OF SILENCE

HYMN (Sung to the tune: 'Were You There' No. 288)

Were you there when he prayed in Gethsemane? (Were you there)
Were you there when he prayed in Gethsemane? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he prayed in Gethsemane? (were you there)

FOURTH READING 'Jesus Arrested' Luke 22:47-62

MOMENT OF SILENCE

HYMN (Sung to the tune: 'Were You There' No. 288)

Were you there when his friends left him to die? (were you there)
Were you there when his friends left him to die? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when his friends left him to die? (were you there)

FIFTH READING 'The People Demand Jesus' Crucifixion' Luke 23:1-25

MOMENT OF SILENCE

HYMN (Sung to the tune: 'Were You There' No. 288)

Were you there when the crowds yelled crucify? (were you there)
Were you there when the crowds yelled crucify? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the crowds yelled crucify? (were you there)

SIXTH READING 'The Crucifixion of Jesus' Luke 23:26-43

HYMN (Were You There No. 288 V. 2)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)

SEVENTH READING 'The Death of Jesus' Luke 23:44-56

MOMENT OF SILENCE

HYMN (Were You There No. 288 V. 4)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? "were you there)
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)

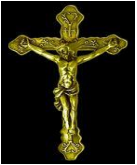
VEILING THE CROSS

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Before this week ends, the Palm branches will be drying on the roadside. The joyful crowd will become an angry mob, and Jesus will replace robes of victory with a crown of thorns. May the journey of this week lead you into the fullness of Christ's love. Amen.



SILENT RECESSIONAL