

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

SCRIPTURE READING FOR MEDITATION

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Mark 11: 1-11

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalm 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Mark 14: 1 – 15:47

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ Just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here directly.’”
Mark 11:3

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 118, NRSV

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may give thanks to the Lord!

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Let us worship God.



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.

Children's Message

Sarah Greim

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Call to Confession

based on Philippians 2: 5-8, NRSV

"...Christ Jesus ... though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross." Let us confess our reluctance to share in Christ's humility:

Prayer of Confession

adapted from Call to Worship, PC(USA) and Reformed Worship

Lord Jesus, you set your face toward Jerusalem, riding on a colt, to bear the crown of thorns. We confess that we take shortcuts in the Christian life; we have a hard time surrendering our all to you; we do not stand up for your name; we do not have your compassion for the needy. Forgive us, restore us and help us to follow you in humility, even to the foot of the cross; Amen.

Assurance of Pardon*based on Philippians 2: 9-11, NRSV*

“... God ... exalted Christ with the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!”

Friends, in the name of the humbled yet exalted Christ, our sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination*adapted from Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*

Eternal God: your Word silences the shouts of the mighty. Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the humility of Jesus, that by the power of your Spirit we may show Christ’s love in lives dedicated to your service; Amen.

Scripture Readings

Mark 11: 1 - 11

Mark 15: 29 - 32

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

From a Place in the Sun to the Place of a Skull

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

Respond to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith*Selected from The Confession of 1967, PC(USA)*

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of [the human] mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But [God’s love is revealed] in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful [people]. The power of God’s love in Christ [transforms] the world [and] discloses that ... all things [are created to] serve the purpose of [God’s] love.

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God*from Feasting on the Word*

With humble hearts that are bowed in awe, we offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

“Wave Your Branches”

Thomas Pavlechko

The Kirkwood Choir (pre-recorded)

To donate, please visit the church website, fpcdavenport.org, and click on “Donate Now,” use the link: <https://bit.ly/2V8nEgm>, or mail your check in to the church office.

*To donate to One Great Hour of Sharing, please visit the FPC website and click on “Donate Online.”
If you are making your contribution with a check, please put One Great Hour of Sharing on the memo line.*

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Moira Laidlaw

Bless these gifts, and our lives, O God. We offer them in the name of Jesus, who emptied himself that we might be filled. He humbled himself that we might be lifted up. Use these gifts to proclaim the gospel ... in Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

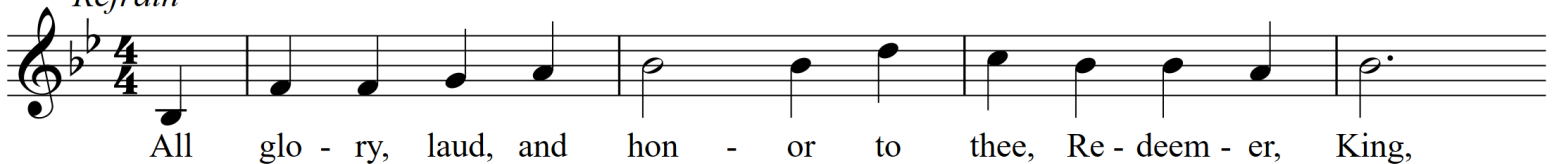
Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Refrain



Fine



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,



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!

to Refrain

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

If there is any consolation in love ... have the same love Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but regard others in humility Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.
from Philippians 2:2-5

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you, today and every day; Amen.

Postlude

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JOYS AND CONCERNS

Death: Marlene Gaston - March 21, 2021

In Our Prayers: Jolene Keeney and family (*death of mother*); Bev Koos; Rebecca Koos; Lasala family (*loss of Frank's father, Felice*); families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters; FPC members and all others receiving the COVID vaccine.

Services will be live-streamed.

*A place to belong! Where faith is nurtured,
curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.*



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28 - 9:30 AM
outdoor service — Procession with Palms

Drive-Thru Easter Basket Dash, Sunday, March 28 - 1:00 PM
Pick up Easter Egg baskets in the Iowa Street parking lot

Maundy Thursday, April 1 - 7:00 PM
outdoor service — Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 2 - 7:30 PM
Facebook online virtual service — Service of Tenebrae with vocal/instrumental solos & readings

Easter Sunday, April 4 - 9:30 AM
outdoor service — Celebration of the Resurrection with the FPC Sanctuary Choir

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1702 Iowa Street, Davenport, Iowa 52803 ■ 563-326-1691 ■ fpcdavenport.org

Services will be live-streamed.

Highlights from March 2021 Session Meeting

- Welcomed Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala to her first FPC Session meeting as our Moderator.
- Heard from the Darren Long and the Building and Grounds Committee about a long list of repairs and deep cleaning that has been accomplished in the time that the building has been largely unused.
- Heard a report from the Commissioners to the 196th Stated Meeting of Presbytery. Concerns at Presbytery included the low receipts from Per Capita and the recent closing of several small congregations. Camp Wyoming is accepting registration for summer camps. Alex Gilson provided beautiful music for the meeting's worship service. Thanks, Alex.
- The Personnel Committee is currently working on annual staff performance reviews. They anticipate completing these soon.
- Approved funding for equipment that will allow for live streaming of outdoor worship and other outside events.
- Reviewed the Synod Administrative Review Committee final report. Approved immediate distribution of the report to the congregation. Links to this report will be provided over the next several weeks in the bulletin and E-news. Copies will be mailed on request.

Motion 1 - Distribution:

- Whereas, the Synod Administrative Review Commission (SARC) told Session that it is Session's decision about if and how to distribute their report to the congregation, and
- Whereas, the Presbytery of East Iowa made the SARC report available to all who receive their e-news on Monday, March 8, 2021, and
- Whereas, many members of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church – Davenport have keen interest in the SARC report,
- Session directs Staff to make the SARC report available as quickly and widely as possible. Session expects that distribution will include, but not be limited to, placing the report or a link to the report on the church website, including a link to the report in the next 4 e-news distributions, mentioning the SARC report in the weekly bulletin over the next 4 weeks, mentioning the SARC report in the next edition of the broadcaster, posting the SARC report physically on at least one bulletin board in the church, and mailing a physical copy to anyone who requests it.
- Session further directs that no commentary be attached to the report when it is distributed.

Please visit the FPC website (fpcdavenport.org) to view the Synod Administrative Review Commission (SARC) report.

Adult Christian Education (ACE): Sundays, 10:45-11:45 AM

ACE is IN RECESS today.

Join us next time we meet, on Zoom at 10:45 AM:

<https://zoom.us/j/91539050753?pwd=b2JYN0VyOW52N0ZESHQ2YUhyelhtUT09>

Meeting ID: 915 3905 0753, Passcode: ACE

Bible Basics 201 - Tuesdays, 6:15 PM

we begin a series reading through the Minor Prophets. Please contact Mark Jones (mkjones@mchsi.com) for more information. Join us anytime. We are a friendly bunch!

March 30: Joel

April 6: Amos

The Zoom address will stay the same. Join online:

<https://zoom.us/j/98965381440?pwd=TUdyMXltRTMrRXdFWnBEZONEKzBYUT09>

Meeting ID: 989 6538 1440 Passcode: 240979

Deacons' Toilet Paper Drive, Through Wednesday, March 31

It's toilet paper time! Once again, the Deacons are sponsoring a toilet paper drive. From now until March 31 you may bring donations to the church, which will be given to the Humility of Mary Shelter services. Not shopping during the pandemic? Send your monetary donations to the church office. Deacons await to do your toilet paper shopping for you! Let's demonstrate love in action and support this worthy cause.

Because We Are the Church Together

One Great Hour of Sharing Leaders' Guide

Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA)

Life during COVID has been challenging. That feels like an understatement, right? At times, we have all felt disconnected, confined. Missing family, missing friends. Lonely. Worried about the groceries holding out. Unsure of what the future may hold. Imagine feeling all of those things but living in a place or in a situation that was already challenging each and every day without the added pressure of the pandemic. A place where access to food is day to day. Access to vital health care is questionable. Finding clean water is a daily struggle. A place where you are denied racial justice or plagued with outright violence and oppression. But one thing remains steadfast and true: We are the Church, together, no matter where we are, and the Church belongs with those struggling for justice, righteousness and peace for life.

Because food is life ... gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** are helping the people of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota through a partnership with Owe Aku — a grassroots, nonprofit organization that puts people in charge of their own food supply, nutrition, health and well-being by reclaiming ancestral wisdom and teaching Lakota history and culture. The Pine Ridge Reservation is a food desert, located in the county with the lowest per capita income in the nation. The pandemic has dramatically amplified the desperate need for food security. **Because water is life** ... gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** are helping the families of Capirendita in a remote area of Bolivia face a more hopeful future by building infrastructure to address the communities' critical water shortage. Their goal is to create 500 meters of pipes to transport safe well water to those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts will also support the distribution of plastic containers to collect and save rainwater. **Because survivors are key to shaping lives focused on justice for all** ... gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** are helping Black Women's Blueprint in its mission to take action on social justice issues and to deliver educational resources and support services to women, including those who have suffered sexual and other forms of abuse. Their work seeks to address the unique struggles of Black women and girls within the context of the larger racial justice concerns. They're not just addressing issues of trauma but they're also providing things like food and housing assistance that people need in order to be whole.

Continued

The Special Offerings of the PC(USA), including **One Great Hour of Sharing**, offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts that place us in service and partnership with those who have least. Our gifts directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. **One Great Hour of Sharing** is the largest way that Presbyterians come together in mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need. Because we are the Church, together ... we give to **One Great Hour of Sharing** because of where the Church belongs, of who the church is. Please give generously so that our Church will continue to become, as Isaiah said, "repairers of the breach." And as we always say: "When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot."

*To donate to One Great Hour of Sharing, please visit the FPC website and click on "Donate Online."
If you are making your contribution with a check, please put One Great Hour of Sharing on the memo line.*



One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks

It's been a tradition for children and youth to use "Fish Banks" to gather their offerings (the Fish banks can hold coins, paper money and checks) for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Fish Banks will be distributed at Kirkwood Club, the Palm Sunday worship service, and the Easter Basket Dash. We will receive the filled Fish Banks on Easter Sunday.

Christian Education for Youth (CEFY) Spring 2021

Kirkwood Club - Grades 1-5

Save the dates for our upcoming Kirkwood Club activities! We'll meet Wednesday, April 28 from 6:00-6:45 PM. Hope to see you there! To get Kirkwood Club updates, email Sarah Greim (sgreim@gmail.com), or text @fpcdkids to 81010.

Youth Events - Grades 6-12

Until COVID rates go down, Youth Group will be meeting monthly for games and activities. Save the dates for youth group fellowship activities! Everyone is welcome. We'll also have service activities, time and date *To Be Announced* depending on the project. We'll meet Sunday, April 18.

Kirkwood Choir Schedule – Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 PM

The tentative Kirkwood Choir Early Spring 2021 schedule is listed below. The Club meets on scheduled Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact Linda Bengfort for further information.

March 31 April 7 April 14 April 21 April 28

To get youth group updates, email Sarah Greim (sgreim@gmail.com), or text @612thgra to 81010 (or add @612thgra on the Remind app).

Calling all kids! Drive-Thru Easter Basket Dash – Today, 1:00-2:00 PM

Easter egg hunts may be cancelled, but don't despair -- the church is holding its first ever drive-thru Easter Basket Dash! Today, kids ages 2-6th grade are welcome between 1:00-2:00 PM. Parents enter the east lot on Iowa St. Your child will be directed to an area where they can grab an Easter bag off the lawn and then return to their vehicle. Social distancing measures will be followed.

Sunday School packets for April can also be picked up during this time for those who need them.

Mark your calendars! Don't miss the fun!

Join Online: Worship Watch Party - Sundays, 9:30 AM

For more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook.

Sunday School is Online!

Attention parents! Join us on Zoom for Sunday School! We meet from 10:30-11:00 AM every Sunday for Bible stories, sharing, and learning together. For security, the Zoom link is being emailed - please be sure to register for Sunday school (or contact Paula Hartmann; ppehartmann@aol.com) so we can get your kids involved!

Cherubs and MusikGarten – Sundays, 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Cherubs and MusikGarten meet on Zoom to coincide with our Sunday School schedule. MusikGarten will meet from 10:30-11:00 AM. Infants through three year-olds and their parents are invited to come to MusikGarten. Cherubs will meet from 11:00-11:15 AM following their Sunday School class that begins at 10:30 AM. Cherubs are in pre-school and Kindergarten. If you have questions about either group, contact Kathy Middleton (kathryn15@gmail.com; 563-505-0471.)

Quad City Interfaith Virtual Trivia – Friday, April 9, 6:00 PM

Quad City Interfaith (QCI) invites you to join us on April 9 for a fun night of Virtual Trivia. This is a fundraiser for QCI. We appreciate your investment in QCI and your support of our mission to transform our society and bring about justice and human dignity locally and regionally.

We plan some challenging questions, some silly answers and fun, fun, fun!! It's virtual so bring your treats and a liquid refreshment of your choosing. Each team of 6-8 players will spend time in your own breakout room socializing and playing 5 rounds of 8 questions. Whether your team is made up of co-workers, friends, neighbors or family you will get a chance to catch up on all the news. Just think about those friends or family that are far flung across the country that you have not seen in over a year - now you can play one of the favorite group games, actually see one another and catch up on all the latest with family and friends. Below you will find a flier with all the information you need and how to register.

Should you have any questions please call the QCI office, 563-241-2969.



