

The background is a deep purple color. On the right side, there is a large, solid black cross. To the left of the cross, there are several stylized palm fronds in a lighter shade of purple. The background is also decorated with large, wavy, organic shapes in various shades of purple, creating a layered, abstract effect.

Seventh & James Baptist Church
April 2, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday
Living Questions

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Palm Sunday

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Lift Up Your Heads”

(TRURO)

setting by Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Call to Worship

Matt Rosencrans

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you’ve been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Processional Hymn, No. 175

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

“Blessed Is He”

Craig Curry

Choristers and Sanctuary Choir

“God So Loved the World”

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son;
That whosoever believes in him would have eternal life.
Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art,
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Leslie Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Hymn, No. 172

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

“Blessed Is He”

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. We sing, “Hosanna to the King!”
Let all of heaven and nature sing hosanna to the King of Kings!
O worship the King all glorious above, O gratefully sing his power and his love.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to the King,
Hosanna in the highest. Let loud hosannas ring.

Children’s Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

Erin Conaway

Offertory

“We Remember You”

As we break the bread, as we pour the wine,
As we gather at the table, we remember you.
For the love you gave, for the price you paid,
For your endless grace and mercy, we remember you.
Lord, you have told us, “Let not your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God, then believe in me.”
Though you may go away, you will return one day,
And carry us to heaven to be with you.

Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship.

Doxology

(sung to O WALY, WALY, tune of “When Love Is Found,” No. 524)

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.

Prayers of God’s People

Erin Conaway

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, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

“Father Please”

Deep in anguish and afraid, feeling helpless and betrayed,
On his knees, the Savior prayed, “Father, please!”
Underneath a darkened sky, came a loud and desperate cry,
“Does Messiah have to die? Father, please!
Please let this cup pass from me. Father, hear my urgent plea!
Let this cup pass from me, Father, please!”
As the end was drawing near, filled with hopelessness and fear,
Praying God would interfere, “Father, please!”
In a loud despairing cry Jesus pleaded,
“Father why does Messiah have to die? Father, please!”

Hymn, No. 581

“I Love to Tell the Story”

“Wondrous Love”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

Prayer of Confession

Matt Rosencrans

**Forgiving Lord,
We have fallen short time and time again.
You have given us your word, both in scripture and in Son,
you have promised us your presence, both in Spirit and in community,
and you have graced us with your kingdom, both in teaching and in service.
Even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us.
We do not love what you love.
Have mercy on us, O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.
Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do.
Continue your sanctifying work in our lives
that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now and forevermore. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Matt Rosencrans

“It Is Finished”

Tired and torn, dreadful morn, broken and alone,
Beaten, worn, crown of thorns, hope is gone.
Nail-scarred hands, scorned by man, darkness floods the sky.
God’s own Son, Holy One, hanging on a cross to die.
Yet, he prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.
It is finished! Father, I commend my spirit to you.”
Darkened sky, anguished cry, curtain torn in two.
God’s own Son, Holy One, gave his life for me and you.

Silent Reflection

Hymn of Commitment, No. 186

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the
family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care,
our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you,
and receive from you, by God’s grace. Amen.

Choral Response

“God So Loved” (Reprise)

Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
That whosoever believes in him would have eternal life.

Litany for Holy Week

Matt Rosencrans

One: He comes to you on a colt never ridden, his face set before you like flint.

Many: O God, you are our help! Tell us: Who is this carpenter-king?

One: Do you not recognize the Bethlehem baby, who arrived to the singing of angels
and slept in the silence of awe?

**Many: The baby who inspired the joy of the angels and kindled the hope of the
peoples? Glory to you in the highest, and peace to all on earth!**

One: Do you not recognize the temple youth, who questioned the answers of sages and answered the questions of teachers?

Many: The youth who amazed the minds of the elders and astonished the hearts of his parents?

One: And do you not recognize the Nazareth prophet, who proclaimed release to the captives and demanded relief for the poor?

Many: The prophet who preached salvation for our foes and was thrown out of our city? Who is *he* to be glorified? How can *he* be the Chosen One?

One: Do you not recognize the messiah, who established the kingdom for servants and sinners?

Many: The messiah who sleeps in the house of outcasts and feasts at the table of sinners? Who is *he* to be glorified? How can *he* be the Chosen One?

One: He comes to us on a colt that none has ever ridden. How soon will we take him to a tomb where none has ever lain?

Postlude

“Passacaglia on PASSION CHORALE”

Raymond H. Haan