



# WELCOME

**Palm Sunday**  
**April 5, 2020**  
**10:30 a.m. Virtual**  
**Worship**

## COME

*We welcome you to Westminster's virtual worship service on this Palm Sunday. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.*

*If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org).*

Opening Voluntary      Hosanna!      Theodore Dubois

\*Call to Worship

Gabby Gray

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

**Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!**

Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

**Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!**

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

\*Hymn 88      All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

REFRAIN: All glory, laud, and honor To Thee, Redeemer, King!  
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest, The King and blessed One.  
REFRAIN
2. The people of the Hebrews With palms before Thee went;  
Our praise and prayers and anthems Before Thee we present.  
REFRAIN

3. To Thee, before Thy passion, They sang their hymns of praise;  
To Thee, now high exalted, Our melody we raise.

REFRAIN

4. Thou didst accept their praises; Accept the prayers we bring,  
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King!

REFRAIN

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

Let us face this day of palms and Jesus' passion with honesty, confessing our sin before God.

### Prayer of Confession

We've all been exposed. Not necessarily to the virus. We've all been exposed BY the virus. Corona is exposing us. Exposing our weak sides. Exposing our dark sides. Exposing what normally lays far beneath the surface of our souls, hidden by the invisible masks we wear and by the paper masks we can't hide far enough behind.

**Corona is exposing our addiction to comfort. Our obsession with control. Our compulsion to hoard. Our protection of self.**

Corona is peeling back our layers. Tearing down our walls. Revealing our illusions. Leveling our best-laid plans.

**Corona is exposing the gods we worship: Our health. Our hurry. Our sense of security. Our favorite lies. Our secret lusts. Our misplaced trust.**

Corona is calling everything into question: What is the church without a building? What is my worth without an income? How do we plan without certainty? How do we love despite risk?

**Corona is exposing me. My mindless numbing. My endless scrolling. My careless words. My fragile nerves.**

We've all been exposed. Our emptiness laid bare. Our fears made known. The band-aid torn. The masquerade done. So what now? What's left? Clean hands. Clear eyes. Tender hearts.

**What Corona reveals, God can heal. Come, Lord Jesus. Have mercy on us.**

*Silence is observed.*

Response 574      Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*  
**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christian friends, in Jesus Christ, your God has come to you, humble, in the form of a slave, to free you from the weight of sin and death. His obedient suffering has released you. In the name of the one who is exalted beyond what we can comprehend, your sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God for this good news.

\*Response HYMN 223, verse 1   O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer\*

**O my soul, bless your Redeemer; All within me bless God's name;  
Bless the Savior, and forget not All God's mercies to proclaim.**

\*Passing the Peace

Greet both friends and strangers saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life

Anthem      All Ye People (Seven Last Words of Christ) Dubois  
*Elizabeth Crabtree, soloist*

*All ye people passing along the highway, Hear and behold, See and behold:  
Is there sorrow like unto my sorrow?*

*For the Lord Jehovah made me desolate, All the day long I'm sorely afflicted.  
All night long they hear my sighing.*

*All ye people passing along the highway...*

\*Response 592      Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *Doxology*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures  
here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son,  
and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Time with Young Disciples

**GROW**

Prayer for Illumination

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The First Lesson    Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Pew Bible, Old Testament

- 1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever!
- 2 Let Israel say,  
“His steadfast love endures for ever.”
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.
- 20 This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the LORD’s doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
- 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 27 The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.
- 29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

The Second Lesson    Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible, New Testament

- 1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,  
2 saying to them, “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. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them

immediately.” 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5 “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.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon      What Is Needed

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:5-11

**Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him 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 should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayers of the People

Our Savior comes to us humbly, riding a donkey and proclaiming a message of peace. Let us pray for the church, for Earth and all its creatures, and for all people in need.

That Christians hear and share the word of God as true disciples.

That all the ends of the earth receive the words of the king of peace.

That all leaders, of church and of state, prefer humble service to empty power.

That all people live with gratitude for the gifts of nourishment, friendship, family, trust, patience, and hope with the courage and wisdom that change whatever fails to be life-giving.

That those who see the cross starkly revealed in their lives draw strength from the name that is above every other name.

That we might live with gratitude for our ancestors whose faith and witness have nourished our own, that all who mourn today will be comforted, and that we, who hope to greet Jesus when he comes again, will be ready and filled with joy.

God our creator, you show your sons and daughters the way to freedom through the gentle obedience of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. We pray silently.

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

### **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.**

\*Charge and Benediction

God provides what is needed in every season.

So may you be at peace, assured of God's presence with you, knowing the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide, and living in the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit.

Hymn 599

Jesus, Remember Me

TAIZÉ

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

*The choir will sing the hymn through six times, as they exit  
the Sanctuary. The service then concludes in silence.*

**In honor of Palm Sunday, we invite you to pick up a palm branch from the back parking lot of our church between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. this Sunday, April 5.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**One Great Hour of Sharing** Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, and educational opportunities. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Development of People. These all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. We are the house of God. Let us invite those without enough to eat to God's table. Let us invite those who thirst to God's fountain. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Checks may be mailed to the church office, please write OGHS in the memo, or give online through the church website. Thank you.

**Bible study from home** Are you interested in participating in a Bible study from home? If so, please contact Pastor Jon and let him know if you would prefer a group video conference or group phone conference. [jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com](mailto:jhauerwas.wpc@gmail.com)

**Zoom Meetings** If you are a committee moderator or group leader who would like to continue meeting with your team during the suspension of in-person activities, please contact Claudine at [wpcoffice1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com) to learn more.

**Through (at least) May 1** Governor DeWine has closed all Ohio Public Schools through Friday, May 1. Westminster's Session has voted to suspend on-site activities, including in-person worship through (at least) May 1.

**Holy Week Worship Schedule** While in-person worship services have been suspended at this time, our community continues to worship virtually. All services can be accessed in real time on Facebook Live or, later, from our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org). While we aim to provide the recorded video on the church website as quickly as possible, please note that there will likely be a delay of several hours before the service appears there.

Service Dates and Times:

**Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 1:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday, April 10, at 1:00 p.m.**

**Easter, April 12, at 10:30 a.m.**

*During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support of our ministries through your financial contributions.*

*Please help us continue to serve the WPC family and our neighbors by ensuring that our staff is supported, our facility remains operational, and the "least of these" are served. To give, click under the tab "online giving."*

In keeping with government recommendations, many church employees are working primarily from home. Even so, the church office remains open for business during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday - Friday. New staff schedule in the office: Monday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Tuesday - Debby Evrard, Mallory Gray and Dave Bodnar. Wednesday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Thursday - Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda and Dave Bodnar. Friday - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley



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