



PALM SUNDAY

April 10, 2022

Hosanna!

GREETING AND GATHERING WORDS

Leader: We gather together in this place.

People: Joyful as our palm branches fan the air in praise

Leader: Filling this space with peace.

All: Waiting with great expectation to see Jesus, eager for a healing touch, a blessing received.

Leader: We gather together in this place.

People: Joyful as our palm branches reach high with hope.

All: Longing for a calm moment in the midst of pressing worry and hurry, longing for a message of welcome and acceptance on our journey.

Leader: We gather together in this place.

People: Anxious as our palm branches lay still next to us

All: Questioning if we are able to walk with Jesus through the week ahead, through anguish, accusations, despair and darkness.

Leader: We gather together in this place.

People: Waving branches of prayer.

All: Walking toward Easter.

READING OF THE GOSPEL

John 12:12-15

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!’

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!’

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Almighty God, sanctify these branches with your blessing. May we who follow Christ the King in exultation reach the eternal Jerusalem through Him, who reigns eternal for ever and ever. Amen.

RAISING OF THE PALM BRANCHES

Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Let us go forth in peace;

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

THE PROCESSION

Waving our palms and singing, we will process from the Narthex to the Cross reenacting Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

PROCESSIONAL 178 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

*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.*

*The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before Thee we present.*

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

*Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's Royal Son,
Who in the LORD'S name comest,
The King and Blessèd One.*

*All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King!
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet Hosannas ring,*



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Michael Frady

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Tree of Life*

*Light of life beyond conceiving, Mighty Spirit of our Lord;
Give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live Your word.
Give us faith to live Your word.
Christ, You lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be,
One with You in joy and sorrow, We the river, you the sea.
We the river, you the sea.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Rev. Suzy Aja Burba

Open the gates of justice, that we may enter and praise God within them.

Here, at the gate of the Holy One, we bring our thanks and praise.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Blessed are you who come to worship the one who calls us and leads us into life.

We bring our thanks and praise to God, for if we were silent, the very stones we tread would shout out!

This is the day that God has made.

Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

*HYMN 187

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Gracious and Loving God,
We gather in the presence of your Holy Spirit this morning to recall that day when Jesus entered Jerusalem to joyful shouts of “Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” Lord, God we open our hearts to receive Christ our redeemer this day. Give us the courage to not betray him as so many have. Guide us as we strive to follow the path of Jesus the Christ, whom you sent to show us the way. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures, here, below.
Praise Him, above, ye heav'nly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

ANTHEM *How Beautiful* ~ T. Paris
First Church Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 22 Nancy Mills

SERMON “Psalm 22 and the Passion of Christ” Rev. Michael Frady

MUSIC RESPONSE *Psalm 22*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Suzy Aja Burba

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 for ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY ***Note the change of wording.**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures, here, below.

Praise God, above, ye heav’nly hosts.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

We thank you, O God, for your generous Spirit; for Christ’s gift of self; for your never-failing love. For your many gifts, we thank you. For caring enough to walk with us in our weakness, we praise you. Receive these gifts we bring in gratitude for the love you offer us, a love that makes us well and whole. Amen.

*HYMN 188 “Are Ye Able,” *Said the Master*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



First Church Announcements

Thursday, April 14 @ 7pm
Maundy Thursday Service
In the Sanctuary and Streaming Online

Join us for this beautiful Tenebrae service. Tenebrae (which means shadows) is one of the oldest Christian traditions during Holy Week. After each chapter in the story of Christ's death is read, a candle is extinguished, plunging the sanctuary into deepening darkness signifying Jesus' abandonment. As the service ends in silence and we all leave engrossed in our own thoughts and prayers, we are reminded of the sacrifice and love bestowed upon each of us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 @ 10 AM

Rain or Shine

FREE ADMISSION

No charge to participate but we will gratefully accept donations to our Heifer International **Water for Life** project.

BRING YOUR OWN BASKET

ALL ARE WELCOME

HOP ON OVER TO
FIRST CHURCH
FOR EASTER FUN:

- ◊ Easter Bunny Photos
- ◊ Craft Table
- ◊ Bounce House
- ◊ Balloon Bunnies
- ◊ Bowling
- ◊ Corn Hole
- ◊ Plinko
- ◊ And more!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
12 ELM STREET, BRAINTREE
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBRAINTREE.COM

Sunday, April 17th @ 9:30am Easter Sunday Service
In the Sanctuary and Streaming Online

Today's Guest Violinist, **Ryan Shannon** is the Co-Artistic Director of Palaver Strings, an ensemble whose vivacious energy creates a powerful connection between music and the hearts of those who listen. His musical journey began when he was five years old in the mountains of Colorado when he received his first violin. He attended the Walnut Hill School for the Arts and continued his studies at the New England Conservatory, graduating in 2014. As a student, he attended the Center for the Development of Arts Leaders program at *From The Top*, a yearlong partnership with the Hope Lodge, a residence for cancer patients. He works to bring music and healing to those who are struggling through difficult circumstances. Ryan is an educator through the Boston Philharmonic's Crescendo! program, and an explorer of new music through the Boston New Music Initiative.

The Meaning of Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter, and marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week of events leading up to Jesus' death. Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" to honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King.

The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way paved with palm branches is a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9). In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph. The regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions.

The History of Palm Sunday

The celebration of Palm Sunday originated in the Jerusalem Church around the late fourth century. The early Palm Sunday ceremony consisted of prayers, hymns, and sermons recited by the clergy while the people walked to various holy sites throughout the city. At the final site, the place where Christ ascended into heaven, the clergy would read from the gospels concerning the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In the early evening they would return to the city reciting: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord." The children would carry palm and olive branches as the people returned through the city back to the church, where they would hold evening services.

By the fifth century, the Palm Sunday celebration had spread as far as Constantinople. Changes made in the sixth and seventh centuries resulted in two new Palm Sunday traditions - the ritual blessing of the palms, and a morning procession instead of an evening one.

Palm Sunday is an occasion for reflecting on the final week of Jesus' life. It is a time for us as Christians to prepare their hearts for the agony of his death and the joy of his resurrection.

~Excerpts taken from "What Does Palm Sunday Mean?" by David Katski
www.sharefaith.com





THANK YOU for joining us at this Service of Worship First Congregational Church. Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us.



Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTaGrBGnYzfM66pS7Bd4PvA>

Non-perishable Food Pantry donations are collected for The Marge Crispin Center on the **first Wednesday of the Month** in front of the church. Contact free! Just drive by and drop. Or place your donations in the basket in LPH or the Narthex. Thank you!

Televised Worship Services are broadcast on BCAM: Verizon Channel 28, Comcast Channel 9, on Saturday at 8:00 AM and Sunday at 10:00 AM.

First Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am—1:00pm.



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