



PASSION SUNDAY

The crowds were saying,
"This is the prophet Jesus
from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 21:11, NRSVUE



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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April 2, 2023

Passion Sunday

Passion Sunday: Compassion

Welcome

Prelude

Ave Verum (Blessed Savior)

Mozart

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

from Isaiah 50

One: Lord Jesus, we are weary, and need to be sustained by your Word.

Many: **Waken us each morning and open our ears. Teach us to listen for your voice.**

One: There are difficult days ahead; we have set our faces on a desolate path.

Many: **Let us stand up together and confront the adversaries of injustice and violence and shame. We call upon God to help us.**

One: Lord Jesus, we know that this journey ends at the cross. Give us the courage to walk with you in sacrificial love.

ALL: EMPTY US OF SELF-INTEREST SO THAT WE MAY BE FILLED WITH COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.

* Opening Prayer

Compassionate God: Too often we have held tightly to death: to ideas and assumptions and convictions which keep us and others from flourishing. Give us the mind of Christ Jesus, who showed his humanity by emptying himself for us. We come begging that we be emptied of all that blocks us from knowing You and being fully

known. We ask in the name of Christ, who shows us the way through death into life. Amen.

* **Opening Song** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* #315

Refrain:

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

Verse 1:

Thou art the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name cometh, the King and blessed One.

Refrain

Verse 2:

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Thou didst accept their praises, accept our hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children (after, children over 5 go to Children's Church)

Song *In Christ Alone* # 3 3 2

In Christ Alone by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
© 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
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Verse 1:

In Christ alone my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song—
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2:

In Christ alone, who took on flesh—
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save,
till on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
My ev'ry sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3:

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4:

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

Prayer of Confession

In You, our God, we would make our home. Even when we are filled with shame and despair, hear us and come to our assistance. We are weak in body and soul. We have spoken against those You love with pride and contempt; Isolation, rejection and fear surround us and conspire to overwhelm us. We commit our spirits into Your hands. We commit our lives into Your care. Be our refuge. As a mother hen hides her chicks, shelter us under your wing. Deliver us from the

fears which separate us from You. Let Your face shine upon us; do not let us be put to shame. Let our hearts take courage, all who wait and pray for a new day. Amen.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

There Is A Fountain

James Sennett

Thoughts on Giving

750 HAWB

Gracious God, we thank you for gifts that belong not to us alone, but to all our sisters and brothers, since they, too, are created in your image.

* **Song**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

323

Verse 1:

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Verse 2:

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

Verse 3:

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Verse 4:

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an off'ring far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSVUE)

21 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:

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."

Sermon

"The Clash of Two Kingdoms"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Closing Song

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

250 HAWB

Verse 1

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,

a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Verse 2

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me.
And from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess;
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

Verse 3

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place.
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face.
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

* **Benediction** (in unison)

May God bless us with discomfort — discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts. May God bless us with anger — anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless us with tears — tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. And may God bless us with foolishness — enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Postlude

Green Hill

George Stebbins

** Please stand as able and led*



Ministers.....All Members

Pastor.....David Whitten	Flautist Sarah Hartman
Worship Leader.....Susan Robertson	Guitarist David Whitten
Children’s TimeSarah Hartman	Pianist/Organist Bob Phillips
Special Music.....Bob Phillips	Dir. of Tech & Media..... Kevin Beers