

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, April 14, 2019

Prelude F. Mendelssohn
Con moto maestoso from Sonata no. 5

Welcome

Introit Hosanna C. Gregor
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship T. Shuman
Leader: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.
People: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.
Leader: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.
People: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.
Leader: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.
People: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

Hymn 610 ELLACOMBE
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang; Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang; To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd, the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state, and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey’s gait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours, We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers: “Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice. Hosanna! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) adapted from T. Shuman
With eager hearts and open hands, Holy One, we welcome Jesus, we wave our branches, and we shout “Hosanna!” But then we turn away, to go back to our old ways, our old lives, our old sins. The path to Calvary seems too difficult. Save us, O God. Help us to let our fears, our doubts, our faithlessness slip from our lives to fall at your feet. Help us to stand with Jesus, who comes in your name, in your glory, in your grace to save us. Hear us pray...
(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem S. B. Owens
Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Children’s Message and Lord’s Prayer Dee Buchanan

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism (10:30) Carter John Buzard

Congregational Response: With joy we welcome you into this church. Your baptism is not the end but the beginning of a journey of discovering just how much God loves you. This is our blessing to you: “Grow in grace and wisdom and do not fear, for the Lord is with you. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.”

Hymn 178 ST. THEODULPH
All Glory, Laud and Honor

All glory, laud and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went; our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David’s royal son, who in the Lord’s name comest, the true and blessed One; to thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory R. & J. Nagy
O Jerusalem from *Telelestai*

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson Luke 19:29-40

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Jeanette Brodersen

Hymn 180

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd
A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare, and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.

They laid their garments in the road and spread his path with palms and vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and psalms.

When day dimmed down to deepening dark the crowd began to fade 'til only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.

Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise, remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.

Instead of palms a winding sheet will have to be unrolled, a carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

Benediction

Choral Benediction R. & J. Nagy
Hosanna from *Tetelestai*

Passing of the Peace

Postlude J. S. Bach
Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727