



Palm Sunday



"Songs of loudest praise"

Words of Welcome

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

**THE GATHERING** – We Enter into God's Presence

Sharing Christ's Peace

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

Gathering in the Light

Viola Sigmon

Prelude to Worship

"Hosanna! Sing a Loud Hosanna!"  
by Mark Hayes, and G. Moultrie (1829-1885)

Chalice Chancel Choir

\*Invitation to Worship

Debbie Speert

*one: Not the lack of conflict kind of peace; not the avoiding hard subjects kind of peace;  
not the going along to get along kind of peace, but real, accountable, liberation-rooted peace.*

*all: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of Peace!***

*one: Inner peace like a river, justice like a mighty stream, interdependence so vibrant,  
never a thought of punishment, nor weapons, nor me against you.*

*all: **Blessed are the ones who come in the name of Peace!***

*one: Fan them with fronds of praise, and shouts of "save us!"*

*all: **Hosanna in the highest!***

*one: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*all: **Hosanna in the highest!***

\*Opening Hymn

"Hear Our Praises"

Chalice Praise #41

Invocation

Barry Speert

Prayer Response

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

**THE WORD** – We Receive God's Word

Prayer of Illumination

"Be Still"

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

Worship & Wonder Scripture

"Jesus the King"

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

a Worship & Wonder story written by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman

based on John 12:12-13

told in Worship

*Narrator: It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading teachers of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. But they agreed:*

**Congregation: But not during the Passover celebration or the people may riot.**

*Narrator: Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head. Some of those at the table were indignant.*

**Congregation: Why waste such expensive perfume? It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor!**

*Narrator: So they scolded her harshly. But Jesus replied:*

*Jesus: Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed.*

*Narrator: Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests to arrange to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted when they heard why he had come, and they promised to give him money. So he began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus. On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, Jesus' disciples asked him,*

**Congregation: Where do you want us to go to prepare the Passover meal for you?**

*Narrator: So Jesus sent two of them into Jerusalem with these instructions:*

*Jesus: As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.*

*Narrator: So the two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there. In the evening Jesus arrived with the Twelve. As they were at the table eating, Jesus said,*

*Jesus: I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will betray me.*

*Narrator: Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn,*

**Overflow Room: Am I the one?**

**Middle: Am I the one?**

**Brick Side: Am I the one?**

*Jesus: It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with me. For the Son of Man will die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!*

*Narrator: As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying,*

*Jesus: Take it, for this is my body.*

*Narrator: And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And he said to them,*

*Jesus: This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and God's people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.*

*Narrator: Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. On the way, Jesus told them,*

*Jesus: All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.*

*Narrator: Peter said to him,*

**Congregation: Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.**

*Jesus: I tell you the truth, Peter — this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.*

*Narrator: But Peter yelled,*

**Congregation:** *(say this like you mean it!)*

**No! Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!**

**Narrator:** *And all the others vowed the same. They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said,*

**Jesus:** *Sit here while I go and pray.*

**Narrator:** *He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them,*

**Jesus:** *My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.*

**Narrator:** *He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by.*

**Jesus:** *Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*

**Narrator:** *Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter,*

**Jesus:** *Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.*

**Narrator:** *Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. And they didn't know what to say. When he returned to them the third time, he said,*

**Jesus:** *Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no — the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed. Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!*

**Narrator:** *And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading teachers of religious law, and the elders. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal.*

**Congregation:** **You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard.**

**Narrator:** *As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus and exclaimed,*

**Congregation:** **Rabbi!**

**Narrator:** *And Judas kissed Jesus. Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear. Jesus asked them,*

**Jesus:** *Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there among you teaching every day.*

**Narrator:** *Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away. One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked. They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests and teachers of religious law had gathered. Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and went right into the high priest's courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the charcoal fire. Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, but they couldn't find any. Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other. Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony:*

**Congregation:** **We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'**

**Narrator:** *But even then they didn't get their stories straight! Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus,*

**Congregation:** **Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?**

**Narrator:** *But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him,*

**Congregation:** **Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?**

**Jesus:** *I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.*

**Narrator:** *Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said,*

**Congregation:** **Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?**

**Narrator:** *And they all cried out together,*

**Congregation:** **Guilty! He deserves to die!**

**Narrator:** *Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. They jeered at him,*

**Congregation:** **Prophecy to us!**

**Narrator:** *And the guards slapped him as they took him away. Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and noticed Peter warming himself at the charcoal fire. She looked at him closely and said,*

**Higher Voices:** **You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.**

**Narrator:** *But Peter denied it.*

**Lower Voices:** **I don't know what you're talking about.**

**Narrator:** *And he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed. When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others,*

**Higher Voices:** **This man is definitely one of them!**

**Narrator:** *But Peter denied it again. A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said,*

**Higher Voices:** **You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.**

**Narrator:** *But Peter swore,*

**Lower Voices:** **A curse on me if I'm lying — I don't know this man you're talking about!**

**Narrator:** *And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he broke down and wept. Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law — the entire high council — met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus,*

**Congregation:** **Are you the king of the Jews?**

**Jesus:** *You have said it.*

**Narrator:** *Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, and Pilate asked him,*

**Congregation:** **Aren't you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?**

**Narrator:** *But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate's surprise. Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner — any one the people requested. One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual. Pilate asked:*

**Overflow Room:** **Would you like me to release to you this 'King of the Jews'?**

**Narrator:** *For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy... But at this point the religious leaders stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. Pilate asked them,*

**Overflow Room:** **Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?**

**Narrator:** *They shouted back,*

**Brick Side:** **Crucify him!**

**Overflow Room:** **Why? What crime has he committed?**

**Narrator:** *But the mob roared even louder,*

**Middle:** **Crucify him!**

**Narrator:** *So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified. The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. Then they saluted him and taunted,*

**Congregation:** **Hail! King of the Jews!**

**Narrator:** *And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it. Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery.*

**Higher Voices:** **Ha! Look at you now! You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!**

**Narrator:** *The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus.*

**Lower Voices: He saved others but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!**

*Narrator: Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him. At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice,*

*Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

Special Music

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"  
by Joel Houston, Matt Crocker, Salomon Ligthelm

Becki Bayless

### **THE RESPONSE – We Respond in Worship**

Prayers of the People

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

Our 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Response in Song

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Invitation to Stewardship

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

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\*Doxology

"Majesty"

Chalice Praise #50

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

Communion Response

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Chalice Hymnal #419

### **SENDING FORTH – We Go Out into the World**

Invitation to Discipleship

\*Closing Hymn

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Chalice Hymnal #192

\*Blessing and Benediction

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

Postlude

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" arr. Cindy Berry

Julie Dean, piano

### **Acknowledgements and permissions:**

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