

# TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

## MARCH 24, 2024 9:30 AM

The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

**-WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD -**

### **STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those who are here in person, and those joining us on Social Media.*

### **BLESSING OF THE PALM BRANCHES**

Officiant: Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel!

**People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

*Celebrant: We praise and bless you, ever-living God, for the acts of love by which you redeem the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. This day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed king by those who*

*spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Bless these palm branches and let them be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them may always acclaim Jesus Messiah by walking the way of his suffering and cross; that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

**ORGAN ANTHEM**

**"The Palms"**

**L. Smith**

**(The palm branches are passed out during the organ anthem)**

## **-PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM-**

**+ Mark 11:1-11 +**

Liturgist: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**Here ends the reading.**

**\*\*HYMN OF PROCLAMATION**

**"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"**

**#280**

**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 company of angels Are praising Thee on high,  
And we with all creation In chorus make reply. (Refrain)

3. The people of the Hebrews With palms before Thee went;  
Our prayer and praise and anthems Before Thee we present. (Refrain)

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

5. Thou didst accept their praises; Accept the love we bring,  
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King. (Refrain)

#### **PASSING THE PEACE**

Officiant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the highest!**

Officiant: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Officiant: Let us share signs and words of peace with our neighbors.

**CHORAL ANTHEM**      **“Come, Jerusalem, Sing Hosanna”**      **Besig/Price**  
**Laura Currie Chancel Choir – Susan Miller, Conducting**

### **-WE REJOICE IN HEARING THE WORD OF GOD-**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Officiant: God our Redeemer, you sent your Son to be born of a woman and to die for us on a cross; By your Holy Spirit, illumine our lives with your Word, so, as the Scripture is read and proclaimed this day, we may be reconciled and won wholly to your will; though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### **FIRST LESSON**                      **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**Liturgist: A reading from the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah foretells the passion of God's Messiah.**

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he awakens—  
    awakens my ear  
    to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
    and I was not rebellious,  
    I did not turn backward.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
    and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
    from insult and spitting.  
The Lord GOD helps me;  
    therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
    and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
    he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
    Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
    Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
    who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
    the moth will eat them up.  
Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 31:9-16 Resp. 1

#764

**R**   🎵 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. 🎵

Liturgist: Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
    my eye is wasted from grief, my soul and body also.

**People: For my life is spent with sorrow,  
    and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

L: I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
    a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
    those who see me in the street flee from me.

**P: I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
    I have become like a broken vessel.**

L: For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—  
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

**P: But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”**

L: My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

**P: Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me through your steadfast love!   R**

**SECOND LESSON                      Philippians 2:5-11**

**Liturgist: A reading from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi.**

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.

**Here ends the reading.**

**-PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST-  
+ Mark 15:1-47 +**

**NARRATOR:** When morning came, the chief priests met in council with all the Jewish leaders. They bound Jesus, led Him away, and turned Him over to *the Roman governor, Pilate.*

**Pilate** (*after hearing them*): Are You the King of the Jews?

**Jesus:** You have said so.

**N:** The chief priests went on to accuse Jesus of many things, but Jesus simply stood quietly.

**Pilate:** Do You have anything to say? How do You respond to all these charges that have been made against You?

**N:** But Jesus said nothing more, and Pilate was astonished. Now it was his custom at that feast that Pilate should release one prisoner from custody, whomever the people most desired. There was one rebel from those imprisoned for insurrection *against the Roman occupation.* He had committed murder during an uprising. His name was Barabbas. A crowd had gathered *in front of Pilate's judgment seat* to request that Pilate follow his usual custom. Pilate turned to them.

**Pilate:** Why don't I release to you the King of the Jews?

**N:** He knew that the chief priests had delivered Jesus because they were threatened by Him, *not because Jesus was a criminal.* But priests moved among the crowd and persuaded them to call for Barabbas instead.

**Pilate:** Then what do you want me to do with the King of the Jews?

**Crowd:** Crucify Him, *crucify Him!*

**N:** But now he called to them.

**Pilate:** Why? What has He done to deserve such a sentence?

**Crowd** (*crying all the louder*): Crucify Him, *crucify Him!*

**N:** When Pilate saw that he could not persuade the crowd to change its mind, he released Barabbas to them and had Jesus publicly whipped, *which*

*was the normal prelude to crucifixion.* Then he had Jesus led away to be crucified. The soldiers took Him into the headquarters of the governor; and the rest of the soldiers in the detachment gathered there, *hundreds of them.* They put a purple robe on Him and made a crown of thorns that they forced onto His head, and they began to cry out in mock salute.

**Soldiers:** Hail to the King of the Jews!

**N:** For a long while they beat Him on the head with a reed, spat upon Him, and knelt down *as if to honor Him.* When they had finished mocking Him, they stripped off His purple robe and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they took Him away to be executed.

Along the way, they met a man from Cyrene, Simon (the father of Rufus and Alexander), who was coming in from the fields; and they ordered him to carry *the heavy crossbar of the cross.* And so they came at last to *the execution site,* a hill called Golgotha, which means the "Place of a Skull."

The soldiers offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh *to dull His pain,* but He refused it. And so they crucified Him, divided up His clothes, and cast lots (*an ancient equivalent of rolling dice*) to see who would keep the clothes *they had stripped from Him.*

**\*\* Those who are able, please rise.**

Jesus' crucifixion began about nine o'clock in the morning. Over His head hung a sign that indicated the charge for which He was being crucified. It read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS." On either side of Him were two insurgents *who also had received the death penalty.* [And the Hebrew Scripture was completed that said, "He was considered *just another* criminal."] Those passing by on their way into or out of Jerusalem insulted and ridiculed Him.

**Some in the Crowd:** So You're the One who was going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days? *Well, if You're so powerful,* then why don't You rescue Yourself? Come on down from the cross!

**Chief Priests and Scribes** (*mocking Jesus among themselves*): He rescued others, but He can't rescue Himself. Let the Anointed—the King of Israel—come down from the cross now, and we will see it and believe.

**N:** Even the insurgents who were being crucified next to Him taunted Him and reviled Him.

At noon, the day suddenly darkened for three hours across the entire land. Sometime around three o'clock Jesus called out in a loud voice.

**Jesus:** Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?

**N:** *Jesus was speaking, as in the psalms, "My God, My God, why have You turned Your back on Me?"* Some of those standing nearby misunderstood Him.

**Bystanders:** Hey, He's calling for Elijah.

**N:** One of them filled a sponge with wine that had turned to vinegar and lifted it to Jesus' lips on a stick so He could drink.

**Bystander:** Let's see if Elijah will come to take Him down.

**N:** Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and He took His last breath.  
**(Pause)**

*At that moment, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The Roman Centurion, the soldier in charge of the executions, stood in front of Jesus, heard His words, and saw the manner of His death.*

**Centurion:** Surely this man was the Son of God!

**N:** You may be seated.

Off in the distance, *away from the crowds,* stood some women *who knew and had followed Jesus,* including Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of the younger James, Joses, and Salome. These were women who used to care for Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who had followed Jesus to Jerusalem joined them.

Evening came. The crucifixion had taken place on preparation day, Friday, before the Jewish Sabbath began *at sundown.* Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the ruling council who was also *a believer anxiously* waiting for the kingdom of God, went to Pilate and boldly asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate could not believe Jesus was already dead, so he sent for the Centurion, who confirmed it. Then Pilate gave Joseph permission to take the body. Joseph had the body wrapped in a linen burial cloth he had purchased and laid Him in a tomb that had been carved out of rock. Then he had a stone rolled over the opening *to seal it.* Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching as the body was interred.



## SILENT MEDITATION

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“Were You There”

Arr. B. Olmstead

Rick Huyge – Saxophone

Laura Rankin – Piano

### RESPONSE

*Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.*

**People: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.**

### \*\*PASSION HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

#286

1. O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown:  
How pale thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish Which once was bright as morn!

2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain:  
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor, Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

3. What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever; And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love to Thee.

**-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-**

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (using “sins”)

Bidding: Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God:

**Response: By your loving-kindness save us.**

*Celebrant: Gracious and loving God, you have shown us that the way of the cross is the way of life: Receive into your divine heart the needs and concerns of your children, and hear us as we pray: Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God; **By your loving-kindness save us.***

Liturgist: As Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, humbling himself and being obedient to the point of death, so inspire your Church to follow faithfully in the way that he has led us, that we may share in his exaltation and resurrection.

Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God; **By your loving-kindness save us.**

As Jesus confronted the powers and principalities of the world, so empower us to unmask all injustice, envy, violence, lying, and greed, and to greet your divine light, which casts out all darkness.

Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God; **By your loving-kindness save us.**

As Jesus became one with the poor, the criminal, the outcast, and the dying, so send your resurrection grace unto all who suffer, that they may be comforted by the promise of your heavenly kingdom.

Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God; **By your loving-kindness save us.**

As Jesus spoke words of reassurance even while suffering, so be with us in our community that we may be a people of compassion and peace, bringing everyone into your healing presence.

Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God; **By your loving-kindness save us.**

As Jesus accepted pain, humiliation, contempt, and powerlessness with patient strength and steadfast hope, be present in your divine glory with those for whom we pray, especially those whom we have named aloud and those who we bring to you in silence.

Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God; **By your loving-kindness save us.**

As Jesus gave himself to the Father in thankful surrender, hear our grateful hearts in our offering of prayers of thanksgiving. And as Jesus humbled himself to the point of death, even death on a cross, so that his Name may be exalted above every name, so bring into his eternal glory those who have died.

Make your face to shine upon your servants, O God; **By your loving-kindness save us.**

*Celebrant: Make your face to shine upon your servants, and by your loving-kindness save us. Gracious and Holy God, through the humble trust of Jesus on the cross you have showed us the path of eternal life: Give us courage and*

grace to follow his example of obedient love, to walk in the way of the cross, and to share in his glorious resurrection, that we may live in the power of his Spirit, now and forever. And now, teach us to pray as you taught your disciples, saying:

**“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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

## **-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-**

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Celebrant: The apostle writes: “My sisters and brothers, I implore you by God’s mercy to offer your very selves to God; a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for God’s acceptance, the worship offered by mind and heart.”  
Let us offer ourselves and our offerings of time, talent and treasure, to the Lord.*

### **\*\*DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**#95**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Celebrant: We bring our gifts to you, and offer them as a symbol of sacrifice and service. We seek to share the story of suffering love that fulfills and brings us life. Bless these gifts and all who give; use our wealth, our time, our abilities for the good of all your people, O Lord. Amen.*

## **-WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS-**

### **\*\*HYMN**

**“Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross”**

**#301**

**1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain—  
Free to all, a healing stream—Flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.**

***Refrain:***

**In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river.**

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and Mercy found me;  
There the bright and morning star Sheds its beams around me. (Refrain)

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day, With its shadows o'er me. (Refrain)

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river. (Refrain)

## **BENEDICTION**

*Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever; and the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, go with you.*

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **"Meditation On The Cross of Christ"**

**D. Phillips**

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**\*\*Indicates to rise if you are able**

#### **Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:**

- How do you feel about hearing the Palm Sunday lesson and the Passion Lesson on the same day together? When you put yourself in the story, with whom do you identify? Does it change from year to year?
- In what ways do you think you suffer for the sake of the Cross of Christ?
- Do you ever feel like God has forsaken you?
- How do you confess Jesus as Lord of your life in your habits of daily life?