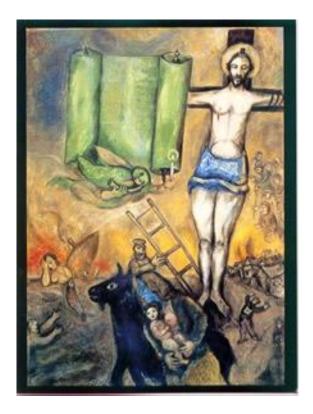
March 24, 2024 Palm/Passion Sunday 11:00am — Sanctuary



Mark Chagall, Yellow Crucifixion, 1943



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Thank you for joining us today! We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. Please join us after worship for coffee, cookies, and punch in our fellowship hall, called McKay Hall. Just follow the crowd, and you cannot miss it! Livestreaming is available to watch via the website or YouTube, but we know this is no substitute for the community built through in-person connections. We're glad you're here!

-Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her) Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him), and Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her)

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Please silence and put away your cellphone as you enter this worship space.

*Those who are able, please stand

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Call to Worship

With crowds from ancient times we cry,

Hosanna! Save us!

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

God's steadfast love endures forever.

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

We bless you in the house of the Lord!

Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,

Humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Let us worship the living God!

Proclamation of the Entrance Into Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

*Hymn No. 196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Please turn to the last page of your bulletin for the music; on each refrain, please wave your branches.

*Call to Confession

Let us now confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of fear and stress.

*Prayer of Confession

We are mostly the kind of people who know how to do what must be done, and we do it. We do it well, and we do well for ourselves.

Surely we have earned our success and well-being. Surely we are entitled to the benefits of our station.

We have learned to use the system to our advantage in order to create a future of opportunity for ourselves.

We enjoy the privileges of living in this empire and don't want to do anything to endanger that privilege.

And into that privilege, Jesus speaks. "Those who would be first must be last." "Those who want to be great must serve."

In the midst of the empire, Jesus offers a vision of God's kingdom. "Let the little children come." "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Forgive our opportunistic ways, Lord, and guide us to follow your way, though it is not the easy way.

(Time for silent prayer)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

The one who rode into Jerusalem to cheering crowds knew that the cross awaited. In this way, we might know God's great love for us. Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, has defeated sin forever.

Hear and believe this good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

HEARING THE WORD

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin

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. 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 to his blood. 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? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

Gospel Reading

John 12:2-16

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon "The Almighty Dollar"

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling

*Affirmation of Faith (Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need.

His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 198 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

ST. DROSTANE

Reception of New Members

Announcements

Prayers of the People and The 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, forever. Amen.

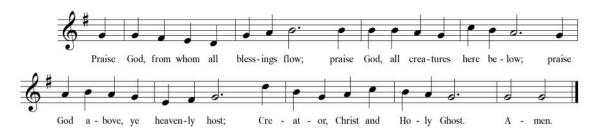
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory There Is a Green Hill Far Away

Bob Chilcott

There is a green hill far away, without a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all. We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear, but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there. He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good, that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his precious blood. Oh, dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too, and trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do.

*Responsive Hymn No. 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



*Prayer of Dedication

As the crowds cried, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord," we are truly grateful for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ our Lord. Receive these gifts as a symbol of the dedication of our very selves to you, O God. Use our gifts and use us as a part of the in-breaking of your kingdom, which comes and is still coming into our world today. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 215 What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

*Benediction

*Postlude Improvisation on Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Andrew Gumbert by parents Ron & Diane and brother, David.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Steve Weissner, Heidi Schulenberg

Ushers: Dan Serban, Anne Barnett, Jack Patton, David Beer

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea **Sound Board Operator:** Jeff Slater

Looking for the announcements? Pick-up a copy of the Friday E-news before or after worship. You'll find copies on the table in the narthex.



