

# MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 East Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-6596

717-697-0351 • [www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)

March 28, 2021 • Palm Sunday • 10am

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**Prelude**

*Prelude in D Minor*

Georg Böhm

**Welcome & Concerns of the Church**

**Call to Worship**

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Jesus leads us through this week, and we must follow.

**We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him.**

Jesus arrives setting aside all power, glory, and might.

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.**

**Hymn #197**

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

*Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the joyful 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 'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;  
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.*

*"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.*

## Call to Confession

We are a community and a covenant people, who have all fallen short of the glory of God.  
Therefore, trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together.

## Prayer of Confession

O Lord, who on this day  
entered the rebellious city that later rejected you:  
we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's,  
our faith is often more show than substance,  
our hearts are in need of cleansing.  
Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives.  
Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are,  
trusting you to forgive what is sinful,  
to heal what is broken,  
to welcome our praises  
and to receive us as your own.

## Response #551

*Lord, Have Mercy*

*Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God, Amen!

## We Love to Tell the Story

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!*

*Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."*

*Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.*

*This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.*

*I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.*

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

*This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.*

*The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.*

*You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.*

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.*

## Special Music

## Scripture Lesson

Luke 19:28-40

After (Jesus) had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "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. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As 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, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The story of God for the people of God... **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Are We There Yet?  
Finding Nemo

Kathryn Z. Johnston

## Declaration of Faith – just words on screen

The Apostles' Creed

Our church states its faith and bears witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ by using ten creeds and confessions. In these confessional statements the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes and what it resolves to do. These confessional statements are subject to the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The following is the Apostles' Creed, which in its earliest form dates back to 180 AD. The word 'catholic' refers to the entire Christian church; 'quick' means living:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Hymn #198

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

ST. DROSDANE

*Ride on! ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;  
thy humble beast pursues its road with palms and scattered garments strowed.*

*Ride on! ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.*

*Ride on! ride on in majesty! The hosts of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.*

*Ride on! ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.*

## Prayers of the People & 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.**

## Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

*Sicilienne*

Gabriel Fauré

## Prayer of Dedication

Response #215, v. 1

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

## Charge & Benediction

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**Pastors:** Mark Allio & Kathryn Johnston

**Liturgists:** Cindy Gorski, Karen Vandrew, Cathay Snyder

**Organist:** Mark McKeever

**Don't forget! You can listen to a sermon snippet** by calling 717-896-0131.  
The message usually changes on Saturday morning.

## YOU CAN CALL IN TO HEAR WORSHIP AT 10AM on SUNDAY MORNINGS

**Dial (toll free): 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099**

A voice will welcome you to Zoom and ask you to enter the meeting ID which is: 717-697-0351#

You should then be able to hear the worship service.

The line will be open on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45am.

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## INDOOR WORSHIP UPDATE

As you know, we have been trying to use this time of being out of the church buildings as a time to get the big projects from our Capital Campaign list done. While we have been largely successful, there are a few items left that impact the use of the Sanctuary, Upper Fellowship Hall, Gathering Area, and Conference Room spaces that we need to be completed before we can safely re-open. These projects are already in progress.

During Monday night's meeting, Session agreed with the COVID-19 Task Force's recommendation that once those projects are complete, the Sanctuary and other areas of the building be re-opened subject to the COVID-19 guidelines and protocols recommended by the Pennsylvania Board of Health and the CDC. We will get more details out when we get closer to re-opening.

Our expectation is that we will be open to some version of indoor, in-person worship in mid-May.

We will not re-open the other spaces in the church to MPC or outside groups until after we have re-opened for worship.

HOWEVER, MPC volunteers working with outside groups (ie: Presby Peelers, Downtown Daily Bread, Hershey Park volunteers, etc...) may continue those activities, following the COVID-19 regulations that have been put into place by those organizations.

We appreciate everyone's patience. We know you will agree that the slight added delay is well worth it, once you see the projects that we were able to complete!

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