



First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls



Our Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls is: God's timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

March 28, 2021 ~ 10:15 am ~ Palm Sunday

Rev. Scott Prouty

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude: Elaine Hagen

Ringing of the Church Bell (Usher)

Call to Worship

L: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

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

L: 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.

P: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before Him, to cushion His walk.

L: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, He comes modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

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

Prayer of Invocation

Steadfast Love: You hand us the palm branches, so we can wave them in hope; You steady us in the days when pain is stuck to the bottom of our lives, when fear is our constant companion. We empty ourselves so You might fill us with joy. Humble Healer: when our mouths turn numb and we cannot speak our dreams, You tenderly caress our cheeks, leaning over to hear our faltering words. When our arms have grown weak from the burdens we carry, You take them from us, and strengthen us with your mercy. We empty ourselves so You might fill us with grace. Voice of Wisdom: when death hovers so close we can feel it's cold breath, You come to us, the warm breath of resurrection pushing aside our fears. When we hesitate to walk into the unknown stretching before us, You tightly clasp our hands and teach us the first step. We empty ourselves so You might fill us with peace. God in Community, Holy in One, we open our hearts to You. Amen.

Hymn #196

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

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 people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went; our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. [Refrain]

3 To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

[Refrain]

4 Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King! [Refrain]

Call to Confession

When the parade is over, do we pick up our lives, brush them off, and live in the old way? Do we toss our palm branches aside, so we can grasp the seductions of the world? As we begin the journey through the holiest of weeks, let us speak the truth, as we confess to our God, praying together,

Unison Prayer of Confession

Ever constant God, mixing love and hope together, You pave the way to the kingdom, but we prefer to stub our toes on the potholed roads of temptation. You will touch the cup of grace to our parched lips, but we seem to hunger for the ashy taste of bitterness. You beg us to learn the songs of salvation, but we hum along with the chorus death plays in the background of our lives. Have mercy upon us, God of Holiness. As You come to us, You bring healing for our brokenness, peace for our troubled lives, hope for our doubting minds. May we empty ourselves of everything which keeps us from following You, so we may receive these gifts, and more, from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Time for Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

L: Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us. This is the good news, my friends:

P: God's steadfast love endures forever. Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.

Response Hymn #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2 World without end, without end, Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Share the Peace of Christ with One Another

(Comment below to share the Peace of Christ.)

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Tell the Lord how thankful you are, because he is kind and always merciful. ² Let Israel shout, "God is always merciful!" Open the gates of justice! I will enter and tell the Lord how thankful I am.

²⁰ Here is the gate of the Lord! Everyone who does right may enter this gate. ²¹ I praise the Lord for answering my prayers and saving me. ²² The stone that the builders tossed aside has now become the most important stone.

²³ The Lord has done this, and it is amazing to us. ²⁴ This day belongs to the Lord! Let's celebrate and be glad today. ²⁵ We'll ask the Lord to save us! We'll sincerely ask the Lord to let us win. ²⁶ God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! We praise you from here in the house of the Lord. ²⁷ The Lord is our God, and he has given us light! Start the celebration! March with palm branches all the way to the altar.^[a] ²⁸ The Lord is my God! I will praise him and tell him how thankful I am. ²⁹ Tell the Lord how thankful you are, because he is kind and always merciful.

Hymn #200

"A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd"

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

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

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

4 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.

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

Gospel Lesson: Mark 11:1-11

Jesus and his disciples reached Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives. When they were getting close to Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of them on ahead. ² He told them, "Go into the next village. As soon as you enter it, you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks why you are doing that, say, 'The Lord^[a] needs it and will soon bring it back.'" ⁴ The disciples left and found the donkey tied near a door that faced the street. While they were untying it, ⁵ some of the people standing there asked, "Why are you untying the donkey?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said, and the people let them take it. ⁷ The disciples led the donkey to Jesus. They put some of their clothes on its back, and Jesus got on. ⁸ Many people spread clothes on the road, while others went to cut branches from the fields.^[b] ⁹ In front of Jesus and behind him, people went along shouting, "Hooray!^[c] God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ God bless the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Hooray for God in heaven above!" ¹¹ After Jesus had gone to Jerusalem, he went into the temple and looked around at everything. But since it was already late in the day, he went back to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

Sermon

Hymn #197

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

*1 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.
2 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.
3 "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.*

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

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.

Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Give Thanks to God

We are greatly thankful for your support of the church. We will not be passing the Offering plates today, but they are in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to give your tithes and offerings. For those of you watching at home you may give through our church website or mail your check to Post Office Box 444, Redwood Falls, MN.

Minute for Mission

Offertory Prayer

As we offer these tangible gifts, Holy One, remind us of those who could use the clothes hanging in our closets unworn, those who could be fed by the food stored in our pantries, those who could be healed by the grace and hope we keep locked away in our hearts. May we be as generous with others as you are with us, we pray. Amen.

Response Hymn #647 "Give Thanks"

1 Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

2 And now let the weak say, "We are strong, let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Go in God's Name

Hymn #198 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

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

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Benediction

Postlude: Elaine Hagen

The Ringing of the Church Bell (Usher)

Year of Equality

"When Derek Black's college classmates found out that he was the heir apparent of the White Nationalist movement they shunned him. He was befriended however by a group of Jewish students. Through the courageous love of his new friends Derek learned that his racist views were wrong. He now works to end White supremacy by speaking out about the sins of his past. Learn more about Mr. Black. Read "Rising Out of Hatred" by Eli Saslow."

Visits-If you would like an in-person, over the phone, or zoom visit with Pastor Scott, please contact him at 627-5486.

Imagination Library ~ We're looking for a few good people to be our next "Imagination Angel". Will you donate, so a child in our area can receive a story book each month until they enter Kindergarten? It only takes \$30 to bless a child for one year with the gift of reading. You can mail donations to "Imagination Library-FPC", PO Box 444, RWF, MN or give online at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/> (make sure to designate Redwood Area to receive your donation). This program is entirely supported by donations and will only continue with your generosity.

We thank our community partners First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls, Redwood Lions Club, Rotary Club of Redwood Falls and Ruby's Pantry. Thank you!

The Elder of the Day will be overseeing our policy actions on Sunday mornings as we strive to stay safe during this pandemic. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to this person.

Today's Elder of the Day: Adrienne Danielson

Easter: If you would like to share your Spring Flowers for our Easter Sunday Service, please bring them to the sanctuary the day before by 5 pm. After the Easter Service you may take them home with you. Let Pastor Scott know if you need to get into the church and do not have a key.

Card Shower ~ Kay Jensen is turning 80 on April 11. Her family is planning a birthday card shower for her, they are hoping she will get 80 cards. If you would like to send a card to Kay her address is: 30909 Knox Ave., Redwood Falls.

Looking at the Week Ahead:

Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday: 10:15 am: Worship
Afternoon: Lauren Miller Packing Weekend Food Bags
Monday, March 29: Noon: Pastor Scott has Rotary
Wednesday, March 31: 11:30 am: Scott & Tina's Weekly Phone Call
Thursday, April 1: 6:30 pm: Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday, April 2: Noon: Two Good Friday Service Options (See note below)
Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunday: 10:15 am: Worship

Our Sunday morning service is on our local channels...

Nuvera (Channel 3), Media-Com (Channel 8): Mondays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 7 pm!

Please join us next Wednesday at 6:30 pm, for our Bible Study on Zoom. Please sign up with the church office at churchofc@hotmail.com so we can send you zoom instructions.

There will be **two** Good Friday services, both online and both at noon. The Redwood Area Ministerial will be doing one and the Presbyterian pastors of Redwood Falls, Windom, Foley, St. Cloud, Randall and Baxter will be doing another one. The information of how to watch these services will be sent out closer to Good Friday.

Pray for The Following:

Pray for the unchurched and lonely.
Pray for people living in our communities, the disenfranchised and people in other countries.
Pray for those who are having financial or marital difficulties.
Pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one.
Pray for those seeking employment.
Pray for our leaders at the city, county, state and national level and all military personnel.
Pray for those in need of food, medicine and shelter.
Pray for our church leaders and teachers.
Pray for our local, national, world political leaders.

Birthdays: April 3rd – Gerry Patten, Judy Curtis

Members of our Church Family in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or Other Facilities:

Millie Bunting, Jeanette Kotval, Bob & Bunny Nolting, Ardis Alexander, Dorothy Symes

All Those Fighting Cancer: Rick Kramer, Sharon King,

Kathy Tiffany (Glen Tiffany's wife/Donna Potter's sister-in-law), Mark Grommesch (Gerry & Deb Hess's son-in-law)

Pray for all those fighting other diseases: Shellie Mammen (lupus), Corrine Gertsema (multiple sclerosis),
Tripp Meyers (epilepsy)

If you know of something/someone to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.