



# Bedford Presbyterian Church

## Palm/Passion Sunday

April 5, 2020

### Worship in Podcast Format

#### GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

“Fanfare Prelude on St. Theodulph”

arr. Southbridge

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Sawyer

#### PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Larry Cowen

On Palm Sunday so many years ago, the people saw Jesus and asked,

**Who is this?**

In worship, we respond. In worship, we declare:

**Jesus is a miracle worker and healer.**

Jesus is a teacher and preacher.

**Jesus is our light in the darkness.**

Jesus is our source of love.

**Jesus is our path in the wilderness.**

So may we lay down our hearts like they laid down their coats and worship the Lord.

**Let us worship God, together.**

Hymn # 196 (see below)

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Prayer of the Day

**Holy God, in sending your Son into the world in the form of a servant, you reveal the truth of your steadfast love in the face of human sin. Show us again the image of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience, so that your way of self-emptying may be our own way. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

#### ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Listen now for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open. . .**

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor John Sawyer

. . . The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Who is This?”  
(The Inevitable Wilderness)

Pastor John Sawyer

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Special Music

“Ride On, King Jesus”  
Sean Michalski, baritone

trad. Spiritual

Affirmation of Faith – from the Confession of 1967 (9.22-23)

Deacon Matt Studham

The new life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace. The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

Forrest

*At this time, you are invited to offer your tithes and offerings,  
by writing a check and putting it in an envelope to the church,  
or through our church’s online giving website  
(<https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/giving/one-time-gifts-pledges/>),  
or by scanning this QR code and making a donation.*



*Your giving has a direct impact on the ministry and mission  
of Bedford Presbyterian Church!  
Thank you!*

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

OR

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of all good gifts, we thank you for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelter and places of prayer for those who have no homes. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace and wholeness. Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the One who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer ("debts/debtors")

Pastor John Sawyer

**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.**

**GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

**Third Scripture Reading**

Matthew 27:45-54

Elder Sean Michalski

**Hymn # 215 (see below)**

"What Wondrous Love is This"

WONDROUS LOVE

**Charge and Benediction and Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And with you.**

**Closing Song**

NORTHUMBRIA MORNING BLESSING

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.**

**May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.**

**May he bring you home, rejoicing, at the wonders he has shown you.**

**May he bring you home, rejoicing, once again into our doors.**

**Postlude**

"What Wondrous Love is This"

arr. Page



**Liturgists and Leaders in today's worship service –**

The Reverend John Sawyer, Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Flocco, Music Director

Elder Larry Cowen, Liturgist

Elder Sean Michalski – Singer and Liturgist

Elder Marcia Morgan, Technical Assistance

Mr. Bill Jennings, Bedford Community Television

Information on ways to access audio and video versions of today's service can be found at [www.bedfordpresbyterian.org](http://www.bedfordpresbyterian.org).

# All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

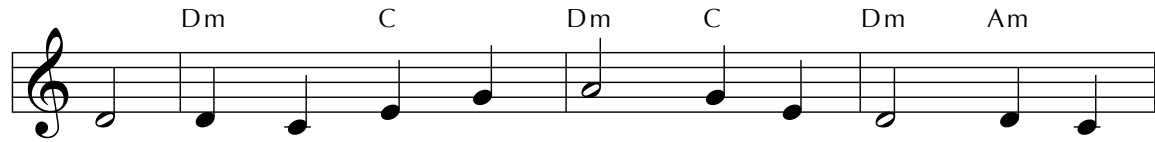
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.  
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

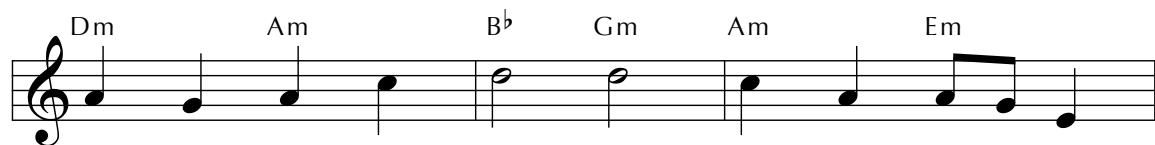
# What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



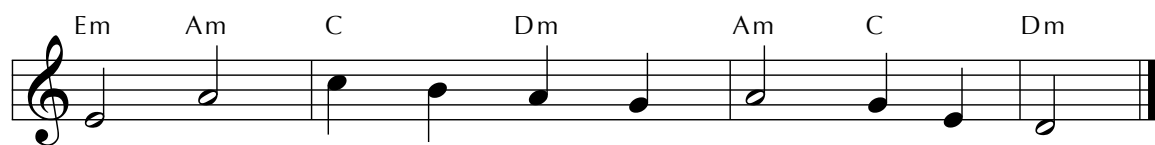
soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What  
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to  
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of  
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous  
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my  
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."