



Bedford Presbyterian Church

Palm / Passion Sunday

March 28, 2021 at 10 AM

Worship-at-a-Distance Format

GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

“There is a Balm in Gilead”
Handbell Quartet

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Sawyer

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship¹

Elder Larry Cowen

The story of faith is a story of courage.

It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

It took courage for Mary to say, “Here I am. Use me.”

It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

It took courage for the paralyzed man’s friends to lower him through the roof.

It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

Again and again, God, show us the way.

Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

Let us worship God, together.

Hymn # 196 (see below)

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

God of palm branches and hosannas: We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration. We love the sound of a joyful parade. We love shouting, “Hosanna!” We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner. We love good news. However, if we slow down and pay attention, we know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you. There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence. You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire and the whole world knew it. Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took. Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage, and that even we can do hard things. With hope we pray. Amen.

Family of faith, even when we gloss over the truth, even when our courage fails us, even when we doubt that we can do hard things, God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us. Hear and believe this truth:

**We are known. We are loved. We are forgiven. Again and again and again.
Amen.**

¹ Some of the prayers and readings in today’s services are by The Reverend Sarah Are and adapted and used with permission from A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Sung Response (Hymn # 581)

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

Children’s Sermon

Pastor John Sawyer

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Larry Cowen

First Scripture Reading

John 12:1-16

Listen now for the Word of God.

Our ears are open. . .

Second Scripture Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Pastor John Sawyer

. . . The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Perfume, Palms, and Passion”
(Jesus Was Here – Again and Again)

Pastor John Sawyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 201 (see below)

“A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar”

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Statement of Faith – from A Sanctified Art

Deacon Charlene Isham

I refuse to believe that I am powerless. I refuse to believe that injustice and hatred are simply the way it has to be. I refuse to believe that I am better or more deserving than my neighbor. I refuse to believe that my self-worth is rooted in my accomplishments or appearance. I refuse to believe that the Church is dying, because I see God all around me. I refuse to believe that the traditions of old are the only path for moving forward. I refuse to believe that I cannot make a difference. So with hope in my heart, I will strive to live a life of courage, conviction, and compassion, just as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Deacon Charlene Isham

Offertory

Special Music
Jennifer Chew, soloist

*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!*

Song of Response (Hymn # 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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)

Deacon Charlene Isham

Holy God, we give you thanks for your saving love made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Bless these gifts that they may bring life on earth as in heaven. In Christ's name we pray. 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

Mark 15:25-40

Hymn # 223 (see below) "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

HAMBURG

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



Liturgists and Leaders in today's worship service –

The Reverend John Sawyer, Pastor
Mrs. Barbara Flocco, Director of Music
Elder Larry Cowen, Liturgist
Deacon Charlene Isham, Liturgist
Special Musicians

Jennifer Chew, soloist

Handbell Quartet – Melinda Chen, Sue Gobel, Lynn Wahle, and Carolyn Swift
Marc Murai, Elder Michael Chen, and Kirk Wilson, Sound and Video Technicians
Members of our IT and Communications Committee and Covid-19 Task Force

Information on ways to access audio and video versions of today's service can be found at 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.

201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

1 A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar, by Love's di-vine ap-
 2 A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb by Love's di-vine com-
 3 Though wom-an-wis-dom, wom-an-truth, for cen-tu-ries were
 4 The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls, by Love's di-vine or-

point-ing. With rare per-fume she filled the room, pre-
 mis-sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a-
 hid-den, un-sung, un-writ-ten, and un-heard, de-
 dain-ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their

sid-ing and a-noint-ing. A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar,
 ris-ing from sub-mis-sion. A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb,
 rid-ed and for-bid-den, the Spir-it's breath, the Spir-it's fire,
 powers and gifts un-chain-ing. The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls,

the sneers of scorn de-fy-ing. With rare per-fume she
 with res-ur-rec-tion gos-pel. She saw; she heard; she
 on free and slave de-scend-ing, can tum-ble our di-
 from wom-en, men, and chil-dren, the friends we need, to

This text seeks to reverse the neglected witness of biblical women by celebrating the woman who washed Jesus' feet (unnamed in Matthew 26:6-13/Mark 14:3-9/Luke 7:36-50; Mary of Bethany in John 12:1-8) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10/Mark 16:1-7/Luke 24:10).

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH

filled the room, pre - par - ing Christ for dy - ing.
preached the Word, a - pos - tle to a - pos - tles.
vid - ing walls, our shame and sad - ness mend - ing.
serve and lead. Re - joice, and make them wel - come!

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the voice and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.