

“Palm Sunday” by Jan Richardson



## Grace Episcopal Church

Sunday of the Passion | Palm Sunday  
March 28, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us  
Rector | Wren Blessing  
Curate | Stephen Crippen  
Music | Ann Strickland  
Tribe | Snowberry

## **A Prayer to Go to Paradise with the Donkeys**

When I must come to you, O my God, I pray  
It be some dusty-roaded holiday,  
And even as in my travels here below,  
I beg to choose by what road I shall go  
To Paradise, where the clear stars shine by day.  
I'll take my walking-stick and go my way,  
And to my friends the donkeys I shall say,  
"I am Francis Jammes, and I'm going to Paradise,  
For there is no hell in the land of the loving God."  
And I'll say to them: "Come, sweet friends of the blue skies,  
Poor creatures who with a flap of the ears or a nod  
Of the head shake off the buffets, the bees, the flies ..."

Let me come with these donkeys, Lord, into your land,  
These beasts who bow their heads so gently, and stand  
With their small feet joined together in a fashion  
Utterly gentle, asking your compassion.  
I shall arrive, followed by their thousands of ears,  
Followed by those with baskets at their flanks,  
By those who lug the carts of mountebanks  
Or loads of feather-dusters and kitchen-wares,  
By those with humps of battered water-cans,  
By bottle-shaped she-asses who halt and stumble,  
By those tricked out in little pantaloons  
To cover their wet, blue galls where flies assemble  
In whirling swarms, making a drunken hum.  
Dear God, let it be with these donkeys that I come,  
And let it be that angels lead us in peace  
To leafy streams where cherries tremble in air,  
Sleek as the laughing flesh of girls; and there  
In that haven of souls let it be that, leaning above  
Your divine waters, I shall resemble these donkeys,  
Whose humble and sweet poverty will appear  
Clear in the clearness of your eternal love.

~ Francis Jammes (translation by Richard Wilbur)  
from *Richard Wilbur Collected Poems, 1943-2004* (Harcourt, Inc., 2004)

# Holy Week at Grace

## **Palm Sunday** **March 28, 9:30 am**

Join us in person on Grace grounds or online at 9:30 for a joyful procession and liturgy (including a dramatic reading of Mark's passion).

Palms will be available for pickup outside of Grace's office starting on Friday morning.

*Coming in person? Please dress warmly, bring chairs if you can, and bring a branch to wave. Click [HERE](#) to sign up and reserve your spot for in-person worship.*

**Or, join us online.** Click [HERE](#) to find the link on Grace's Online Worship page.

## **Maundy Thursday** **April 1, 4:30 pm**

All are invited to this outdoor, family-oriented liturgy of love, with foot-washing and Eucharist (we will share only bread).

Joining us online? Please click [HERE](#) for a link.

*Coming in person? Please dress warmly, bring chairs if you can, a bowl for water, and a towel. Click [HERE](#) to sign up online and reserve your spot.*

**7:00 pm:** Access our evening Maundy Thursday liturgy via Zoom. Click [HERE](#) to find the link on Grace's Online Worship page.

## **Good Friday** **April 2, Noon**

Please join us on Zoom for a liturgy at noon. The liturgy will be available for evening viewing on Grace's website. Click [HERE](#) to find the link on Grace's Online Worship page.

## **Easter Day** **April 4, 9:30 am**

Join us online for a joyous Easter baptism and celebration of Eucharist. While Eucharist will be on Zoom, **all are invited to come to Grace from 11:00 am to noon** to receive Eucharistic bread and to join in our Easter egg hunt.

Click [HERE](#) to find the link on Grace's Online Worship page.

*Coming for the egg hunt at 11:00 am? Please bring your own baskets, and please don't forget to wear masks and bear in mind social distancing protocols.*

# Words of Welcome

*We gather on the patio and online.*

## The Liturgy of the Palms | Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

*The Officiant then says*

The Lord be with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

Officiant:    Let us pray.

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King. **Amen.**

Officiant      Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People**      **Hosanna in the highest.**

## Processional Song | Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

by Stephen Laurence Schwartz and John Michael Tebelak

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: Pre- pare ye the way of the Lord. The first staff has a fermata over the word 'Pre-' and the second staff has a fermata over the word 'Lord.'.

After processing, we gather on the patio or online with our opening song.

## Opening Song | He Will See You Through

Words and Music: Dirk Powell, Francesco Turrisi, Rhiannon Giddens Laffan; we sing together, led by Barbara Hume

**When your path is full of worry  
He will see you through  
When you feel alone on your journey  
He will see you through**

**Amen x5**

**When you think the world's gone crazy  
He will see you through  
When it looks like the end of days  
He'll surely see you through**

**All your silver, all your gold  
Won't shine brighter than your soul**

**Amen x3**

**All your silver, all your gold  
Won't shine brighter than your soul**

**Amen x5**

*The Officiant says*

## The Collect

The Lord be with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

Officiant      Lord Jesus, in great humility you came to be with us. You know sorrow and are acquainted with grief. Mercifully grant that we, walking with you in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace. **Amen.**

*We say the psalm together.*

## Psalm | 31:9-16

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
and also my throat and my belly.

**For my life is wasted with grief,  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.**

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,  
a dismay to those of my acquaintance;  
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;  
fear is all around;  
they put their heads together against me;  
they plot to take my life.

**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.  
I have said, "You are my God.**

My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.

**Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
and in your loving-kindness save me."**

## Reading | Philippians | 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All    Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Song | O Christe Domine Jesu

Text: from Psalm 23; Music: Jacques Berthier

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system includes a triplet of eighth notes in both staves, marked with a '3' and a dashed line. The second system includes a similar triplet and ends with a repeat sign and the instruction 'Last time' with a fermata symbol.

O Chri - ste Do - mi - ne Je - su, O  
Christ Je - sus, Lord and Sav - ior! Christ

Chri - ste Do - mi - ne Je - su!  
Je - sus, Lord and Sav - ior!

*Last time* ◡

## A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark | 14:1 – 15:47

We stand together when we hear, “Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha.”

## Homily

# The Prayers of the People

Leader We pray for all who follow Jesus, in times of joy and times of loss.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently and aloud.*

Leader Save us, O God.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader We pray for all in authority, who hold innocent life in their hands.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently and aloud.*

Leader Save us, O God.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader We pray for this community, watching with the women at Golgotha.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently and aloud.*

Leader Save us, O God.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader We pray for all who are sick or suffering, shaded and nourished by the Tree of Life.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently and aloud.*

Leader Save us, O God.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, gathered with joy by the Risen One.

*Additional prayers are offered, silently and aloud.*

Leader Save us, O God.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Officiant      Let us pray,

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Offertory**

*We make our weekly offerings in person or online here: [gracehere.org/give/](https://gracehere.org/give/)*

## **The Blessing**

*The Officiant offers a blessing.*

The peace and blessing of the Triune One whose love is without limit, whose mercy is everlasting, and whose kindness never ends, rest upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

# Closing Song | What Wondrous Love is This

Words and Music: Ann Strickland

Musical score for the song "What Wondrous Love is This". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains two measures of music with the lyrics "What won-drous love is this?" repeated. The second staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (indicated by a '3' above the staff) and continues with the lyrics "What won-drous love is this?— O my soul. O my soul." The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

What won-drous love is this?      What won-drous love is this?

3  
What won-drous love is this?—      O my soul.      O my soul.

## Dismissal

Officiant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Poet Thinks About the Donkey

On the outskirts of Jerusalem  
the donkey waited.  
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,  
he stood and waited.

How horses, turned out into the meadow,  
    leap with delight!  
How doves, released from their cages,  
    clatter away, splashed with sunlight.

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.  
Then he let himself be led away.  
Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!  
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.  
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.  
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,  
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.

~Mary Oliver from *Thirst: Poems* (Beacon Press, 2006)