



seeking:
Where are
you headed?

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

Gathering Music

Prelude

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Cynthia Griesedieck

Arr. Lani Smith

Welcome

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† **Processional Hymn 300** “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

**All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David’s royal Son,
Who in the Lord’s name comest, the King and Blessed One.**

**The company of angels are praising Thee on high,
And mortal men and all things created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.**

**To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the praise we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King.**

Call to Worship

Mason Green, Walt Kennedy, Paxton Vaughn, John Vestal

Children’s Sermon

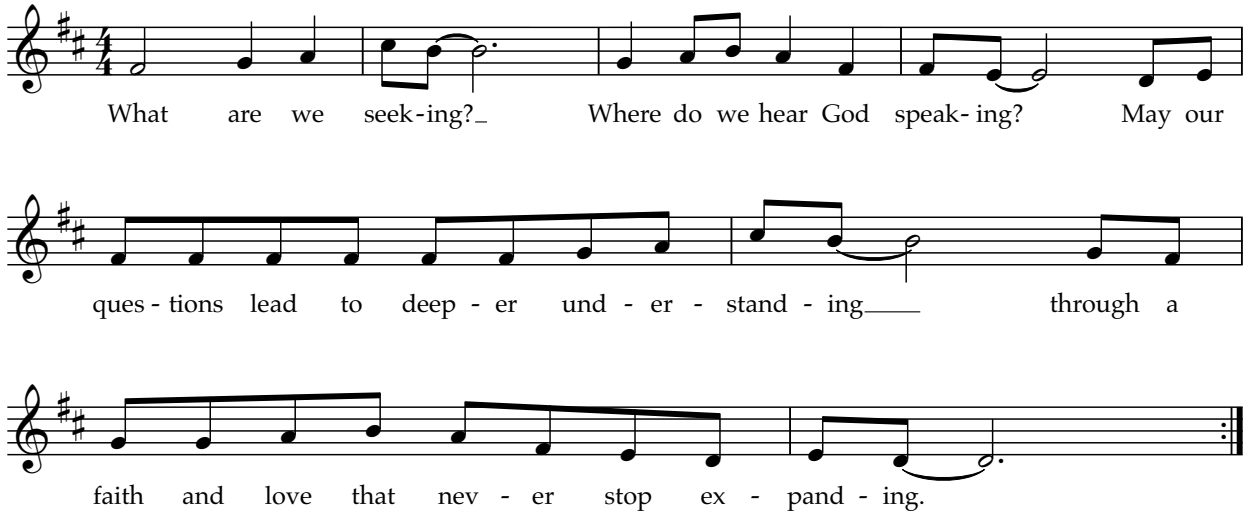
April Alston

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

† Centering Song

“Seeking”

Words and music
by Christian Mclvor ©2023



What are we seek-ing?_ Where do we hear God speak-ing? May our
ques-tions lead to deep-er und-er-stand-ing through a
faith and love that nev-er stop ex-pand-ing.

Call to Confession

Christian Mclvor

Prayer of Confession

One: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”
The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**All: With hope in our hearts we pray to you, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.
Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

One: Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: Nothing can separate us from God’s love. We are loved, forgiven, and sent out
to serve. Hosanna! Amen.**

Offertory Anthem

“Ride On, King Jesus”
GBC Choir

Traditional Black Spiritual,
arr. Larry Shackley

Refrain:

Ride on, King Jesus! No man can a-hinder me!

Ride on, King Jesus, ride on! No man can a-hinder me!

(Refrain)

(cont'd on next page)

King Jesus rides on a milk-white horse, no man works like him!
The River of Jordan he did cross, no man works like him!
He is King of Kings.
He is Lord of Lords.
Lord Jesus Christ, the first and last, no man works like him!

(Refrain)

He comes for you and he comes for me, no man works like him!
He comes to set his people free, no man works like him!
He is King of Kings.
He is Lord of Lords.
Lord Jesus Christ, the first and last, no man works like him!

(Refrain)

Ride on, ride on!

† **Palm Sunday Doxology** “With Palms We Come to Praise Our King” O WALY WALY;
Words by John H. Danner,
Music: Scottish Folk Melody

**With palms we come to praise our King,
“Hosanna” is the song we sing,
All praise the One who rides this day,
And brings us hope in ev’ry way.**

† **Prayer of Dedication** Gary Hollingsworth

Scripture Reading Philippians 2:1-8 Sylvia Cash

Sermon Where are you headed? Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Silent Reflection

Communion Chrissy Tatum Williamson and Anna Beth Cross

Invitation Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† **Musical Response 602** “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

**I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.**

(cont'd on next page)

**The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Tho' none go with me, still I will follow,
Tho' none go with me, still I will follow,
Tho' none go with me, still I will follow,
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.**

Celebrating Community

Steve Rose

Benediction

Mason Green, Walt Kennedy, Paxton Vaughn, John Vestal

Postlude

"All Hail the Power"

Pam Weis

Arr. Oliver Holden

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Cover Art:

“Power Play” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; Inspired by Matthew 21:1-11
Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Crossan assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: “Jesus’ procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate’s proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus’ crucifixion.”⁹

This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (read John 18 & 19). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo.

Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. In Jesus’ processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around his waist to wash his friends’ feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love.

Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus’ parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

9 Borg, Marcus J. and John Dominic Crossman. *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem*. (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006). 2.

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