



PALM SUNDAY

Service for the Lord's Day ~ April 5, 2020

Westminster Presbyterian Church
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia
www.westminsterva.org • 434-293-3133

Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

All glory, laud, and honor

J. S. Bach

Welcome

Anthem

Hosanna to the Son of David

Georg Philipp Telemann
Dana, Leah and Steve Patek

Blessing of the Palms

Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration. May they remind us of the simple joys of living.
May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice. May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort. May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks for the parade, the protest, the processional. Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!" Amen.

Written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas

God's Word to Us

Psalter

Psalm 118:19-29

Dorothy Piatt

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon

Earth Shattering

Lynne Clements

Solo

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

Paul Benoit

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Ken Henry

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

O sacred head, now wounded

Dieterich Buxtehude

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Prayer for Holy Week

Mighty God, as the ground beneath our feet shifts, and we are thrown off balance, hold us steady by your loving hand. The world changed for many of us in these last weeks as we left our workplaces, our schools, our gyms, our church. Our lives have been turned upside down, and we feel anxious that the fragile systems we are establishing right now might be shattered again. In the midst of our trembling, though the earth might shake and the kingdoms we have built might fall, help us to put our trust in you, our refuge and strength.

When we find ourselves wanting to shout out, "Save us!" help us to know that you have already answered our cry. You rode into the city and faced the powers of empire. You endured betrayal, arrest, and violence. Even when our shouts became, "Crucify!" you carried a cross to a barren hill and you died there for us.

By your grace, forgive our weak and wobbly faith. Bring us back to right relationship with you.

Walk with us this Holy Week as we make our way toward the earth-shattering moment of Easter when the stone is rolled away and we find the tomb empty. Amen.

Maundy Thursday on Zoom, April 9

At 6 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, gather with us around the table to remember Jesus' last supper and share Communion via Zoom. Bring your bread, roll, cracker or wafer and a cup of juice to this online Communion service.

Good Friday, April 10

On Good Friday, you'll be transported to a beautiful sunset on the Blue Ridge Parkway by clicking on the eNews link or by visiting www.westminsterva.org. As night falls, through music and scripture, let us explore our own sense of grief and loss, as well as our hope for the Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, April 12

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Join us on Easter morning online. As a way of greeting each other, we invite you to email photos of yourself and/or family members to kbrinkley@westminsterva.org by Wednesday, April 8. We'll run a photo montage during the postlude.



Westminster Staff

Ken Henry, *Pastor*

khenry@westminsterva.org

Lynne Clements, *Associate Pastor*

lclements@westminsterva.org

Dorothy Piatt

*Assoc. Pastor for Social Justice
and University Mission*

dpiatt@westminsterva.org

Megan Sharp

Director of Fine Arts

Jonathan Schakel

Organist

Sanford Wilcox

Church Administrator

Kate Brinkley, *Office Manager*

Steve Brown

Finance Administrator

Tom Mullen, *Sexton*

Alonzo Williams

Assistant Sexton

Through a series of online messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities, we hope to keep you connected to — and nurtured by — the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook page, and Instagram account, @westminstercville. Visit www.westminsterva.org.

