



"The Palms" by Corinne Vonaesch

First Baptist Church  
Greensboro, North Carolina gathers for  
**The Worship of God**  
Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

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

*How horse, 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 "The Poet Thinks about the Donkey"

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Christ Candle Trevor Gill

Opening the Bible Perrin White

Prelude Baker Lawrimore *organist*  
*"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"* by Janet Linker

Opening Sentences Rev. Alan Sherouse

†Call to Worship

We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope the palms of deliverance of God's people.

**Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Our hearts are filled with expectation as we welcome the coming king.

**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

We receive into the crowded streets of our lives the one who is Savior, not only of us, but of all the earth.

**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

### †Processional Hymn 203

*“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”* ELLACOMBE

### †Passing of the Peace

Words of Friendship Rev. Buck Cochran

A Time for Children Rev. Courtney Willis

Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church and will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.

### †Call to Prayer

Worshippers are asked to move toward the cross in the center of the sanctuary as we sing together our Call to Prayer.

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* HAMBURG

Stanza 3

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

†Prayers of God's People Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Stanza 4

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Choral Anthem Sanctuary Choir

*“A Hymn to God the Father”* Poem by John Donne, Music by John Ness Beck and Craig Courtney

*Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun,  
Which is my sin, though it were done before?*

*Wilt Thou forgive that sin through which I run  
And do still run, though still I do deplore?  
When Thou has done,  
Thou has not done,  
For I have more.*

*Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won  
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?  
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun  
A year or two, but wallowed in a score?  
I have a sin of fear that when I've spun  
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;  
Swear by thyself, that at my death Thy son  
Shall shine as He shines now and heretofore.  
And, having done that,  
Thou hast done,  
I fear no more.*

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

### †Hymn of Response 204

*“All Glory, Laud and Honor”* ST. THEODULPH  
Stanzas 1-4

Stewardship Prayer Norma Adams, *deacon*

Choral Offertory Sanctuary Choir

*“At the Name of Jesus”* Philippians 2:6-11; Music by Cindy Berry

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

### †Congregational Response

All glory, laud and honor to thee, Redeemer King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou didst accept their praises – accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!

†Postlude Baker Lawrimore *organist*

*“Prelude in Classic Style”* by Gordon Young