

# *FINAL* First United Methodist Church

Building A Village of Faith

**Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, 10 AM**

Featuring the choral work, *Festival of Faith*, by Joseph M. Martin



## **Worship Theme: Holy Week / Palm Sunday.**

Holy Week begins with what is called "the triumphal entry": Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem amidst joy-filled and celebrative shouts of the crowd coming from all over the region for the Pilgrimage Festival of Passover. It ends in the unbelievable and the exuberant: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In between is the terror of Roman crucifixion.

The cantata that is the centerpiece of worship today, *Festival of Faith* by Joseph Martin, is a celebration of the life and ministry of Christ. Through hymns, original anthems and scripture readings, we will travel with Christ down the dusty roads of Galilee and the ancient stone streets of Jerusalem to the windswept hill of Calvary and enter the garden of resurrection.

Worship today begins with the heady and joyful *Hosannas!* of the Palm Sunday procession but ends in the darkness of Gethsemane and Golgotha. Between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, we must accompany Jesus on the *via dolorosa*, the way of suffering.

\* It is customary to stand at these times; however, please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

### **Words of Welcome & Greeting**

Pastor Steve

➤ Followed by Passing of the Peace

🎵 Music to call everyone back

*Shalom to You* (\*x2\*)

UMH #666

### **Music to Set the Tone for Worship**

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"  
Karen Ray, organ

arr. L. Smith

### **\* Responsive Scripture Reading**

Lynn Bragdon

Leader: As the Festival of Passover drew near, Jesus set his mind on going up to Jerusalem. Two of His disciples found a young donkey and, bringing it to Jesus, they threw their cloaks over its back and set Him on it. This fulfilled a prophecy that said:

**People: "Don't be afraid, people of Israel. Look! Your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt."**

Leader: A huge crowd of Passover pilgrims took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,

**People: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest!"**

Leader: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." Jesus answered,

**People: "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would shout out!"**

[Adapted from selected verses from the Gospel of Luke]

### **Hymn of Celebration**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

UMH #278

[All remain seated]

Parade of Palms with Children and Adults

### **\* Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

Lynn Bragdon

**Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed "King of Israel" by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Then, within days, his life was ebbing away from him as he hung on a Roman cross. Little**

could anyone know that his death would lead to triumph over sin and death – and, ultimately, over the forces of evil. Let the palm branches we see in worship today be for us signs of his ultimate victory. And help us in these days – when it can feel like hope is in short supply – to hear your call to faith and your invitation to follow you on a journey that is grace-filled, life-giving, and transformational. We pray in the name of that One who taught us to call out to you, O God, “Our Father...”  
[Adapted from the *UM Book of Worship*, p. 340]

\* **Prayer Response** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”, vv. 1 – 3 UMH #280  
Congregation

**Generosity Celebration** Pastor Steve  
🎵 Music for Offering “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” arr. J. Payne  
Karen Ray

🎵 Doxology “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #94

**Scripture Reading** Mark 11:1-3, 7-11 [NRSV] Lynn Bragdon

**Message in Song** *Festival of Faith* Joseph M. Martin

FUMC Sanctuary Choir; Jim Werner, Director  
**String Quintet:** Sandra Sundstrom, Violin 1; Cody Bailey, Violin 2; Charles Hebenstreit,  
Viola; Carissa Reed, Cello; Diego Valenzuela, Bass  
**Narrators:** Chip and Tracey Barbieri

*All Please Sit in Silence at the Conclusion of the Cantata  
and Meditate on the Meaning of What We Have Experienced.*

FUMCGJ wishes to thank Jim Werner, our Choir Director and Conductor, our Choir,  
Karen Ray and our Guest Musicians, and our narrators, all of whose talents and contributions  
made for a memorable and inspiring celebration of Palm Sunday today.  
Thank you and God bless you!

\* **A Choral Invitation to Our Palm Sunday Parade to Hawthorne Park for Praise and Fellowship**  
“Hosanna! A Procession of Promise” J. Martin  
FUMC Sanctuary Choir

\* **Benediction & Invitation to Fellowship Parade** Pastor Steve

**Welcome Visitors! We are glad you are here!**

Please fill out the **Let's Get Connected** form located in the pew rack in front of you. You may place it in the offering tray as you leave worship. OR...go to our homepage, <https://www.fumcgj.org/>, and scroll all the way down to the bottom and fill in and submit the Contact form. We'll get back to you.

### **Prayer Corner**

For Jean Foreman who is now home and recovering from surgery she had Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Cards can be sent to her home at 2815-B Dottie Lane, GJ 81506.

For Shelley Parsons who is now home and recovering from her hip replacement surgery that was on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Cards can be sent to her home at 2722 Rincon Dr., GJ 81503.

*To add someone to the phone prayer chain, please call Peggy Price at 970-242-4206  
or the Church Office at 970-242-4850*