

*Southminster Presbyterian Church*



*A Service for the Worship of God*

March 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

*In Preparation for Worship:*

*If you have a candle, you can light it in your worship space as we begin the service.*

*Gathering Around God's Word*

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Introit**

“Hosanna in the Highest”  
*Art Nitsch, Ruth Whatley*

*Ruth Elaine Schram*

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 118:1-4, 19-27, 29

*Claire B., Marilyn G.*

**Hymn #199**

“Filled with Excitement”  
*First verse in English, second verse in Spanish*

## Call to Reconciliation

Sherri Swiger

### Prayer of Confession

God of palm branches and hallelujahs:

We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.

We love the sound of a joyful parade.

We love shouting, “hallelujah!”

We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.

We love good news.

However, if we slow down and pay attention,

We know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.

There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence.

You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire,

And the whole world knew it.

Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.

Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage,

And even we can do hard things.

With hope we pray. Amen.

### Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: Family of faith,*

*Even when we gloss over the truth,*

*Even when our courage fails us,*

*Even when we doubt that we can do hard things, God believes in us, God*

*loves us. God forgives us. Hear and believe this truth:*

**All: We are known.**

**We are loved.**

**We are forgiven.**

**Again and again and again. Amen.**

Response to Forgiveness # 607

Doxology

*Inclusive Version*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Christ all people here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore;**

**Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

### *Hearing God's Word*

### Prayer for Illumination

Sherri Swiger

#### Scripture

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 Creator.

## Children's Time

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

## Anthem

“Hosanna”  
*Art Nitsch, Ruth Whatley*

*Michael W. Smith*

## Scripture

### Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he 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.

## Sermon

“The Before Times”

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

### *Responding to God's Word*

## Hymn # 197

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

## Presentation of Offerings

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

*If you would like to give online, please go to [www.sminster.com/give](http://www.sminster.com/give) where you can give once or set-up a recurring monthly offering to the church. You can also mail your offering to the church office.*

**Presentation Hymn # 223** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*verse 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.**

## Joys and Concerns

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Hymn # 686**

“God of Our Life”

*omit verse 2*

### Benediction

**Postlude**

*Jim Pera*

*Flowers were given by Jerry Craig, in loving memory of her husband, Tom.*



*Prayers of Confession and Illumination by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).*

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