



Forest Hill United Church  
*'open doors, open hearts, open minds'*



Palm Sunday  
 March 24, 2024 11:30 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

## Gathering

\*\* Please rise in spirit or in body as you are able

Prelude: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna VU 123

Welcome, Announcements & Acknowledgement:

Land Acknowledgement

**At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is built on ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolastoqiyik (wolas-to-qiyik) land.**

Declaration of a Safe Place

**Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for people to gather, regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status, sexual orientation and gender identity.**

Extinguishing the 6th Lenten Candle

\*\*Introit: Gather Us In MV 7  
**Gather us in, ground us in you.  
 Gather us in, ground us in you.  
 Gather us in, gather us in,  
 Ground us, ground us in you.**

Call to Worship:

One: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

**All: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.**

One: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

**All: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!**

One: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

**All: Hosanna, come and save us!**

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Holy One, will you let us walk with you on the road to Jerusalem; to hear the cheers of the crowd, with “hosannah” and more? Will you let us walk with you to the temple, to the challenge, to the room where you’ll teach, share communion, and more? Will you let us walk with you to the garden, to prayer; though our eyes may be heavy, our hearts burdened, and more? Will you let us walk with you in this week we call “Holy,” that, through trial and temptation, we might understand love, grace, and much more? Will you let us walk with you... as far as we can go? Amen.**

Richard Bott

\*\*Opening Hymn: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty VU 127

Intergenerational Time:

Prayer that Jesus Taught: adaptation from the original Aramaic Translations by Neil-Douglas Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos  
**Creator God, Father-Mother of the Cosmos.  
 Focus your light within us, and make it useful.  
 Create your reign of unity now.  
 Through our fiery hearts and willing hands,  
 help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within so that we can feel the wisdom underneath supporting all.  
 Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts’ simple ties to each other.  
 Don’t let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.  
 Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light, and the sound of the cosmos. Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn of Praise:** He Came Riding on a Donkey VU 124  
*Those going to Sunday School will leave after the first verse*

Prayer of Self Reflection:

**God of our hosannas, it would be all too easy to embrace a vision of you as entering Jerusalem with all the pomp and circumstance and violence that power provides. And yet, that is not your way and we confess that we often whisper with the ways of fear rather than shout of your liberation for all people. Help us to lay our lives at your feet and welcome you with shouts of joy.**

*Time for Silent Prayer*

Words of Assurance

## Exploring

Words from Our Bible:

Psalm 31 VU 758, Parts Two and Three

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark. 11:1-11

One: In this is the word of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

**\*\*Hymn of Reflection:** All Glory, Laud and Honour VU 122

Reflection

Special Music:

## Responding

Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts:

Sung Response: What Can I Do MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

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Prayer of Dedication:

**We give you thanks, God of all creation, for the gifts from our hands, and the gifts in our hearts. Help us to use all that we have to share your life, in all of its abundance, everywhere in your world. Amen.**

Richard Bott

Prayers of the Community:

Sung Response: Stay With Us Through the Night VU 182 Verse 1

**Stay with us through the night.**

**Stay with us through the pain.**

**Stay with us,**

**blessed stranger till the morning breaks again.**

**\*\*Closing Hymn:** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU 333

Commissioning and Benediction:

**\*\*Choral Amen:** May the God of Peace (X2) MV 224

**May the God of peace and of all good,**

**may the God of peace and of all good**

**be always with you. Amen!**

**May God's peace be with you.**

**Amen!**

Postlude: Jesus Christ is Waiting VU 117

Unless otherwise noted, service prayers for today's service were adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B* written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and copyrighted by the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Heather Donnelly, LLWL  
Pastoral Care – Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Robert Christie

Teller – Jean Fisher

Reader – Diane Robinson

Hospitality – May Houston

Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.

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