



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

MARCH 29, 2026
PALM SUNDAY
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

This Is the Day and I Will Enter His Gates

Les Garrett
Leona Von Brethorst

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Hosanna to the Son of David

Arthur Hutchings

Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Hosanna, Child of David!

Blessed is the One who comes in the Sovereign's name.

What is this strange procession?

Why are people so excited?

The prophet has come!

The One who talks sense and listens.

**But good clothes are being trampled,
and they're getting dirty underfoot.**

Jesus has no concern about possessions;
but people have been healed by a touch.

Why would a prophet come here?

We like things quiet and predictable.

This is the One who saves us,
who teaches us how to live.

Will salvation bring changes I'll regret?

What will it cost to take this One seriously?

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We come together, as believers and skeptics,

to remember the drama of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

We can get caught up in the excitement of a parade,

especially in an important place or honoring someone we know.

We like celebrations. But part of us holds back.

We know the rest of the story.

It involves denial and betrayal,

spitting and shame, a crown of thorns, and a cruel cross.

O God, it's hard to make sense out of life

when goodness is crucified and evil seems to triumph.

Free us from our fear of consequences so we, too,

can wave branches and sing praises.

Amen.

* HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ST. THEODULPH



1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or, to you, Re-deem-er, King,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high,
3. To you be - fore your pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.

You are a child of Is - rael, Great Da - vid's great - er son;
 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore you went;
 As you re - ceived their prais - es, now hear us as we pray.

you ride in low - ly tri - umph, Mes - si - ah, bless - ed one!
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 Since you de - light in good - ness, rule in our hearts to - day.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ted Sawicki

In the garden, Jesus directed the disciples to watch and pray.
 But they failed in their support.
 Have we not also fallen asleep?
 How constant and persistent is our prayer life?
 How eager are we to take the risks of trusting in Christ's leading?
 Will we betray rather than follow?
 God is waiting to hear our plea for mercy.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for personal silent confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God,
 we have blamed You when the hosannas die
 and the parade turns into a mob scene.
 We heap our doubts on You
 even though our inaction adds power to those who shout, "Crucify".
 We rebel against the risks of discipleship.
 Why raise our voices against the evil we see?
 One voice simply becomes one more victim.
 O God, we protest,
 but we know down deep that the victim of our silence
 is the way of love, the way of life.
 Forgive our cowardice and help us to stand with Christ
 in a world that has forgotten humility and obedience to You.
 O God, we want to be faithful.
 Why does it cost so much?**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

Return to God

(Cantor)

Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

(Congregation)

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God does not forsake us.

In times of terror and suffering we are not alone.

In Christ, we are strengthened as we watch and pray.

We receive courage to love in the face of ridicule
and to act for truth amid the oppressive forces of deceit.

Love is at the heart of creation,
bringing us to new beginnings,
to resurrection life in all its fullness.

Thanks be to God.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA#204

Stay with Me

STAY WITH ME

(Cantor)

Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.

(Congregation)

Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

For thirty pieces of silver, Jesus was betrayed.

And still today He is denied

in the way we use the resources entrusted to us.

God does not ask of us a token of support.

We are called to give our all,

of which our offering here is but a symbol.

Will our gifts shout good news to the world?

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ride On, King Jesus

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan

Ride on, King Jesus, Ride on, the conquerin' king. No man, can hinder thee.
I was but young when I begun. But now my race is almost done.
King Jesus rides a milk white horse. The river of Jordan he did cross.
He's the King, Lord of all. He's the first and the last.
Jesus is the Lord, Lord of Lords. Jesus is the Prince of peace. Ride on, King Jesus!

* DOXOLOGY #215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDRIOUS LOVE

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be;
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And thro' eternity, I'll sing on.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ted Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**When you ask for what we have to give or lend,
we want to offer it gladly.
Open our ears and hearts to your requests.
Open our eyes to see the needs of others
that can be helped by our efforts.
Loosen our tongues to tell the world
of the opportunities to be found in your service.
Bless now the gifts we bring in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We Give Thee But Thine Own

J.S. Bach

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord from Thee. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day
through the power of the Holy Spirit,
that we may enter into the coming Holy Week
with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Psalm 118(*Congregation sings the refrain*)

This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joyce and be glad.

1. Give praise to the LORD, for he is good; his mercy en - dures for - ever.
2. "The LORD's right hand has done might - y deeds; his right hand is ex - alted."
3. The stone that the build - ers re - jected has be - come the cornerstone.

1. Let the house of Is - ra - el say, "His mercy en - dures for - ever."
2. I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the LORD.
3. By the LORD has this been done, a marvel in our eyes.

Epistle

Philippians 2:5-11 (Inclusive Bible)

Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God, didn't deem equality with God something to be clung to—but instead became completely empty and took on the image of oppressed humankind: born into the human condition, found in the likeness of a human being.

Jesus was thus humbled—obediently accepting death, even death on a cross! Because of this, God highly exalted Christ and gave to Jesus the name above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God: Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God's help we are listening.

As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, “Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, ‘The Rabbi needs them.’ Then they will let them go at once.”

This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet: “Tell the daughters of Zion, ‘Your Sovereign comes to you without display, riding on a donkey, on a colt—the foal of a beast of burden.’”

So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered. They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and road toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. The crowds—those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed—were all shouting, “Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High! Hosanna in the highest!”

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, “Who is this?” And the crowd kept answering, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Palms and Passion”



* THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

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.

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Carry with you the mind of Christ,
who emptied self to serve the Creator.

**Equality with God is not for us to seek;
our godlike pretensions are always misplaced.**

Empty yourselves of all selfish ambition
so you can hear the Sovereign's intentions.

**As Christ took the humble role of a servant,
we would focus first on ways to help others.**

Being found in human form,
Christ was obedient, even to death on a cross.

**We sing the praises of our Savior,
who heals our brokenness and affirms our worth.**

God has exalted Jesus as the Christ
and put the name of Jesus on every tongue.

**Jesus Christ is our Sovereign,
revealer of the One True God.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Polyphonic Amen

Russell Wichmann

POSTLUDE

Ride on King Jesus

African American Spiritual
arr. Hall Johnson

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Psalm 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Lulu Myers, Balavaju, Victor Georgiev, Clarence Niles, Linda Marsh, Anthony Buccino,
Rosa Buccino, Doris & Gus Ellis, Bruce Arnoff, Todd St. Clair, George, Tralaina Davis,
Patricia Gerard, Dorland, Barbara Maloney, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,
Rachael Adam, Sandy Colombo, Jayne Zborowsky, Charles Rabb, Tony & Annie Carlos,
Courtney Knapp, Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood, Gwen & Bob Baus,
Judy & Frank Macuga,
the Welton family, the Naylor & Olmsby families, the Wheeler & Moreland families

We pray for the repose of the soul of Jack Moreland,
may his memory be a blessing.

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.

@The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday March 29 Palm Sunday

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

5:00PM Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra/Warner Hall, Oberlin

Tuesday March 31

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday April 1

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday April 2 Maundy Thursday

6:00PM Tenebrae with Communion/Chapel

Friday April 3 Good Friday

12:15PM Good Friday Service/Sanctuary

Sunday April 5 Easter Sunday

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

1:40PM Guardians-Cubs/Progressive Field

Monday April 6 Easter Monday/Building and Offices Closed

6:30PM First Presbyterian Society Annual Meeting/Gallery

Tuesday April 7

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday April 8

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday April 9

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday April 12 Second Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Guitar-Cello Recital/Chapel

Tuesday April 14

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday April 15

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday April 19 Third Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Handbell Rehearsal/Gallery

1:30PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee/Playhouse Square Tour

1:40PM Guardians-Orioles/Progressive Field

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:76 Online:263

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

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firstprescle.org/giving



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Scan the QR Code with your phone.

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
1380 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Checks should be made payable to “The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland.”

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

Choir

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Anthony Steward, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan
Judy Macuga
Melissa Maffia
Harriet Niles
Marty Vassel

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron
Bernard Medie
Bob Reid

Class of 2028

Dave Finley
Don Urban

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Class of 2026

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Forrest Diehl
Pam Daly
Ruth Finley
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Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari
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Sunny Kunche
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Mike Musson

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