

Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023



First Congregational Church of Fresno
United Church of Christ
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93704

Rev. Matt Broadbent
Guest Minister

Sixth Sunday of Lent - Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023

Our Gathering

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

Prelude

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent, Liturgist

Scripture

Matthew 21:1-11 (paraphrased) Rev. Matt Broadbent, guest preacher

When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: Tell Zion's daughter, "Look, your king's on his way, poised and ready, mounted On a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal."

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"

The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."

Prologue

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

(By Rev. Roddy Hamilton of New Kilpatrick Parish Church, Church of Scotland)

Sounding of the Shofar

Robbyn Mosley

(We join the procession of life to Jerusalem, honoring the Christ, in Jesus, as alpha and omega.)

***Processional and Hymn**

"All Glory Laud and Honor"

#216 pew hymnal

OUR SHARED AWARENESS

ACT OF AWARENESS THROUGH CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE –

Rev. Matt Broadbent

True repentance is not for the fainthearted. Soul-deep repentance is one of the sanest, yet toughest, experiences we can engage in. That we may be truly repentant let us pray. If we have entered this house fully content with our own goodness and respectability, and feeling superior to others: Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

If we are unaware of the ambiguity of our motives and of the cunning self-interest that has crept into our best thoughts and deeds: Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

If we have measured our loving by odious comparisons with those around us, rather than by the exquisite self-giving of the cross: Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Please God, may we have the grace of sincere repentance, and find our true selves gathered Up in your healing and freedom. Then having been forgiven, enable us to live as a forgiving people, breaking the vicious circle of this world's blame and counter blame. Let us be a redemptive community, sharing the love with which you have loved us. Through Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen, may it be so!

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

Friends, God does not ask us to wallow in our mistakes, or deny ourselves the grace that abounds in human weakness.

Let us take Christ at his word, and live the life of the forgiven and the forgiving. Amen!

Time for Discovery (*Children are invited to the chancel steps with Rev. Matt Broadbent.*)

Draw the circle wide; draw it wider still. Let this be our song—

no one stands alone, standing side by side— draw the circle wide

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The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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,

the power, and the glory,

forever. Amen.

***Hymn of Preparation**

"Come to the Table of Grace"

While his disciples were eating with him at supper, Jesus took a piece of bread in his hands, like this, and he blessed it praying in the tradition of his forebears:

“Blessed are you Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made.”

And then he said to them: “This is my body broken for you, **(break loaf)** do this is in remembrance of me.”

It will become for us the bread of life.

And then Jesus took a cup of wine, like this, and gave thanks to God in the traditional way of his ancestors:

“Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.” (Pour from pitcher into chalice)

And then he said to them: “Drink this, all of you, for this represents my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Unison Prayer of Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ, as we do in this place what you did once and for all long ago in Jerusalem, breathe again your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us as heaven’s food, renewing, transforming, sustaining and making us whole, so that we may be your body on earth, loving and caring for your creation; where all are welcome and the poorest are fed. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill each one of us with your love from on high. Amen

Communion is Shared

(Please come forward down the center aisle, receive bread and eat as a sign of Christ’s love for you.. As you return by a side aisle, receive a cup and take it to your seat and wait until all are invited to partake together- a sign of our oneness in Christ.)

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.

God is Still Speaking

Exodus 2:11-15

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?" He answered, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "Surely the thing is known." When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

Exodus 3:1-8a

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings.

Prompting

"Let My People Go. Let My People Come"

Rev. Matt Broadbent

Moment of Silent Reflection

Now, the Beloved Community

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying: Lord send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying: Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Matt Broadbent

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent



Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

- ⇒ *There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).*
- ⇒ *You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.*
- ⇒ *BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.*

Offertory

“What Wondrous Love Is This” - Ramsay & Sharp

Chancel Choir

*Doxology

***We give You but Your own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Yours alone, We give it gratefully. Amen.***

*Hymn for Holy Week

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

#223, pew hymnal

Words of Parting and Choral Benediction

Rev. Matt Broadbent

***Go now in peace, never be afraid; God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.
Go now in peace- steadfast, strong, and true; know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in peace and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world will
know God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.***

We Journey into Holy Week

“Were You There”

Robbyn Mosley, cornet

[It is our custom to be seated through the playing of the Postlude.]



HOLY WEEK at BIG RED



Join us for these special services and opportunities



Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023 - 10:00 a.m. Worship

Join us for the procession and story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

Commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples with a Soup Supper, Communion, and Tenebrae Service.



Good Friday

April 7, 2023 - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Minturn Chapel will be open for meditation and prayer.



Holy Saturday

April 8, 2023

Last Lenten Study
Time/Place TBA



Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service with Communion (Courtyard)
10:00 a.m. Celebration of the Resurrection (Sanctuary)
& Easter Egg Hunt

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. - Fresno, CA 93704

News from the pews....



Save the Date - April 9, 2023

Rev. Dr. Celeste Fields will be our guest minister for our Easter morning 10am service. Pastor Celeste is the NCNC Associate Conference Minister



This is it...your last chance before Easter



Flash Mob Hallelujah Chorus on Easter

Have you ever wanted to sing the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah?

We will be singing this postlude on Easter you will have to do is Chancel area, up with singing of “Go Now in set to sing our collec-Risen Lord!



masterpiece as the Sunday! On Easter, all make your way up to the the choir during the Peace,” and we’ll be all tive “Hallelujah” to the

We will be having a single run-through practice every Sunday following worship until Easter. Music and practice CDs will be provided.

*Warning - smiles and feelings of joy are side effects.

Please see/contact Scott Horton to get involved or if you have any questions.



The Ministry of Church Life is having an enchilada sale, with pick up on Sunday, April 16th. All proceeds raised go to the FCCF General Fund.



A delicious variety of choices: cheese, beef or chicken with green sauce.

Prices are:

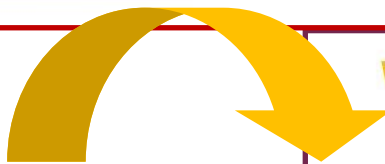
- 3 pack: \$6
- 6 pack: \$12
- 12 pack: \$20



Order forms are available in the Church Office and in the Narthex. Just be sure to order soon. All forms of payment are accepted, cash, check, credit/debit card (office only).



Remember all funds raised go to the FCCF General Fund



No later than next Wednesday

WANTED: EASTER EGGS AND CANDY



Santa says to the Easter Bunny,
"Hey, you're falling off your job"

Easter Bunny says. "Man, I'm on vacation...Easter is in a couple weeks...so go away!"



So, Since the Easter Bunny is being a major slacker, Santa is asking the Big Red Church family to bring candy and plastic eggs to church office next week, so Big Red can hold its epic Easter Egg Hunt.



The Easter Bunny assures me, he will be ready to deliver on his commitments but is currently vacationing in Quebec.

A bientot!



This Week at Big Red

Monday April 3

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, April 4

- ♦ 06:00pm: Church Council meeting - Parlor

Wednesday April 5

- ♦ 08:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 06:00pm: Handbell Choir rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 07:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday April 6

- ♦ 6:30pm: Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, Communion and Tenebrae Services

Friday April 7

- ♦ 11:00am: Good Friday Minturn Chapel open for meditation and prayer
- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday April 8

♦

Sunday April 9

- ♦ 06:30am: Sunrise Easter Service - Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent - Courtyard
- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Resurrection Worship Service - Rev. Dr. Celeste Fields,
Guest Preaching - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Church Life
- ♦ 11:00am: Easter Egg Hunt - Christian Education

First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Guest in the Pulpit

Rev. Matt Broadbent

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

Ushers: Cliff Dodd, Mike Gostanian, Rebecca Kliewer, Gene Kliewer

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Kymberly Lindsey and Pat Morales

Acolytes: Addison and Avery

Altar Flowers:

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

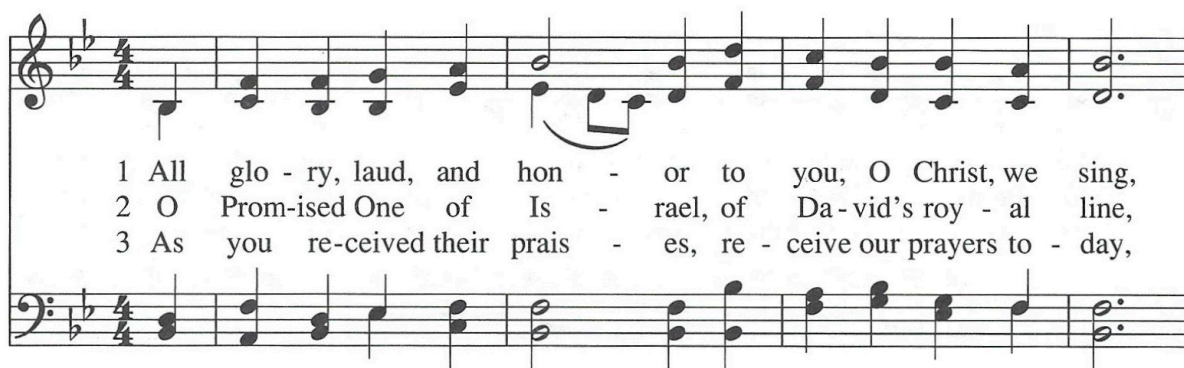
We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

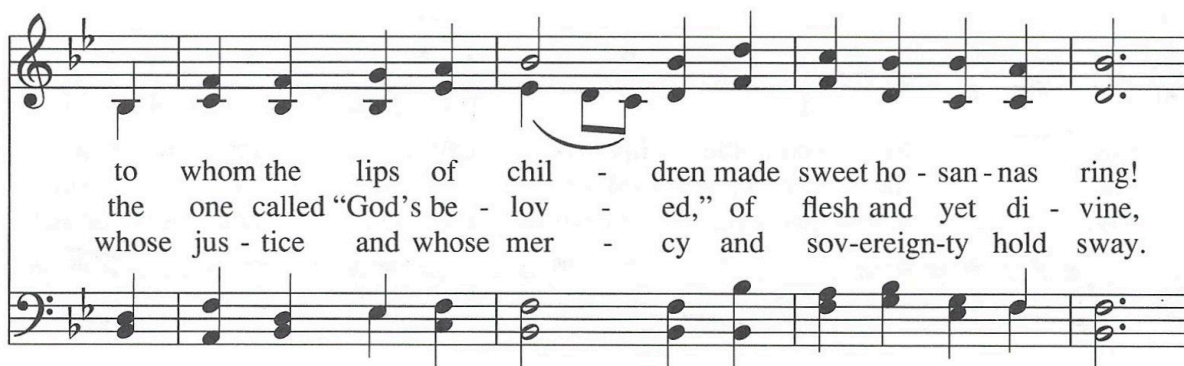
216

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

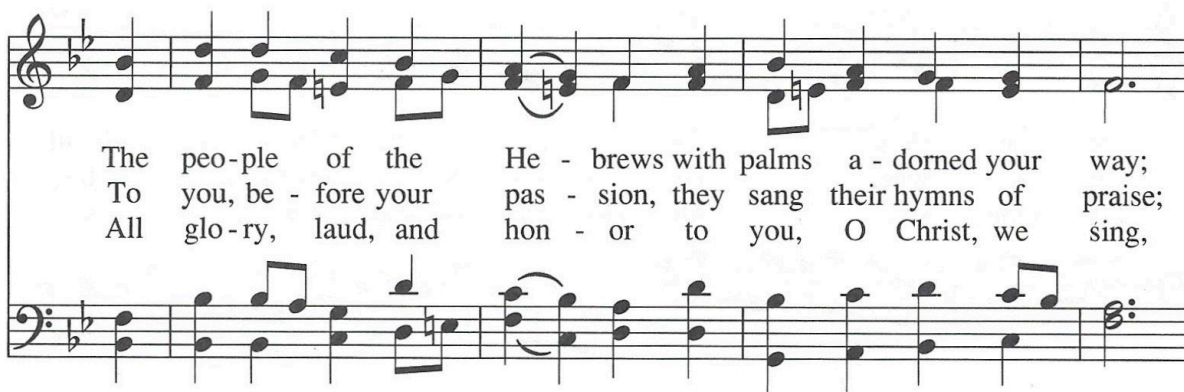
Matt. 21:8-9



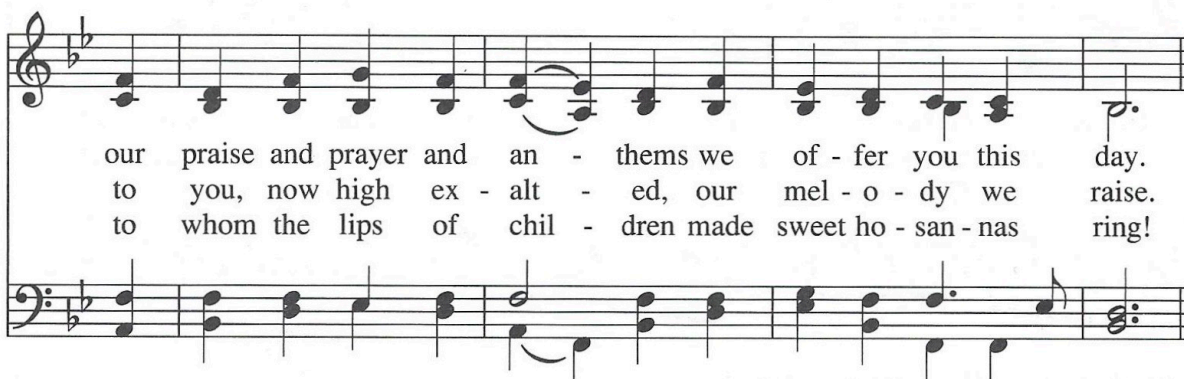
1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re-ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.



The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,



our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became bishop of Orléans but was later imprisoned by Charlemagne's successor. According to legend, he was released when the king, Louis the Pious, heard him sing this hymn from prison.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615
 For another setting, see 217

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)

F C Dm F7/C B^b

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)

C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)

F/A B^b F/C C7 F B^b F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

What Wondrous Love Is This

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)
Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993