

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024



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

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Pastor

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024

Our Gathering

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

Prelude	"Third Mode Melody" - Tallis	Scott Horton, organ
	"Passion Chorale" - J.S. Bach; "Air on a Ground Bass" - H. Purcell	
Welcome		Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Scripture	John 12:12-19	Parker Chamberlin, liturgist

Liturgist: God be in our listening. God be in our understanding.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Procession of Palms	Sunday School Children & Teachers, and Youth Handbells
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*Call to Worship	Parker Chamberlin
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Riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

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

Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

Hosanna, come and save us!

Choral Anthem	"Ride On" - H. Helvey	Chancel Choir
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Reception of New Members

Time for Discovery [*children are invited to the chancel steps with the pastor*]

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**

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

#216, pew hymnal

Scripture

Mark 11:1-11

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

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.

Pastor: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God within us,
and for the Word of God among us.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

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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Prayers of the Church

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Invitation to Generosity

Parker Chamberlin

Offertory

"Who Is the Lamb" - Schafferman/Larson

Chancel Choir



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.*

*** Doxology and Dedication**

***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**

"My Song is Love Unknown"

#222, pew hymnal

***Blessing and Sung Benediction**

"Go Now in Peace"

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

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It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

We Journey Into Holy Week

"Were You There?"

Robbyn Mosley, cornet

Maundy Thursday Service

March 28, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.
Commemorate Jesus' Last Supper
with a Meal, Communion, and
Tenebrae Service
Childcare will be provided for
Toddlers through first graders



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service and Dinner

March 28th

6:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall

Soup Supper, Communion, and Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday

March 31st

6:30 A.M. Sunrise Service in the Courtyard

10:00 A.M. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Bring flowers to enhance the cross

Easter Cupcake Extravaganza!

Bring your Easter cupcakes on Easter Sunday before worship service, for our Annual Coffee Hour Easter Treat



Please bring your Easter candy and plastic eggs to the church for our annual Easter Egg Hunt no later than Friday 3/29/2024





Flowers for Easter Worship Service

*You are invited to contribute \$15 for a potted plant in the sanctuary for the Easter Worship Service or future flowers in the courtyard flower beds. The donation may be given in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend. If interested, please complete the form and add \$15 (cash, check made out to FCCF, or the Givelify App) and place in the offering plate, give to an usher, or mail to the office. The form and money need to be received by **Sunday, March 24th**.*

In memory / in honor of: (circle one) **Please print name.**

_____ and _____
 Your name phone number

___ I would like to take home a potted plant after the Easter Worship Service.

___ I would like the donation to go toward maintaining the courtyard flower beds.



Cambridge Ave Yard Sale Saturday Apr 6th

Do you have stuff you would love to part with? Would you like to make a little cash? Do you want to help out the church? Yes...great. Spots are available for the yard sale. \$20 gets you a prime spot in front of the church and you keep all you earn. Applications on the table in the Narthex.

Donate to the cause

Friday 5pm to 7pm
 Fellowship Hall

Gently used items, sm. furnishings, kitchen appliances, books, toys, shoes, bikes, etc., working items only.

Please price any "collectibles" prior to donating

PLEASE NO CLOTHES

This Week at Big Red

Monday, March 25

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, March 26

Wednesday, March 27

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal – Sanctuary

Thursday, March 28

- ♦ 6:30pm: Maundy Thursday Service and Dinner - Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 29

- ♦ 9:30am: BRC Pantry food distribution prep - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 30

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry “Free Food Saturday” - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

- ♦ 6:30: Easter Sunrise Service—Courtyard
- ♦ 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 11:15am: Easter Egg Hunt - Front Lawn

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Bigredchurch.org

Pastor

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
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Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey
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Technicians

Karisa Garza
Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

Ushers: Rebecca Kliever, Teresa Fuentes, Cliff Dodd, Mike Gostanian

Acolytes: Sarah and Selena

Technician: Karisa Garza

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.

Reception and Welcoming of New Members

Vice Moderator: Siblings in Christ, it is the Spirit of God that draws us to the church and we, the church body, welcome that Spirit by welcoming one another. Hear the good news: these people have found nurture and support in our midst and seek covenantal relationship with us. In a covenantal relationship, we share a set of promises with God and with one another, and we respond to the gracious work of God by sharing in God's action and mission in the world. By welcoming them, we recognize that each one brings us something we need, in order to be all that God intends. This mutual ministry is what we celebrate today.

Pastor: Dear Friends, I introduce to you the people of First Congregational Church, Fresno UCC. Is it your wish to make this community of faith, your church family, and the people with whom you will share your journey of faith? Is this the place and are these the people with whom you will seek to make sense of the issues of your life; your dreams, your faith, who you are, what you are to do, who God calls you to be? Is it your wish to make this the place where you continue your journey into greater health and wholeness; where you listen to the story of God's salvation and the Good News of Jesus Christ, allowing Jesus to be an example and teacher to you, where you are called to a life of ministry and justice; and where you are fed at the table of new life?

New Members: Yes, it is my wish.

Pastor: Honoring the Spirit revealed in the paradoxical, will you live the questions of our faith, open to the continuing revelation of our still speaking God?

New Members: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Claiming God's grace abundant in our common life, will you covenant together to cherish inquiry, embrace diversity, and honor vulnerability?

New Members: I promise, with the help of God.

Will you who are members of this faith community who are witnessing these promises, share the joys and sorrows, and do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ:

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Vice Moderator: Will you welcome Nancy, Bill, Marilyn, Dave, Louis and Susan into this family of First Congregational Church of Fresno, embrace their gifts, their needs, and their dreams? Will you recognize that their presence and participation will change the shape of the body and help it grow in new ways? Will you support them in their journeys, and assist them in their ministries?

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Beloved church, let us join together in spirit and pray the covenant of our ancestors in faith back to the Salem Covenant of 1629:

ALL:

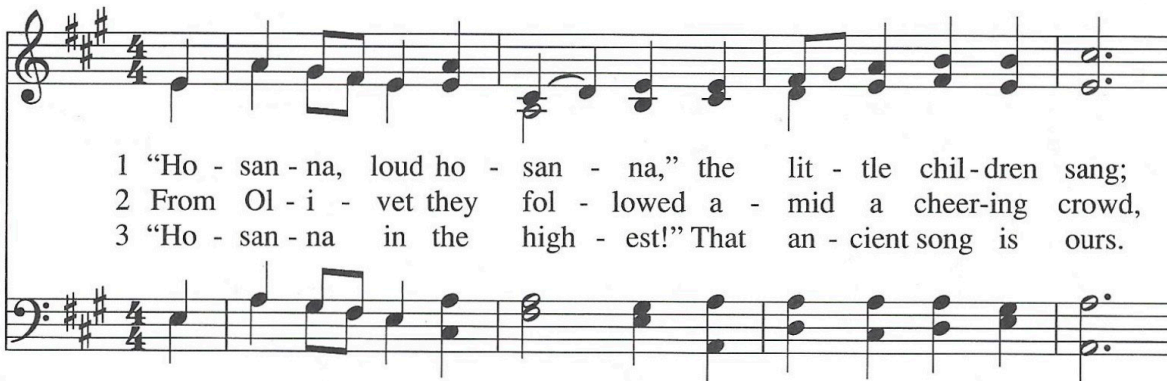
"We covenant with Christ and one with another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of the Spirit to walk together in all God's ways, according as God is pleased to be revealed to us in the word and experience of truth."

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

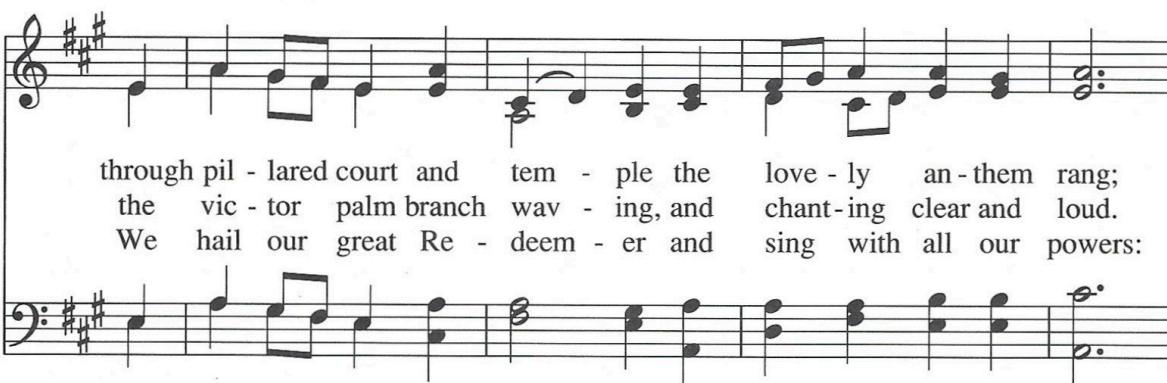
213

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

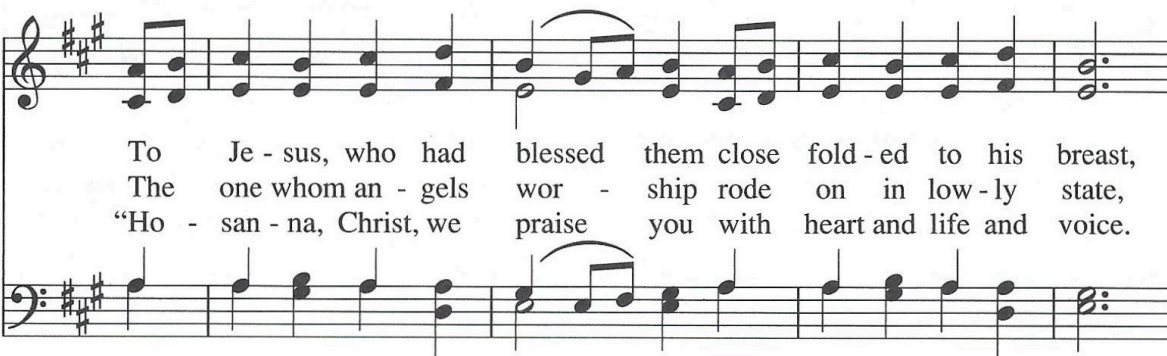
Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15



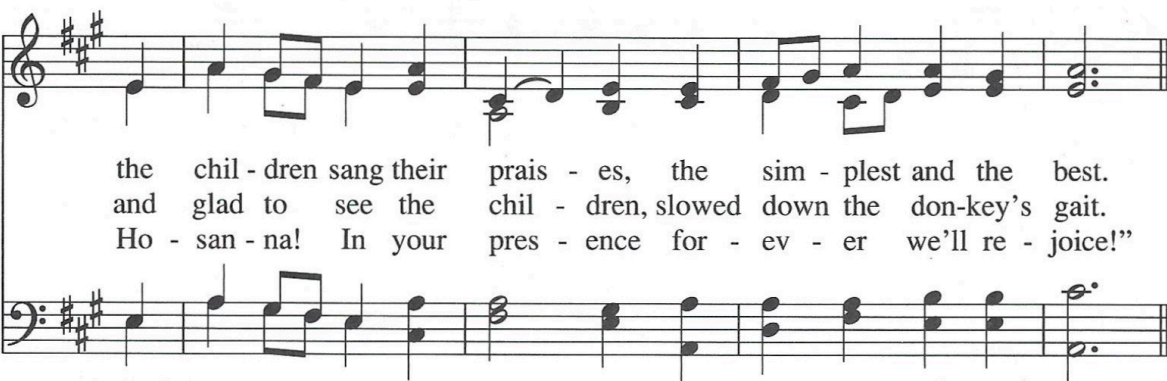
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer-ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant-ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don-key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection *Sunshine and Shadow*.

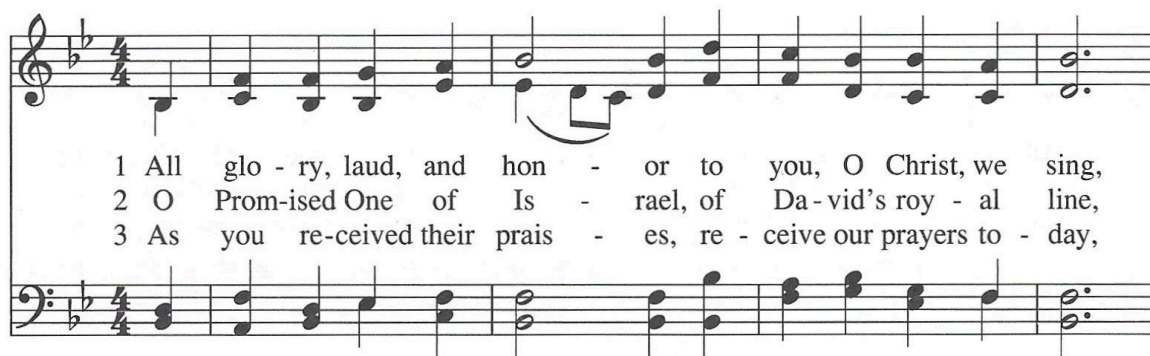
Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

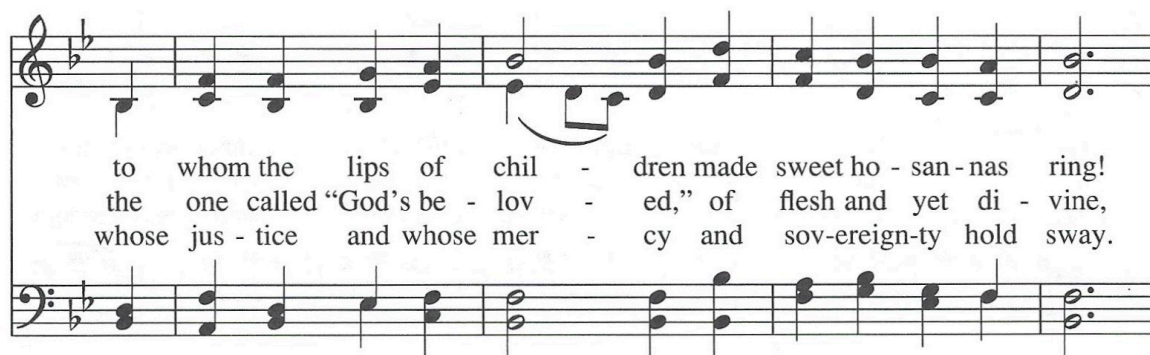
216

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

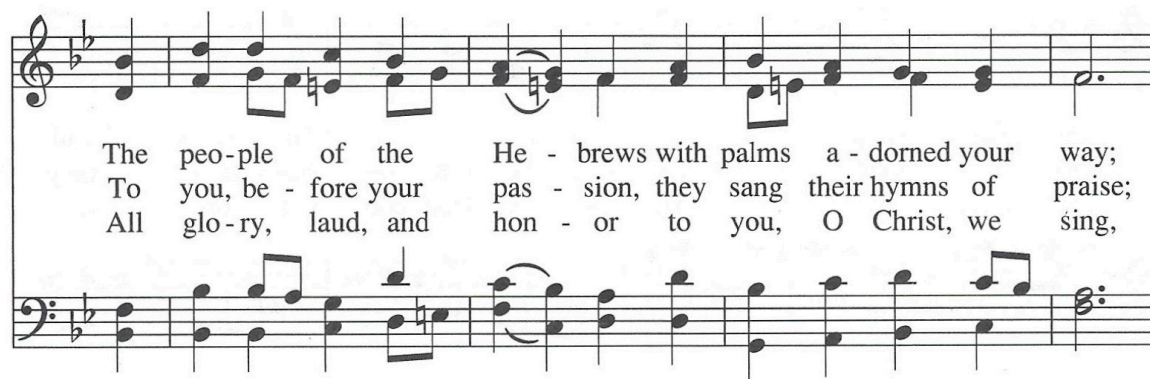
Matt. 21:8-9



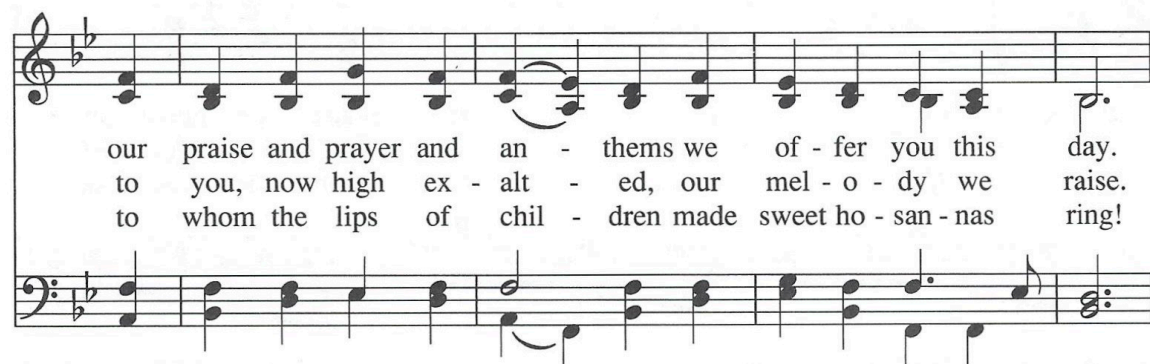
1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,



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

My Song Is Love Unknown

222

Samuel Crossman, 1664; alt.

2 Cor. 5:15-19; Heb. 5:7-10

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 God left the rich - est throne sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they threw down palms and sweet - est prais - es sang.
 4 What has my Sov - ereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
 5 I sing my plain be - lief, one song my heart out - pours:

Love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 But Christ as flesh and bone the world re - fused to know.
 Ho - san - nas and glad psalms through streets and mar - kets rang.
 Christ gave new strength to run, re - stored the gift of sight.
 Nev - er was pain nor grief, nev - er was love like yours.

O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
 But, O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need did
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, for blood and death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and
 This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
 life ex - pend; who at my need did life ex - pend.
 thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst Christ rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst Christ rise.
 glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend.

First published in 1664 by Samuel Crossman, one of the first writers of English hymns, this hymn of praise for Christ's love was not appreciated until 200 years later. The tune was named for the parish in northeastern Wales where the composer served as vicar.

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.
 John D. Edwards, c. 1840