

Worship Guide for First Baptist Church on Fifth

Sunday, April 5, 2020 + Winston-Salem, NC
Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday | John August Swanson

This Worship Guide is for you: for the worship of God today, for words and practices and images to sustain you through the week, for engagement with your families and communities, for hope in even the deepest places of despair.

On this Palm Sunday, may our lips proclaim hosannas in the highest.

May these songs we sing, the scriptures we read, the practices we engage, the prayers we offer all be pleasing to God -- today and all the week ahead!

Blessings on your worship, beloved community!

Invitation to Worship | Gathering

We invite you to gather for your worship some form of bread and juice that you can use for our observance of communion later in worship. Welcome to worship with First on Fifth!

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Call to Worship

“Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

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Passing the Peace

Turn to those around you -- other people in your house, your pets, your neighbors outside, your friends online -- and share these words:

May the peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

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Hymn: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

The company of angels are praising Thee on high;
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.

To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
Thous didst accept their praises, accept the praise we bring,
who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King!

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Psalm Reading
Psalm 118:1-2, 29-39

Throughout the Psalm, we'll say together the following refrain:

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!*

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Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance
Written by our own Rev. Larry Hovis

Call to Confession

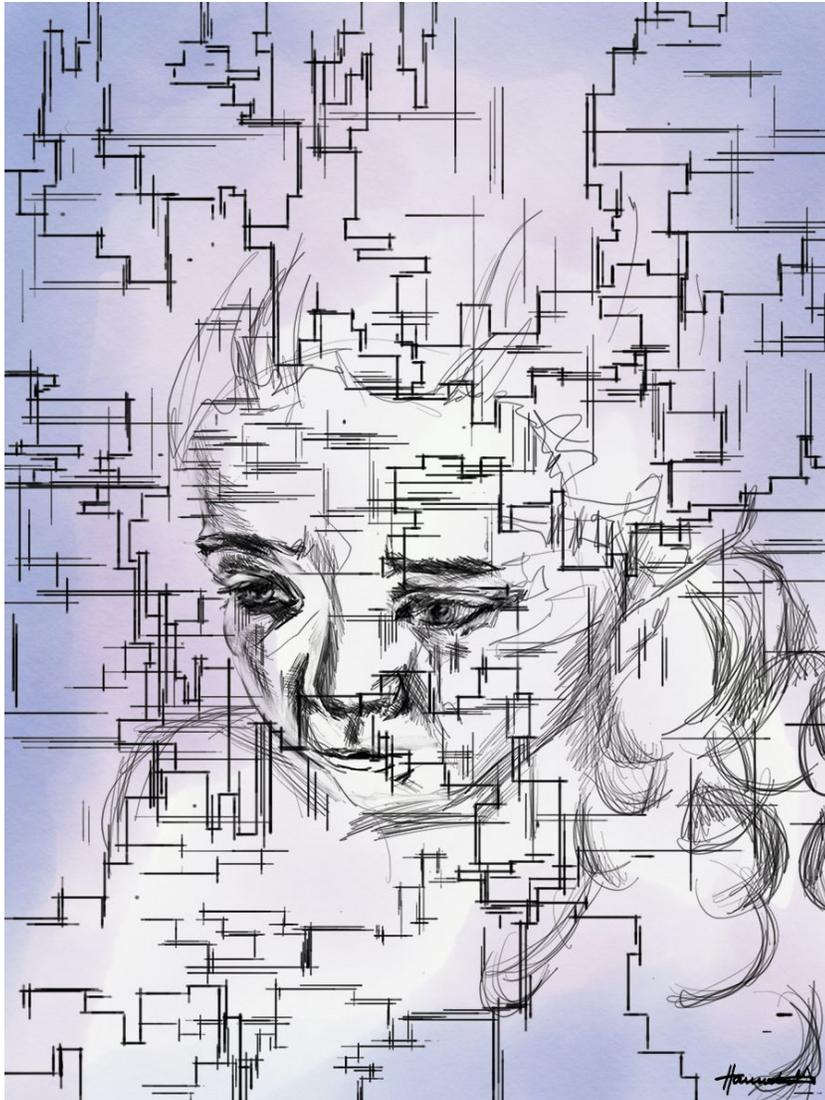
As we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem the first Palm Sunday,
let us allow him to enter our hearts as we confess our sins together...

Prayer of Confession

Triumphant God,
We join today with that crowd from long ago,
Cheering your entry into our lives.
Like them, we can turn too quickly from shouts of joy
To taunts of hatred.
Too often, we praise you only during the easy times.
Too often, we praise you only when it is convenient for us.
During the hard times when we don't always get what we want,
When our lives are disrupted,
Times like we are experiencing right now,
We focus on scarcity rather than abundance.
Forgive us, O God.
Give us strength to accept your call upon our lives,
Even in the midst of very difficult circumstances.
Give us strength to follow you in all things,
Wherever the road may lead.
Even to the cross.
We pray in the name of him who rode on a donkey so long ago,
And who continues to lead us today.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends,
God's steadfast love endures forever.
Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
Jesus marched into Jerusalem to save us
and we can have full confidence in him.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
We are forgiven and called to join his saving work in the world. Amen!



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New Testament Reading
Matthew 21:1-11

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Artwork to the left
Daughters of Zion
Hannah Garrity

Words from the artist:

Jerusalem is the daughter of Zion. In her we see overlaid intricacies of architecture and city planning. The beauty of her people. The layout of her family tree. The importance of her lineage. The repetition of her ancient stories. The importance of her prophets. The telling of true, right, and good. The incredible way that we live into our story, into God's story.

Prayers for the People & The Lord's Prayer

Written by Pastor Brent Greene & adapted from the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Pastoral Prayer

Sisters and brothers, as Jesus, in the days before his passion, offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears, let us pray for those who suffer, those who are in need, and those who seek reconciliation. Our world, our nation, our community cry out to you.

Holy Spirit, hear us now. Our hearts are beating. Our ears are listening. Our minds wander so much these days. Give all of your humanity a spirit of peace in these times of uncertainty. Give us insight as we enter the gates of Holy Week. Protect those men and women around us that are caring for sick and dying. Give us hope and draw us to be generous as we arrive on Resurrection Sunday next week.

God of compassion, you know our faults and yet you promised to forgive. Keep us in your presence and give us your wisdom. Open our hearts to gladness, call dry bones to dance, and restore to us the joy of your salvation.

We love you, God. This family of faith seeks to follow you with bold love and boundless compassion and together we pray the prayer that you, oh Christ, taught us many years ago...

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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Homily

This is My Body: All In

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Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great 'I Am,'
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

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Artwork to the right

Penitent Thief

Lisle Gwynn Garrity



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Bearing Witness to God's Generosity

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Benediction



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH