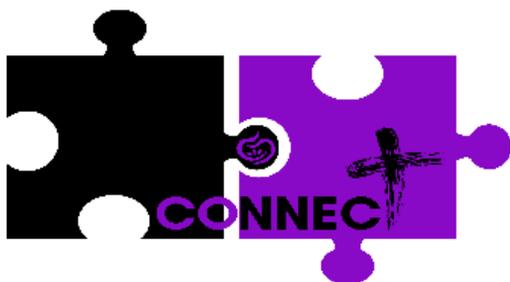




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester & Beyond



April 5, 2020

WORSHIP ONLINE & AT
HOME



Please join in those parts of the service printed in **BOLD**

Thought Upon Entering

"Jesus was and is many things: teacher, healer, companion, and Lord, and it is essential that we experience him in all of these ways. But the center, the heart of who he is, is revealed at the cross. Only a suffering God can help. Only a suffering God can help us bear our own burdens. Only a suffering God can show us the Way and lead us home. Only a suffering God can teach us how to love."
Debie Thomas

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

INTROIT "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" Amy Bowman, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

We invite those worshipping with us at home to wave their Palms, plant or paper.

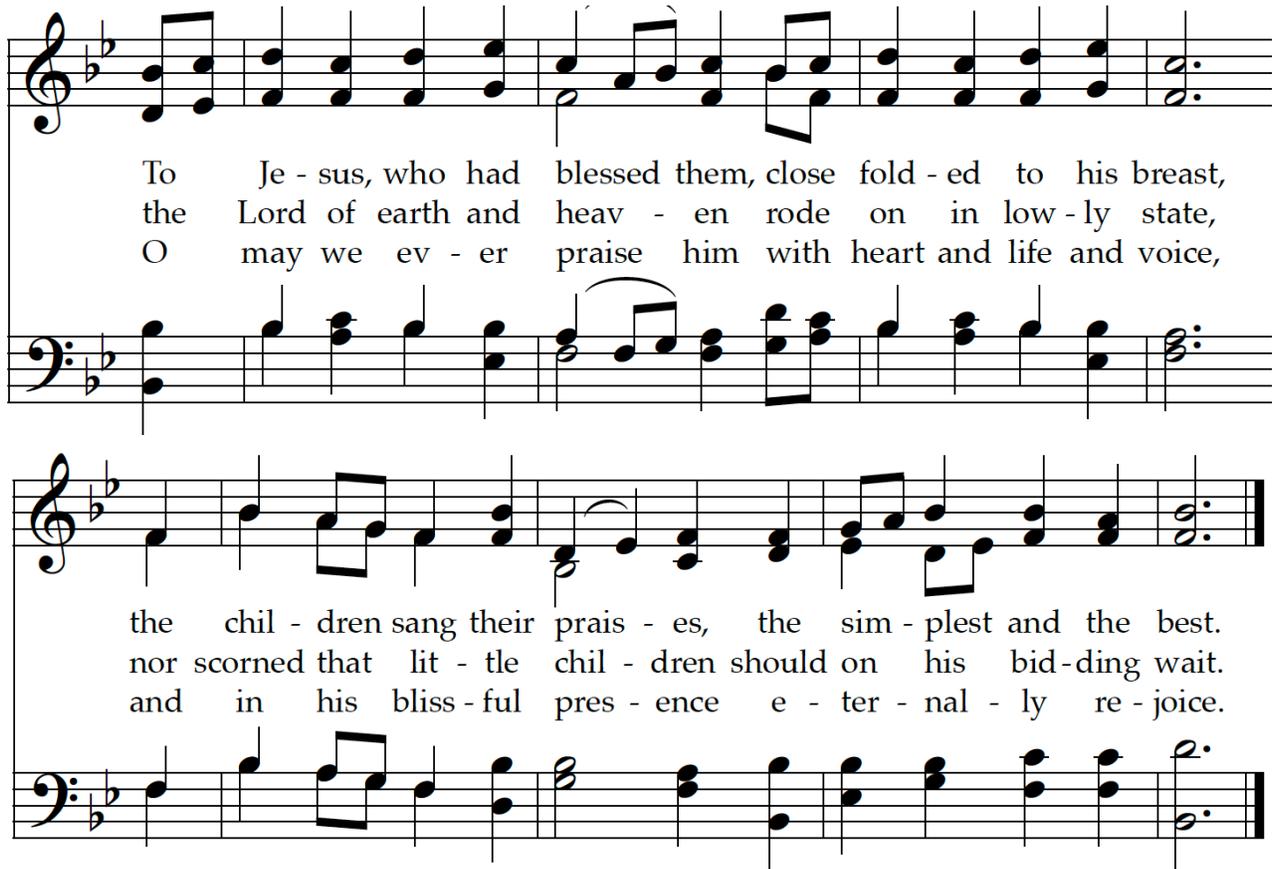
All: **Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior! Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross! Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs! Fill the air with welcome to the Lord! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Let us worship our God!**

GATHERING HYMN 197 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!"

ELLACOMBE

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.

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WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Todd Bowman

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:1-11, NT

SERMON "The Best Kind of Troublemaker"

The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

THE OFFERTORY AND SPECIAL MUSIC "Lamb of God" MiKayla Hatfield

RESPONSE

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[...the petitions conclude...]

Leader: And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray...

All: **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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Leader: This Lent, O God, show us again how to see everyone as you see them.

All: May our lens be the cross.

Leader: At the Cross, love is unconditional—what we do or where we work or how much money we may have or how much education we have achieved or our political affiliation isn't what matters at all.

All: What matters most is that we are made in God's image, loved by Christ, and gifted by the Holy Spirit.

Leader: This is how you see us, O God.

All: Send us out seeing everyone this way, too, with no exceptions.

Leader: It will change us and it will change the world.

After prayer and thoughtful deliberation and with deep regret but a sense that we are doing the right thing, our elected leadership, the Session has acted to suspend all church activities through May 10 in order to comply with the CDC recommendation and the Commonwealth of Virginia Executive Order 55, as well as an act of Christian love towards neighbors. The goal is to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and not overwhelm our health care system with new infections. Halting the spread of the coronavirus requires a community effort. *If new information arises that allows us to resume gathering in person, we will rescind this action and resume in-person gatherings.* A worship service will be broadcast each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and video will remain on our Facebook page after the broadcast. We will also upload the video to our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchwinchester> <https://www.fpcwinc.org/virtual>

What can you do during this time?

- Support our church's elected leaders and staff. We have been making some hard decisions on the fly without a roadmap. We are learning to lean ever more closely on God and one another more and more as we lead in this crisis. We are humbled by the trust you place in us to lead well and wisely.
- Maintain your giving to the church according to your ability. Our financial obligations remain as does yours – mission commitments, staff salaries, utilities, insurance, planned maintenance of a sizeable facility. You can send your offering via USPS [116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA 22601] or you can give electronically using the "Donate" button on our website. Thank you.

[<https://fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate/>]

- Check on your neighbors. There are folks who are impacted harshly by the disruptions of this pandemic than others. They need us and we can help. Stay tuned to your email and our social media presence for ways to help.
- Pray for your church family. Make phone calls. Send emails. Write and send cards. Let folks know they are remembered and loved.
- Practice Sabbath. Set aside time to be with God, to be silent, to listen for the whispers of the Spirit, to release your anxiety and fear, to renew, to rest.