



seeking:
Where are
you headed?



"Power Play" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
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Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023

SEEKING: Where are you headed?

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Gracious God,
You are our strength and power.
Open to us the gates of your presence,
that we may enter and give thanks.
Save us, we beg of you.
Bless us with the presence of the One who comes in your name,
Jesus, your Christ, our Sovereign, and our Lord. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

BRINGING THE LIGHT

OPENING LITANY

*SONG OF PRAISE All Glory Laud and Honor Hymnal, No. 196

*CONFESSION AND PARDON Featuring Matthew 21:1-11, NIV

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who can go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

"Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us. You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Creator God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, "Hosanna!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is

ANTHEM

Blessed is He

MESSAGE

Where Are You Headed?

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Filled with Excitement

Hymnal, p.199

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world's suffering,
who lights a candle in the darkest night,
who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.
We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth,
who is bold in seeking justice,
and humble in taking power.
We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it,
cocooning us in hope,
tethering us to one another.
We believe in a God who is always carrying us
from the pain of the world
into the hope of a new day.
That is where God is headed.
That is where we follow.
May it be so.
Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response: ...God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

God of All Living

Hymnal, No. 713 vs 4

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
Using us gently and making us one.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

SEALING THE WORD—CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORDS' PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

Hymnal, No. 198

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for April 2 : Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

The Food & Shelter items of the month for March **are crackers and peanut butter. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Power Play

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 21:1-11

Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Crossman assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: "Jesus' procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate's proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus' crucifixion."⁹

This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (read John 18 & 19). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo.

Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. In Jesus' processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around his waist to wash his friends' feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love.

Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus' parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

to Refrain



1 Filled with ex-cite-ment, all the hap-py throng spread cloaks and
 2 As in that en-trance to Je-ru-sa-lem, ho-san-nas
 1 *Man-tos y pal-mas es-par-cien-do va el pue-blo g-*
 2 *Co-mo en la en-tra-da de Je-ru-sa-lén, to-dos can-*



branch-es on the cit-y streets. There in the dis-tance they be-
 we will sing to Je-sus Christ, to our Re-deem-er who still
 le-gre de Je-ru-sa-lén. *A-llá a lo le-jos se vis-*
 ta-mos a Je-sús el rey, *al Cris-to vi-vo que nos*



gin to see, there on a don-key comes the Sav-ior Christ.
 calls to-day, asks us to fol-low with our love and faith.
lum-bra ya en un po-lli-no al Sal-va-dor Je-sús.
lla-ma hoy pa-ra se-guir-le con a-mor y fe.

Refrain / Estribillo

From ev-ery cor-ner a thou-sand voic-es sing praise to the One who comes
Mien-tras mil vo-ces re-sue-nan por do-quier; ho-sa-na al que vie-ne en el



in the name of God. Our ac-cla-ma-tion breaks forth in shouts of
nom-bre de Dios. Con un a-lien-to de gran ex-cla-ma-



praise, our tri-um-phant song of joy: "Ho-san-na,
ción y pro-rrum-pen con voz trium-fal; "¡Ho-sa-na!

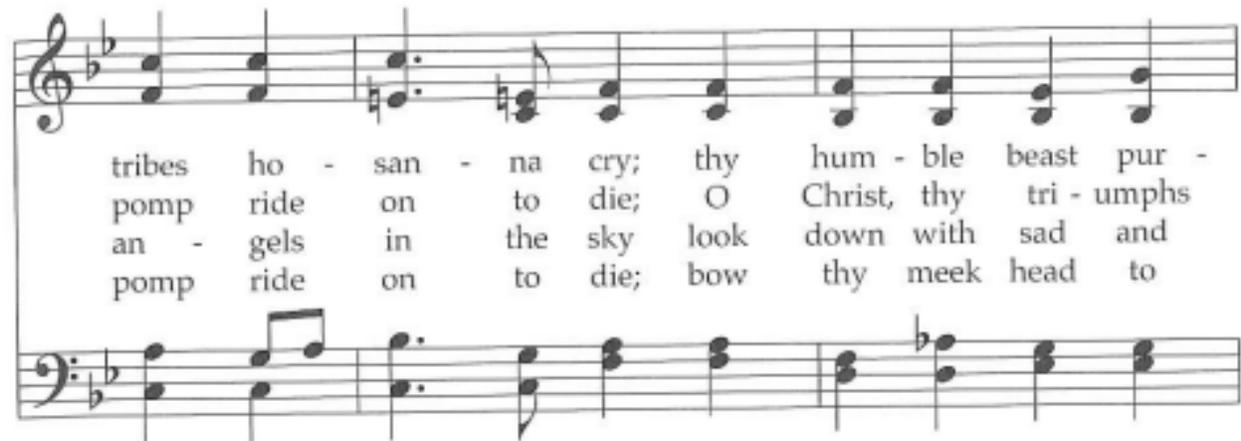


ho-san-na to Christ! Ho-san-na, ho-san-na to Christ!"
¡Ho-sa-na al rey!" "¡Ho-sa-na! ¡Ho-sa-na al rey!"

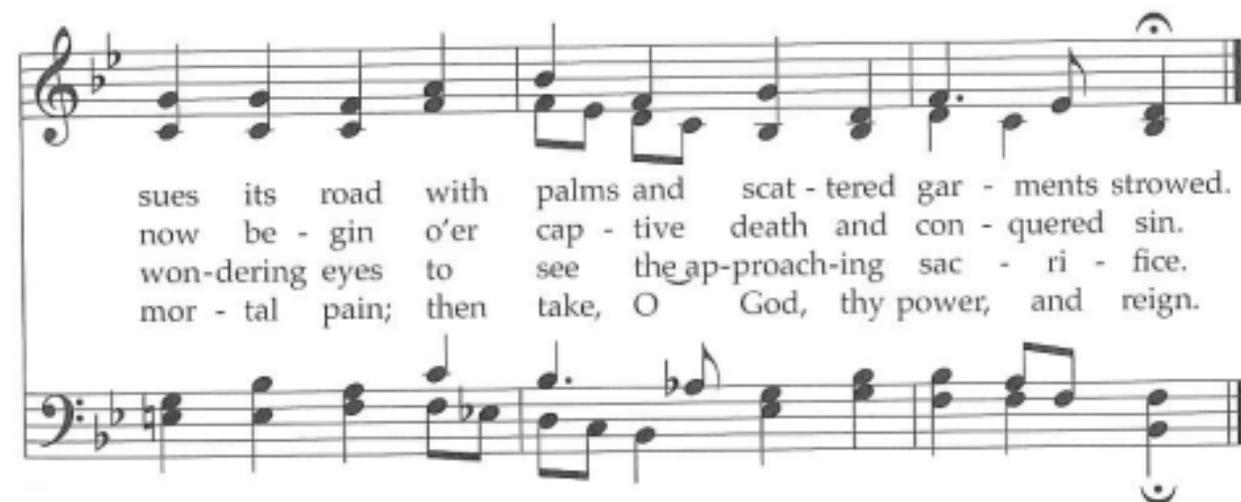
Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! 198



1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -
pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to



sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.