



PALM SUNDAY

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Sixth Sunday in Lent ~ Palm Sunday

*The Worship of God begins with the Opening Voluntary.
The congregation is asked to keep silence during this time for prayer and meditation.*

March 29, 2015 Eleven o'clock in the morning

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES Madeleine McAllister and Emma Phelps

VOLUNTARY *Cortège et Litanie* Marcel Dupré

INTROIT David Gul

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and lift them up,
O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 90 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty* The King's Majesty

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Libby Grammer

Minister: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**Congregation: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;
we will travel through betrayal and death,
cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Minister: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

**Congregation: We wave palm branches in anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Minister: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

**Congregation: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us
the kingdom of God.**

*INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (pp. 492-493) Elizabeth Holland

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ORISON David Gulick

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

*GOSPEL LESSON Mark 11:1-11 (p. 812)

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM *Hosanna to the Son of David* Thomas Weelkes

Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, thou that sittest in the highest heavens.
Hosanna in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Sheryl Johnson

Minister: O Holy One, we are too distressed to notice that

You join us in the parade.

We are too deeply grieved to be aware that

You sit beside us at the table.

We are too busy sighing. We are too busy talking.

We have insisted upon our own answers.

We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things happen,

about why the rich get richer, about why the world feels so broken.

We have assured ourselves that this is the way that things must be,

but this life is in your hands. Our lives are in your hands.

Congregation: O Holy One, speak to us. Fill our silences.

Comfort us with your love so that we may find your

understanding. Trust us to find your answers

when we finally tire from our own.

Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast love. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION 89 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* Ellacombe

(Children in grades 1 and 2 may leave for Children's Worship)

*OFFERTORY SENTENCES Dr. Dan Bagby

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY *The Feast of Palms* Alan Bullard

Come, faithful people, come away,
Your homage to your monarch pay;
It is the feast of palms today:
Hosannah in the highest!

When Christ, the Lord of all drew nigh
On Sunday morn in Bethany,
He called unto His loved ones standing by:
Hosannah in the highest!

'To yonder village go', said He,
'An ass and foal you there shall see,
Untie them and bring them unto me'.
Hosannah in the highest!

The two upon their errand sped,
And found the ass as He had said,
And on the colt their clothes they spread:
Hosannah in the highest!

They sat Him on His throne so rude;
Before Him went the multitude.
And in their way their garments strewed:
Hosannah in the highest!

They thronged before, behind, around,
They threw palm branches on the ground,
And louder still rose up the joyful sound:
Hosannah in the highest,

For it is the feast of palms today!

G. Moultrie

*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SERMON

“The Burden of Knowing”

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

TIME OF REFLECTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 88 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Valet will ich dir geben

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Michael Clingenpeel

MEDITATION AND SILENT PRAYER (*Congregation seated*)

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

VOLUNTARY *Processional in E flat*

David N. Johnson

**Congregation standing*

THE CHURCH STAFF

Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., *Pastor* • Daniel G. Bagby, Ph.D., *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Robert P. Gallagher, D.M.A., *Minister of Music* • Libby M. Grammer, M. Div., *Pastoral Intern*
Sheryl A. M. Johnson, Th.M., *Interim Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation*
Michael P. Kellett, Jr., M. Div., *Minister with Children and Youth*

Sandra L. Bassett, *Pastor's Secretary* • Billy Burford, *Intentional Interim Church Administrator*
Margaret S. Collins, *Preschool Director* • Cassandra D. Ducca, *Communications Specialist*
Zelda Goode, *Cook / Housekeeper* • Wendy Graves, *Preschool Administrative Assistant*
LeAnne K. Lane, *Office Manager* • Raymond Street, *Sexton* • Chuck Ursiny, *Sexton*
Susan S. Young, *Administrative Assistant*

James H. Slatton, Th.D., *Pastor Emeritus* • E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., *Minister of Music Emeritus*

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

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WELCOME TO RIVER ROAD CHURCH! Our congregation is an open fellowship gladly receiving those who wish to share in its life and community by request for baptism, statement, or transfer from another church. If you wish to join the church, you may do so during a Sunday morning service. Prior to the service, please indicate to a staff member your desire to join so that we may introduce you.

HOLY WEEK: These are some of the most intense days in the church's year of grace, culminating in the Easter Triduum (Thursday sunset to Sunday sunset). Monday through Thursday afternoon comprise the minor days in Holy Week, occasions for pondering the meaning of Scripture in the context of prayer and meditation, particularly the portrayal of the final events. On the night of Holy Thursday, sometimes called "Maundy Thursday," a term derived through the Old French mande from the Latin mandatum novum, "a new commandment," we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples. This evening also marks the beginning of the most solemn and joyful celebration of the entire Christian Year. We enter what Augustine referred to as "the triduum during which the Lord died, was buried, and rose again."

TO ENHANCE WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN, children's bulletins and worship bags for all ages are in the Narthex (foyer at the back of the Sanctuary). These bags enrich the worship of God, show that we care for and prepare for children, and that their presence in worship matters. Please return the bags so they can be used next week. Children in grades 1 and 2 may leave the Sanctuary during the Hymn of Devotion. They will be met in the Narthex and taken to the Chapel to continue their worship with our Minister with Children and Youth.

THE RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP is River Road Church's opportunity to welcome guests to the worship service. During this time, everyone is requested to sign the register in the maroon binder as it is passed along the row. If you are our guest today, please do us the favor of including a phone number, e-mail or address so we may welcome you personally.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ellen Stanton by Bill, Elizabeth, and Barbara Stanton.

THE RECEPTION after worship today is held in the Fellowship Hall hosted by deacons Brian Ezzelle, Steve Gilliam, Jane Terry, and Carolyn Foster. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be no reception on Easter Sunday.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: We have had such a great response to our call for a new church directory that we have added additional photography dates, April 9-11. Sign up for your appointment online at www.rrcb.org/directory or contact the church office at 804-288-1131. This is your last chance to be included!

SOFTBALL SEASON begins in mid-April and runs through July, with games played on Tuesday evenings. If you have questions or are interested in joining the team, please contact Chris Wilkinson at wilky17@verizon.net.

COMING EVENTS:

Sunday, March 29	Easter Egg Hunt , 12:00 p.m., Courtyard Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal , 4:00 p.m., Bell Room Way of the Child , 5:00 p.m., Chapel Hall Youth Choir , 5:00 p.m., Choir Room Baptism Service , 6:00 p.m., Chapel Baptism Reception , 7:00 p.m., Chapel Hall
Monday, March 30	Joyful Hearts , 9:15 a.m., LC 102
Wednesday, April 1	Chancel Bell Choir , 6:30 p.m., Bell Room
Thursday, April 2	FIXERS , 8:00 a.m., Reception Room Job Support Group , 10:00 a.m., LC 102 Children's Choirs , 5:15 p.m., Choir Room Passover Seder with Dinner , 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall Maundy Thursday Service , 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Friday April 3	Labyrinth Walk , 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY, all children are invited to our annual Easter egg hunt. Children kindergarten and younger will gather in the courtyard. Children in grades 1-5 will gather on the steps outside of the Fellowship Hall. There will be an official start to the hunt, so please don't race out of worship to gather all the eggs. If you are a guest with us today and are not sure where to go, walk out the back of the sanctuary, through the narthex, and into the front plaza (the Fellowship Hall is to your left). If you are looking for the courtyard, there will be someone there to direct you to the right place. If you don't want to keep the plastic eggs, please return them to Michael Kellett before you leave so they can be re-used next year.

FaithLink: Connecting Christian Faith with Contemporary Issues ~ LC 104

There will be no FaithLink class on Easter Sunday

~ Dinner & Passover Seder on April 2 ~

Adults & Children: Grilled Chicken with Rice, Seasoned Green Beans,
Garden Salad, Unleavened Bread, and Dessert

Please make your reservation online, use the reservation card in the pew rack, call the church office, 804-288-1131, or e-mail susanyoung@rrcb.org.

Our Maundy Thursday Seder dinner is being catered by Balkan Restaurant, therefore we need an accurate count as soon as possible. You may use the card in the pew rack, e-mail susanyoung@rrcb.org, or call the church at 804-288-1131. Please make your reservation no later than 11:00 a.m. on Monday. Dinner reservations are required (for those with Standing Reservations also.)

We will not have Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs on April 1.