

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church

April 13, 2025, 10:30am

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday



Entry Into the City, John August Swanson

GATHERING TONES

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP PADS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Molly Bolton, enfleshed

The Ways of Love are mightier than death-dealing systems

Hosanna to the Living God!

God's presence is steadfast and stubborn like a donkey

Hosanna to the Living God!

God's spirit is refreshing like the breeze from palm branches

Hosanna to the Living God!

When our souls are weary, hope rides into town, turning empire upside-down

Hosanna to the Living God!

Holiness lives through those who have solidarity and compassion

Hosanna to the Living God!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

I invite you to join me in lighting candles of hope for the world.

May our prayers for peace shine through our lives and into the world.

All are invited to come forward and light candles representing prayers for peace.

VOLUNTARY

Herzlich Tut Mich Verlangen

by Delphin Strungk

THE STORY OF PALM SUNDAY

Luke 19:28–40

Disciples (Congregation): [Overlapping] Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name! Hosanna! Hosanna! Peace in heaven! Glory in the highest!

Faith Leader: Hey Jesus? We're getting a little close to the city gates.

Jesus: Yes. That's because I'm headed into the city. What's your point?

Pharisee: Aren't you worried about the noise? You could get in trouble for all these disciples shouting.

Jesus: No, I'm not really worried.

Faith Leader: Well you should be! Tell them to be quiet!

Jesus: Listen, even if my disciples were quiet, the whole earth would shout out with praise. There are some things you just can't keep quiet. There are some things that need to be said. And there are some things that are worth getting in trouble for. Now you can come with us or step aside, but I need to go to Jerusalem.

Disciples: [Overlapping, loudly] Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name! Hosanna! Hosanna! Peace in heaven! Glory in the highest!

Faith Leader: I guess we'll have to see what happens next. But I can tell you one thing: the emperor doesn't like a noisy crowd. If he's not careful, Jesus could get in some real trouble. Maybe Jesus is not someone we should be following after all . . .

*HYMN # 216

All Glory Laud and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

The palms will be distributed during the hymn

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M. Jade Kaiser, enflashed

Tender One, you hold all the world's grief close.

With every word that cuts, every policy that demeans, every act of violence or corruption, you draw near to the ones who ache.

You comfort the broken hearted and shore up beside the afflicted.

We know it's not enough only to weep, but your compassion reminds us we cannot mend the world without bearing witness to its sorrow.

Keep us from despair that overcomes,

**but never let us become strangers to the world's ache –
turning away from the pain of our neighbor,
or growing accustomed to violence that shouldn't be.**

Whatever evil may befall us, whatever destruction we may witness,
may we never grow cold to Love or be convinced of the inevitability of cruelty.

Jesus, ever-present to the pain around him,

did not escape into the safety of indifference – even in the shadow of the cross.

**His care for the suffering and his confidence in your liberating ways, made him kind,
softened him to even the hardest hearts, and kindled in him Your love for humanity.**

Love that appears foolish. **Love that resists evil. Love that makes way for the Kingdom.**

Make it so among us, O God, and lead us in the ways of compassion. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you! **May the peace of God be with us all!**

ANTHEM

Ride On King Jesus

arr. Stephen Key, Margo Chaney, Soloist

Ride on, King Jesus, no one can a-hinder me. Ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No one can a-hinder me,
In that great gettin' up morning, fare ye well, fare ye well.... Ride on, King Jesus.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Legacy Grant Challenge

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

*Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Please pass the offering plate down
the pew. When it gets to the end, turn around and give it to the person immediately behind you.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Clarinet Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 120 No. 2, Movement 2, Allegro Appassionato
By Johannes Brahms. Rebecca Pagels, Clarinet; Shirley Soo, piano

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below. O praise God! Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

O praise God! Alleluia! O praise God! Alleluia! Allelu—ia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Molly Bolton, enfleshed

**In his last days, Jesus shared a meal with his friends as he often did. Community and
breaking bread— ordinary, extraordinary holiness. We gather our gifts on behalf of
our community—that we may build relationships of care, meeting each other's
material needs. Amen.**

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

INTRODUCTION

(Thich Nhat Hanh, Edited: M. Dobson, M, Morwood,)

We come here today to remember a man. A man...
who had dreams,
who had those dreams shattered,
who needed time to think and pray,
who knew he was likely to die for what he believed...

A man of extraordinary religious insight.
A man who did die - a cruel death.

On this day we look at the cross, and we remember...
the betrayal of friendship and its consequences,
the casual cruelty of Roman authority and execution,
and how unreliable others proved to be in a crisis.

On this day may we also remember
that religious bigotry, cruelty and unreliability
are still a part of our everyday lives.

On this day, then, may we learn some new precepts for living...
do not avoid contact with suffering,
or close your eyes before suffering;
do not maintain anger or hatred;
do not say untruthful things for the sake of personal interest, or to impress
people;
do not live with a vocation that is harmful to humans and nature...

On this day we remember.

FIRST LESSON Preparation for Passover and the Last Supper Luke 22:1-23, 31-34

CONTEMPORARY READING Palm Sunday Malcolm Guite

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

HYMN #226 (seated)

O Sacred Head Now Wounded, verses 1 & 3

PASSION CHORALE

AN AFFIRMATION OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

An Indonesian Creed

I believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.**I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us and to free us from all forms of oppression.****I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned towards the truth.****I believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.****I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all humanity.****West: I do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor the force of arms, nor the power of oppression.****East: I believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people, in the power of non-violence.****West: I do not believe in racism, in the power that comes from wealth and privilege, or in any established order that enslaves.****East: I believe that all men and women are equally human, that order based on violence and injustice is not order.****West: I do not believe that war and hunger are inevitable and peace unattainable.****East: I believe in beauty of simplicity, in love with open hands, in peace on earth.****All: I do not believe that suffering needs to be in vain, that death is the end, that the disfigurement of the world is what God intended. But I dare to believe always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish.**

* HYMN

Calvary (v. 1–3)

African-American spiritual

against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Then they all shouted out together,

Away with this man! Release Barabbas for us!

Barabbas was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder. Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

Crucify, crucify him!

Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.

So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Silence

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say,

‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’

Jesus: Then they will begin to say to the mountains,

‘Fall on us’;

and to the hills,

‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

HYMN #223

What Wondrous Love is This, verses 1 & 3

WONDROUS LOVE

FIFTH LESSON

Jesus Is Crucified and Laid in a Tomb

Luke 23:32–56

Silent Reflection

* PRAYER

from the Yom Kippur morning service in The Union Prayerbook

God of pity and love, return to this earth. Go not so far away, leaving us to evil. Return, oh Lord, return. Come with the day. Come with the light, that we may see once more across this earth's uncomfortable floor the kindly path, the old and living way. Let us not die of evil in the night. Let there be God again. Let there be light.

* HYMN #224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, vv 1 & 4

HAMBURG

*CLOSING WORDS

Let us commend ourselves into the care of each other and to God.

The people stand as they are able

In God, Source of Life

**our deaths are not the final word,
our moments of crisis are part of eternal possibility,
and our weakness is taken up into the courage of God.**

As followers of Jesus of the Way,

**our humanness is touched with divine life,
our tears are mingled with longing love,
and our solidarity with those who suffer is joined by divine presence.**

In the Spirit of Creativity,

**there are no boundaries on the dream, there is no end to hope,
and we will never live beyond the cherishing of God.**

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING OVER THE MEAL

* POSTLUDE

Choral Vexilla Regis

by André Fleury

Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgists, Members and friends of McKinley
Director of Children's Education, Sara McHenry
Organist, Andrew Woodruff
Guest Musicians, Rebecca Pagels and Shirley Soo

Pastor, Rev. Heidi Weatherford
Director of Music, Dr. Alonza Lawrence
Worship Techs, Josh Harris and Lara Hebert

How to Contact Church Staff

All church staff may be contacted through the McKinley website at www.mckinleycu.org.

How to Give

Online contributions and pledges are accepted at tithely.com/give?c=2133263
or by mailing your donations to: McKinley Presbyterian Church, 410 E. Daniel St.,
Champaign, IL 61820



It's time for Easter flowers! Help us beautify the sanctuary for Easter by ordering flowers. Flowers will be \$10 each. We will be accepting orders for flowers through Sunday, April 13th. Fill out an order sheet at church during the next three Sundays to order your flowers. Flowers can be picked up on Easter Sunday or you can choose to donate them to be shared with others. If you would like to order flowers but will not be at church please contact Sara McHenry, sara@mckinleycu.org to place your order.

Funding Opportunity: McKinley Foundation Community Grants: Applications due the 15th

The McKinley Foundation is offering 12 grants of up to \$1,000 to support organizations and individuals working in social and racial justice, diversity, and sustainability. If your work aligns with causes such as racial justice, healthcare, education, environmental activism, food and housing insecurity, gender equality, or LGBTQ+ activism, this is a great opportunity to secure funding for your project.

Deadline: Applications are reviewed monthly—apply by the 15th to be considered in the following month's review.

Eligibility: Applicants must be based in Champaign County and demonstrate a commitment to advancing social justice.

Presentation Requirement: Grant recipients will share their project's impact at the McKinley Foundation's social justice celebration.

For full details and to apply, visit Community Grants - McKinley CU <<https://mckinleycu.org/community-grants/>> or contact the Grants and Scholarships Committee at grants@mckinleycu.org.

Don't miss this chance to gain support for your work in creating positive change in our community!

Come celebrate Gwen McLean's Eagle Scout Award. You are invited to join the McLean family to celebrate Gwen as she receives her Eagle Scout Award. Gwen McLean has been an active part of McKinley's children and youth programming since her family started attending McKinley. Her Eagle Scout project was a pollinator garden for the McKinley grounds. Gwen's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will take place on April 13th at 4pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, 602 W. Green St. Urbana, IL 61801. After the ceremony you are invited to stay for light refreshments.

Coming this Week:

Sun April 13	11:45 pm	Palm Sunday Brunch
Mon April 14	11:30 am	Staff Meeting
Tues April 15	5:00-7:00pm	Artists' Alley Exhibit Opening
Wed April 16	7:00 pm	Choir
Thurs April 17	6:00 pm	Joint Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Worship Service
Sat April 19	1-2:30 pm	Student Food and Fellowship
Sun April 20	6:30 am	Easter Sunrise Vigil
	10:30 am	Easter Liberations Celebration

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday Brunch Join us today after worship for the Annual McKinley Palm Sunday Brunch in the Presby Dining Hall. The Dining Hall is in the McKinley Foundation Building across from the church and can be reached by using the steps or the elevator. Bring your friends and family to celebrate the beginning of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Worship Service. Come to a joint community and worship gathering of McKinley Presbyterian and 1st Presbyterian Church in Urbana this Thursday, March 17, 6pm, at 1st Pres Urbana, 602 Green St.

Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am. We will gather outside the church in the labyrinth area on 5th St for a simple service of scripture and song.

Easter Worship, 10:30am. Join us for a celebration of God's power.



Artists' Alley Exhibit Opening on Wednesday, April 16. Artists' Alley invites you to help celebrate Earth Month by viewing our latest exhibit "ELEMENTS: Exploring Climate Change Through Fire, Earth, Air, and Water." The opening reception is April 16, 5 to 7 PM, and the show will remain up through June 9.

This juried show is an exhibition of photographs that were received as part of a community-wide competition. Viewers are invited to select a People's Choice Award from all entries. The winner of this award will receive a \$250 cash prize. Voting will take place during the exhibit opening reception on April 16 where the winner will be announced. Participating artists include Martin Bargon, Jenni Crum, Paula Hancock, Maya Mishra, Tricia Scott, Ian Wang, and Laura Yuyao Zhang.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF COUNTRY / FIRST
PEOPLES**
*(An act towards
reconciliation)*

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives.

We recognize and acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations, past, present, emerging.

We are grateful for their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

McKinley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith

Offering genuine welcome,

Working for reconciliation, and

Daring to speak words of abundant hope to a world in pain.

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church
Mailing address: 410 E. Daniel St, Champaign, IL 61820

217.344.0297

WWW.MCKINLEYCU.ORG

Physical address: 801 S. 5th Street, Champaign