

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship April 13, 2025
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm/Passion Sunday

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Diane Weible, Sabbatical Interim Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: Day of Triumph Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ring of the Bell

Welcome Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

* **Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29) Christian Albano

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, whose steadfast love endures forever!

People: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Open to me the gates of the LORD, that I may enter through them and give thanks.

People: This is the gate of the LORD, through which the righteous shall make their way.

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

* **Hymn #216:** All Glory, Laud, and Honor (v. 1-3)

* **Invocation** (based on Isaiah 50:4-9) Christian Albano

Christ came, O God, and taught us your ways. He sustained the weary with a word. He woke the hearts and minds of his followers so that they might learn. Help us, O God, to be such disciples. May we find our way to righteousness; may we set our hearts on faithfulness. We would not be strangers to your goodness, but make our way forward in peace. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Crown Him with Many Crowns Kayleen Yuda, piano
Michael Springer, organ

Time with the Children Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Parade of the Palms #213: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (v. 1-3)

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 Christian Albano

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

Psalm 18:1-2, 19-29

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

He brought me out into a broad place;
he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he recompensed me.

For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
and have not wickedly departed from my God.

For all his ordinances were before me,

and his statutes I did not put away from me.
I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from guilt.
Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness,
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.
With the loyal you show yourself loyal;
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;
with the pure you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you show yourself perverse.
For you deliver a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.
It is you who light my lamp;
the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness.
By you I can crush a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

Sermon: A Donkey for Everyone Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Please join in the 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 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 and ever.
Amen

*** Hymn #219:** Journey to Gethsemane (v. 1-4)

Call to Offering Christian Albano

They gave what they could, that first Palm Sunday. They put down their clothing on the road. They pulled branches from the trees. And someone gave the use of a colt for a few hours. Because of these gifts, Jesus entered the city surrounded by joy. Let us surround the world in joy. Whether you share your gift here in the church today, through a gift online, or via an envelope in the mail, let the offering now be received.

Offertory: The Palms Kayleen Yuda

*** Doxology**

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

***Offertory Prayer** Christian Albano

Receive these gifts, O God, and may they be seeds for new trees, stones that make a new highway, hearts that beat stronger for your justice, love, and mercy. Amen.

*** Hymn #215: Ride On! Ride On in Majesty** (v. 1-4)

Please be seated

Announcements Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Benediction Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Postlude: All Glory, Laud and Honor Kayleen Yuda, piano
Michael Springer, organ

*** Please stand if you are able.**

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Ride On! Ride On in Majesty
Henry H. Milman, 1827
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Important Dates

Today—April 13, 2025 – Council Meeting after worship services

Holy Week Schedule:

Tuesday, April 15, Bible Study online and in person (Pastor's Study), 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 16, Lenten Conversation, 5-6:30 p.m., Meeting Room
Thursday, April 17, Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service, 7 p.m., Sanctuary
Friday, April 18, Good Friday, Sanctuary open for prayer, noon to 3 p.m.
(Prayer on the hour)
Saturday, April 19, Easter Egg Dyeing, 8:30 a.m., J's Café
Sunday, April 20, Easter Egg Hunt, 8:30 a.m., Lounge
Sunday, April 20, Easter Sunday worship, 10 a.m. Sanctuary

Lenten Conversations, Wednesday, Meeting Room, 5-6:30 p.m.

Mondays, 11:30 a.m. –Pickleball lessons; contact Connie 808-936-7534 or
Ruth at rnduponte07@gmail.com to sign up.

Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study in person and via Zoom in the Pastor's Study:

- Acts 10:34-43
- John 20: 1-18

Wednesdays, 12 noon –Pickleball lessons; contact Connie 808-936-7534 or Ruth at rnduponte07@gmail.com to sign up.

Lenten Conversation Series

We invite you to a Lenten Conversation Series, Wednesdays from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Each week you will find a prompt such as an article or video along with some reflection questions. When we gather we will use the prompt and questions as the starting part for a rich conversation with the goal of offering insight into our personal and communal lives together. Below is the prompt and questions for April 16. I look forward to seeing you!

April 16, 2025

Read:

Matthew 28:1-6

Prompt:

By Kathy Escobar

From Lenten Sermon Series Guide for *Turning Over Tables*

When we think of the realities of power in our world, the inequities, discrimination, and oppression that is so contrary to the society we long for, it's sometimes hard to share a joyful "hallelujah!" even on Easter. In our present reality of wars where tens of thousands of children are killed, of brutal political divides, rising anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, mass shootings, the lack of affordable housing, our climate tipping into chaos, a culture of loneliness and division, and people at the top of the power structures making billions of dollars a day, keeping hope and seeing possibility require help beyond ourselves. Easter reminds us that there's room for all of it—the doubt, the joy, the fear, the peace, the reality, the possibility.

Easter is not a day to remember what Jesus did and then go on with our lives. Easter is about Jesus' embodiment in our world, not just for a few decades and then again in his resurrected form, but forever through us! Embodying the resurrected Christ is active and ongoing, not an event but a way of living. We have been transformed and we are ever-transforming! We're waking up to the truth about power. We're healing from abuse of power. We're breathing new life and possibilities into the systems and groups we're part of. We're recovering the ways of Jesus that have been buried underneath oppressive systems built on his name. We're making broken things more whole. We're accepting our responsibility to create more equitable systems that liberate, heal, and empower.

We're renewing our commitment to embody something different in this broken, divided, and unjust world. And we're doing it together.

Questions:

- How is it with your soul right now?
- What does it mean to talk about Jesus' embodiment in the world, especially given all the pain and trauma people are experiencing?
- How can we embody the active resurrected Christ? What does that look like in the way we live in this world?
- What is your renewing commitment to embody something difference in an unjust world?

Pastor	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Interim Sabbatical Pastor	Rev. Dr. Diane Weible
Moderator	Stefan Tanouye
Vice Moderator	Lorraine Davis
Lay Reader	Christian Albano
Organist/Pianist	Kayleen Yuda
Guest Organist	Michael Springer
Hand Bell Director	Anna Kennedy
Chapel Decorations	Michi Koizumi
Hymn Leader	Chandra Oshima
Sunday School Teacher	Gloria Kobayashi
Sunday School Aide	Johanna Narruhn
Projected Imagery	Sue Smith
Web Master	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
Videographers	Eric Tanouye, Eli Yamaki, Mace Peng Ruth Niino-DuPonte, Bob Smith

We welcome you to worship this day. Church of the Holy Cross seeks to help its members, friends, and visitors follow the guidance of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, encouraging all people to love one another according to the teachings of Jesus. We live and teach the faith, speak good news, minister to people near and far, and work with other households of faith and helping agencies to improve our community and our world. To learn more visit our website at holycrosshilo.com.



If you wish to donate to the church electronically, please scan this QR code.

Other Faith Groups that meet at Church of the Holy Cross

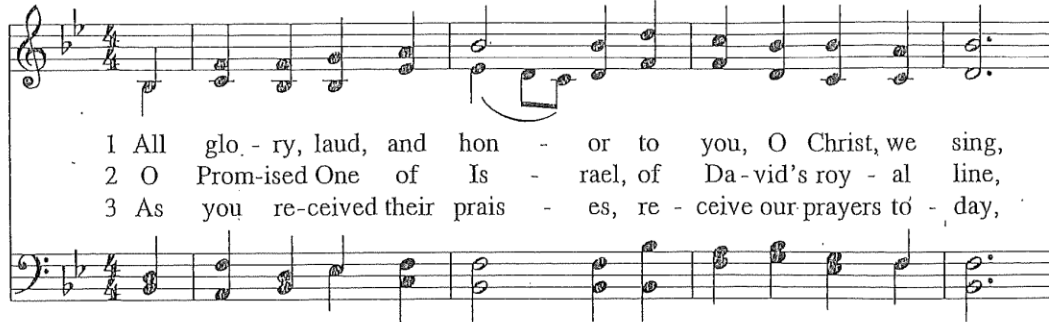
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei** – Sanctuary, 12 noon
Rev. Bensis Henry
- **Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa** – Sanctuary, 2:00 p.m.
Rev. Sitau Ofoia, Jr.
- **The Bedesta Church** – Sanctuary, 4 p.m.
Rev. Edmes Edwin

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

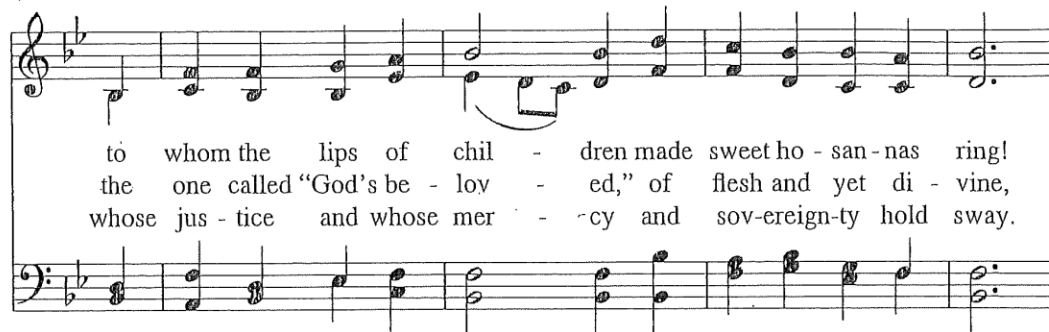
216

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

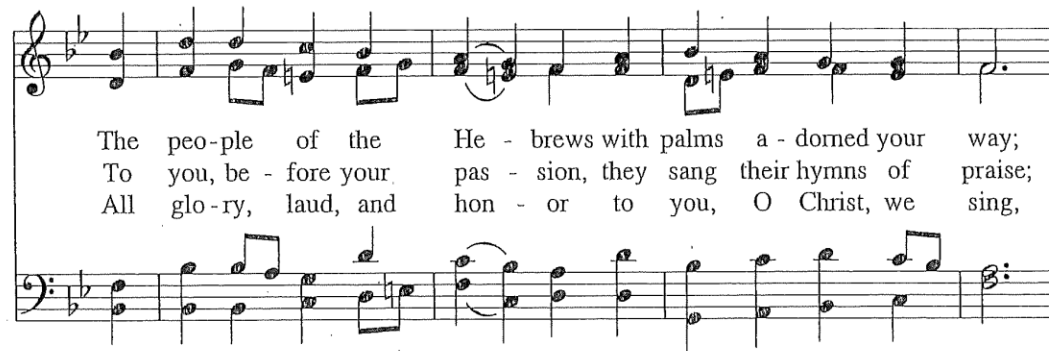
Matt. 21:8-9



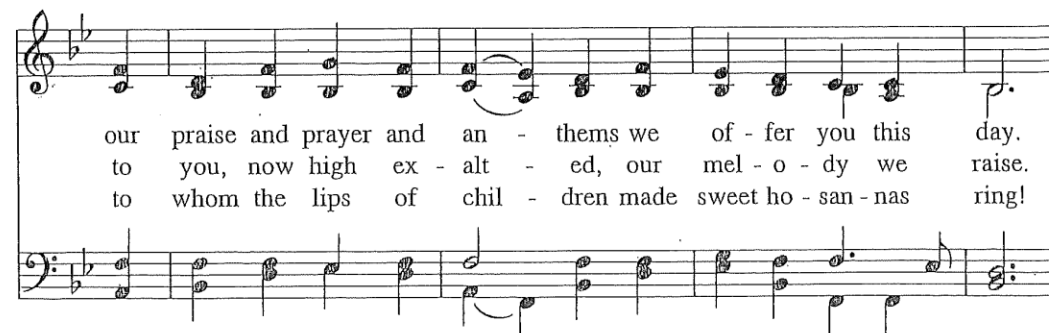
1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da-vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re-ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.



The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo-ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,



our praise and prayer and an - them's we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became bishop of Orléans but was later imprisoned by Charlemagne's successor. According to legend, he was released when the king, Louis the Pious, heard him sing this hymn from prison.

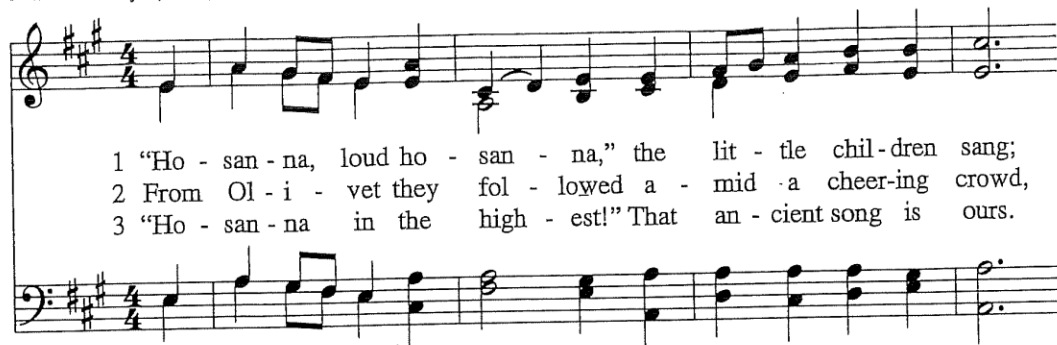
Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615
 For another setting, see 217

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

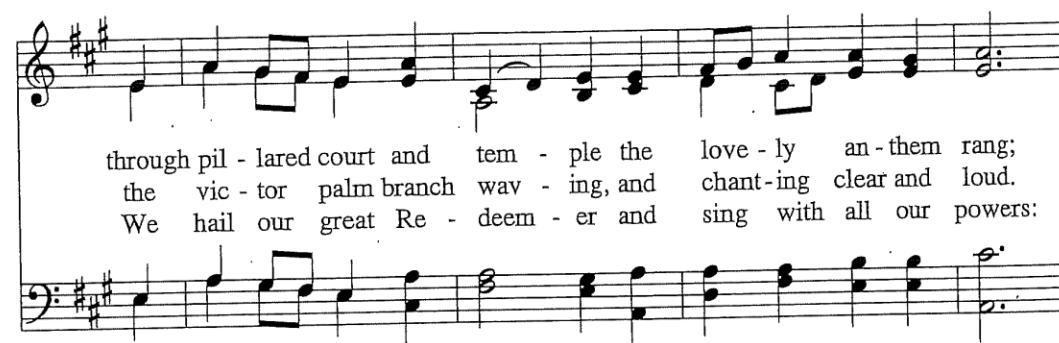
213

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

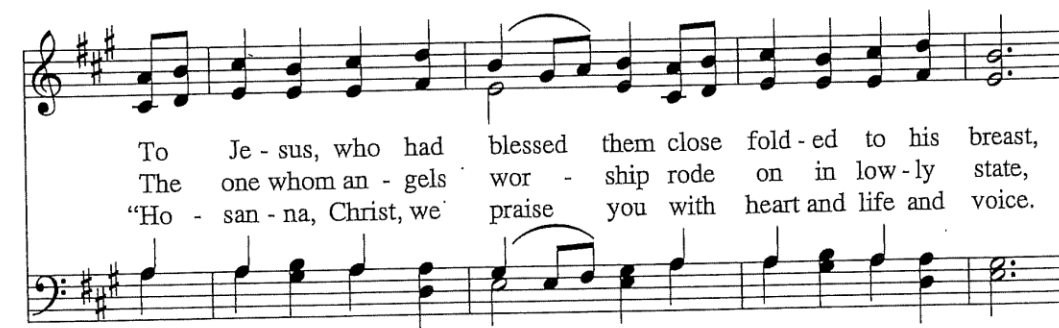
Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15



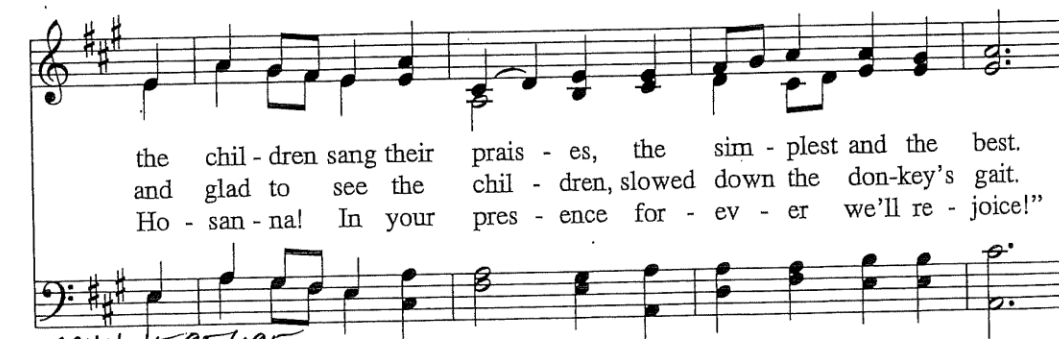
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

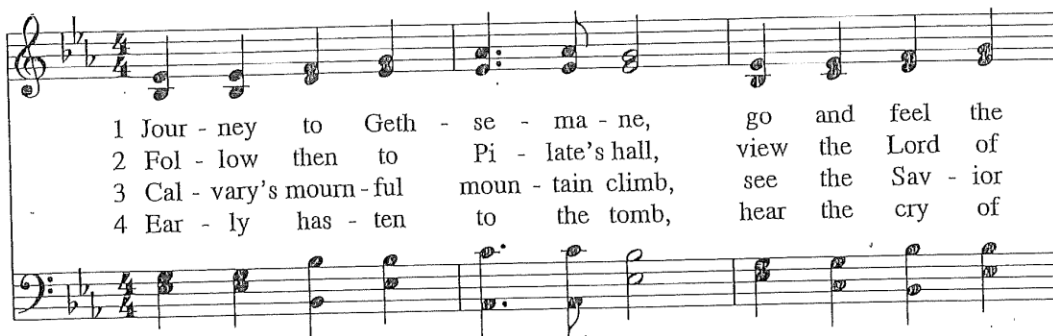
COLL 1595645
 Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents,
 wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was
 published in her collection *Sunshine and Shadow*.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

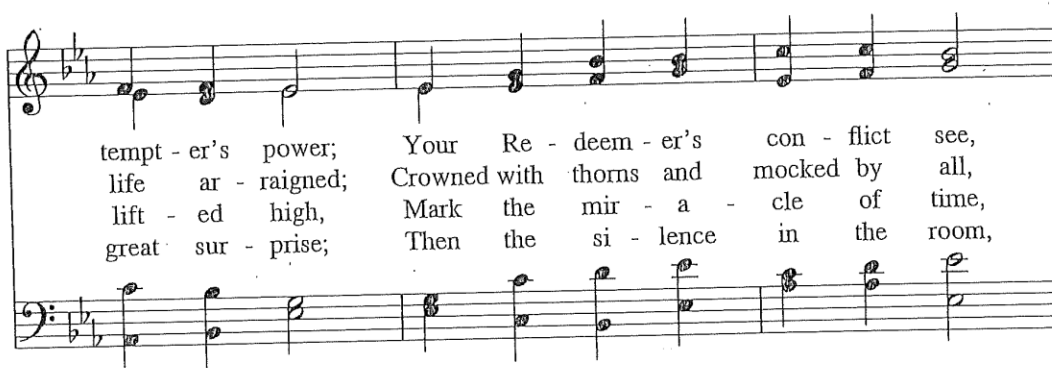
Journey to Gethsemane

John 18:1-20:18

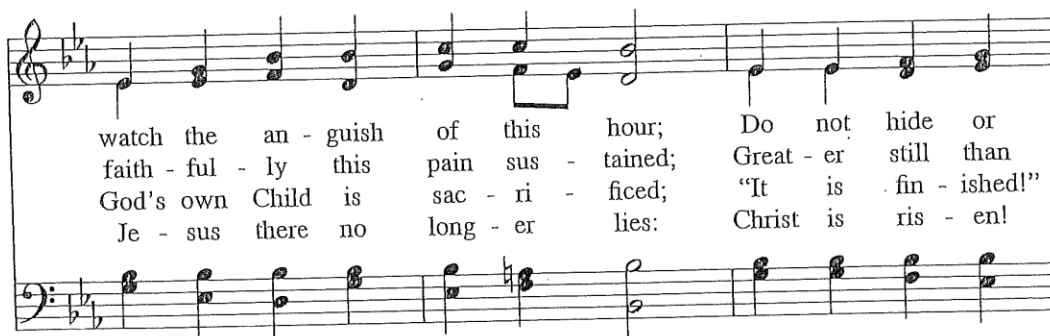
James Montgomery, 1820; alt.



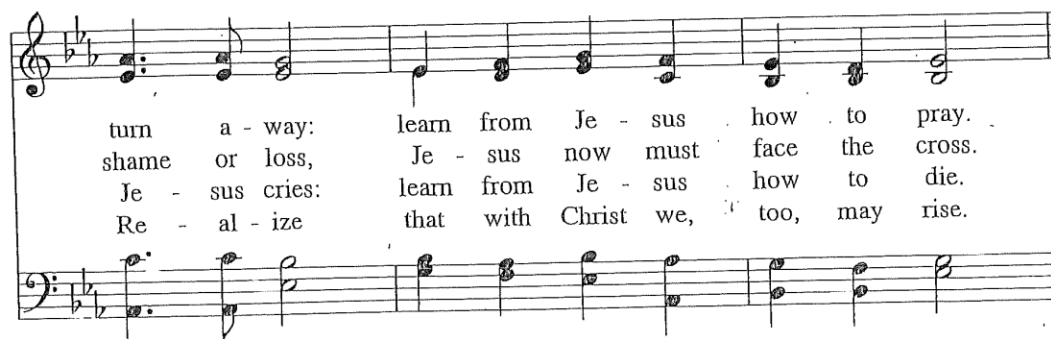
1 Jour - ney to Geth - se - ma - ne, go and feel the
 2 Fol - low then to Pi - late's hall, view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb, see the Sav - ior
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb, hear the cry of



tempt - er's power; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - raigned; Crowned with thorns and mocked by all,
 lift - ed high, Mark the mir - a - cle of time,
 great sur - prise; Then the si - lence in the room,



watch the an - guish of this hour; Do not hide or
 faith - ful - ly this pain sus - tained; Great - er still than
 God's own Child is sac - ri - ficed; "It is fin - ished!"
 Je - sus there no long - er lies: Christ is ris - en!



turn a - way: learn from Je - sus how to pray.
 shame or loss, Je - sus now must face the cross.
 Je - sus cries: learn from Je - sus how to die.
 Re - al - ize that with Christ we, too, may rise.

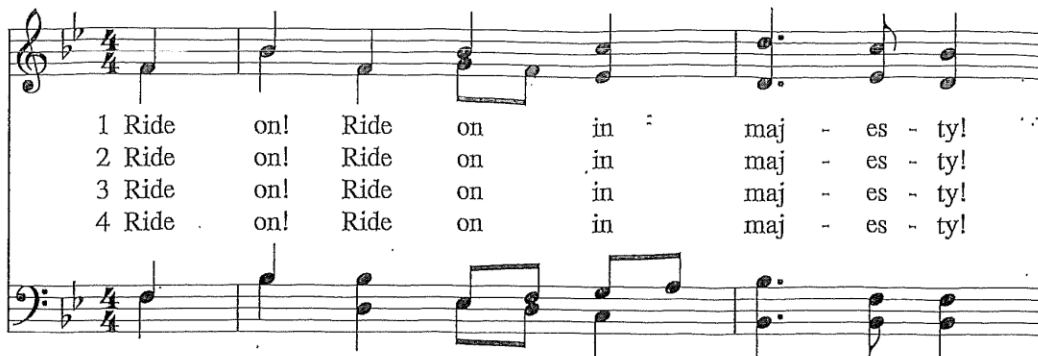
James Montgomery, born of Moravian missionary parents, edited a newspaper in England. Risking imprisonment, he published articles advocating human rights, including the abolition of slavery. He wrote more than 400 hymns.

Tune: REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.
 Richard Redhead, 1853

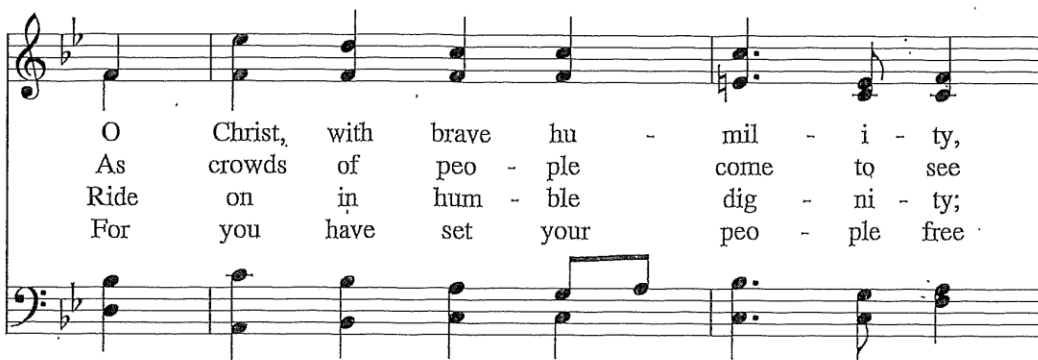
Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

Luke 19:36-38; Zech. 9:9

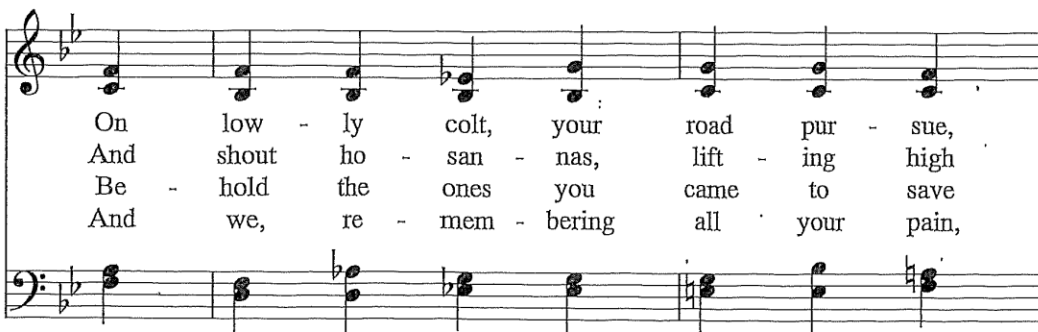
Henry H. Milman, 1827; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1993



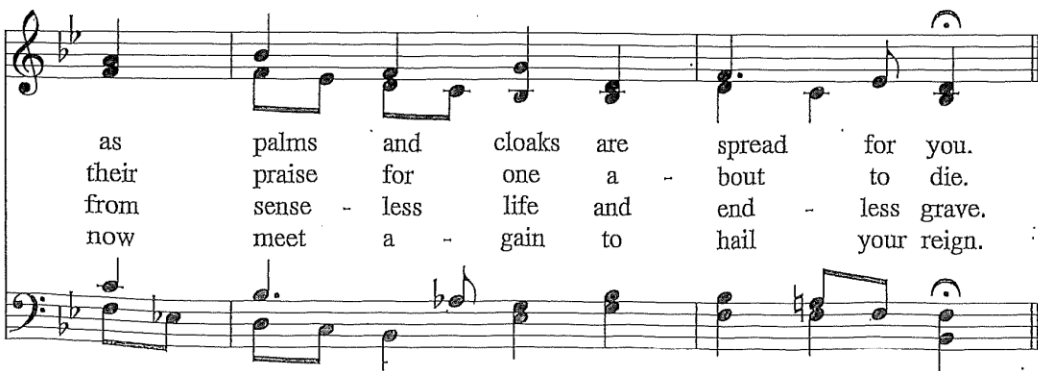
1 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 2 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 3 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 4 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!



O Christ, with brave hu - mil - i - ty,
 As crowds of peo - ple come to see
 Ride on in hum - ble dig - ni - ty;
 For you have set your peo - ple free



On low - ly colt, your road pur - sue,
 And shout ho - san - nas, lift - ing high
 Be - hold the ones you came to save
 And we, re - mem - bering all your pain,



as palms and cloaks are spread for you.
 their praise for one a - bout to die.
 from sense - less life and end - less grave.
 now meet a - gain to hail your reign.

Henry H. Milman, a priest of the Church of England, served successively as professor of poetry at Oxford, canon of Westminster, and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. He was also a successful playwright and historian.

Tune: ST. DROSTANE L.M.
 John B. Dykes, 1862
 Alternate tune: WINCHESTER NEW

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY
(SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT)

April 13, 2025

Luke 24:36b-48

Into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, where the passion of our Lord will play out before us, ending in his death on the Good Friday cross. But for now, we gather with that ancient crowd, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (which means "save us!").

On this day, we praise Christ our King who gave new meaning to that title "king." For Jesus wasn't like King Saul who towered in physical strength nor was he like King Solomon who was surrounded by wealth and great wisdom. Jesus was a king who chose the way of servanthood and who rode a humble animal rather than a warhorse. And yet the streets still overflowed with people wanting to welcome this man who had stirred the countryside with his radical message of God's all-encompassing love.

Before riding into Jerusalem, Jesus asked his disciples to get a donkey and a colt. The disciples questioned Jesus if the animals' owner would give them freely. Jesus replied, "Just say the Lord needs them." Sure enough, the disciples didn't run into any hesitation and were able to secure the animals for their friend.

We rarely linger on this detail in the story of Jesus' passion, preferring to focus on the palm-waving fanfare. But let's leave that cheering crowd for a moment and linger, asking ourselves what it is that the Lord needs of us.

Perhaps not a donkey, but a trusting heart? Perhaps not a colt, but our time to help others no matter how stretched our time seems to be?

Can we give drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry and clothing to the naked? Can we give Jesus our commitment to stay by his side when others fall by the wayside? Can we wait in patient faith for resurrection promises amid our dark nights of the soul?

My friends, the truth is that the Lord needs much more than a humble animal to ride on. He needs our hearts.

Come, let us rejoin that Palm Sunday crowd knowing that all too soon those hosannas will fade. Hold on to your palm branch tightly, though. Hold on and listen for all the Jesus is asking of you.

Redeeming God, we are quick to sing Your praises when things go our way, but when life's cheers turn to jeers, we quickly doubt and run from the grace of Your Son Jesus. Help us to be present now and always to our Savior, giving whatever it is He asks of us this day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

