

**Breath Prayer**

*INHALE:* Grant me clarity, *EXHALE:* when to resist or accept

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**everything  
[in] between  
acceptance & resistance**

April 13, 2025

Palm/Passion Sunday

9:45 AM *Gathering for Procession with Palms*

10:00 AM *Worship*

**WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

*We will gather outside the church building and give everyone a chance to receive palms for the procession into the sanctuary. In case of inclement weather, we will gather in Fellowship Hall.*

**\* Ringing of the Bell**

**\* Words of Welcome**

**\* The Story of the Triumphal Entry:**     **Luke 19:29-40** (CEB)

**\* Processional Song**                      **Jesus is Coming!**                      **by Dave Bresla**

*We will sing as we process into the church. Worshippers are invited to process up to the communion table and place their palm branches around the base of the table, then find your seats.*

**Jesus is coming; pave the way with branches. Jesus is coming. Hosanna!**

**Jesus is coming; pave the way with branches. Jesus is coming. Hosanna!**

***Chorus: Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace.***

***Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace***

Freedom for captives, pave the way with branches...

**Additional verses, as needed: Home for the lonely..., Love for the loveless..., Healing in sickness..., Strength for the weary..., Bread for the hungry...**

### Prayer of Confession

One: Friends, we are truth tellers in the prayer of confession. We are honest about the fact that we are works in progress. We tell the truth of our lives. We lay it all out before God. But this moment of prayer isn't just about us. In the prayer of confession we also reveal who God is, and our God is merciful. Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. So let us pray, knowing that God's truth will always mean grace for us.

One: Great Creator, forgive me

**All: when I speak before listening, when I speak over my neighbor,  
when I speak with barbed words.**

One: Creator God, forgive me

**All: when I listen to society, when I listen to my friends, when I listen to the news,  
but I do not listen to you.**

One: Creator God, forgive me

**All: when I shout out, but do not shout your name, when I listen,  
but do not listen for your voice. Forgive me.**

One: Create in me a heart like yours.

**All: Amen.**

### Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals this year, whether or not this is your first time in church or your thousandth time, whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice, God listens to you. God is merciful. God is abounding in steadfast love. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven. Not a day goes by  
that we ever walk alone. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

Sing Glory GtG 582      *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

### The Peace of Christ

One: Christ's work of reconciliation offers us forgiveness for our sins and the possibility of genuine fellowship and reconciliation in community. As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us share the peace of Christ with each other, and commit to living

as peacemakers in this world. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*Those in the sanctuary are invited to greet those around you.*

*Those on zoom are invited to offer greetings in the chat.*

## **Offering our Gifts to God**

*For those who would like to make a physical offering, the offering plates are available in the middle of the sanctuary.*

*Donations can also be made online. [www.cliftonpc.org](http://www.cliftonpc.org)*

Consider what you carry in your hands today. Do you carry the reign of a donkey, a cloak to share, a branch to wave? What do you bring to welcome the Lord today? Let us offer what we can.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**We are truly grateful for the self-giving love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Receive these gifts as a symbol of the dedication of our very selves to you, O God. Use our gifts and use us as a part of the inbreaking of your kingdom, which comes and is still coming into our world today. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Open My Heart** *by Ana Hernández* (Sung three times)

**Open my heart, open my heart.**

**Open my heart, open my heart.**

### **First Reading Luke 23:13-25 (CEB)**

<sup>13</sup> Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. <sup>14</sup> He said to them, "You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man's conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He's done nothing that deserves death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I'll have him whipped, then let him go."

<sup>18</sup> But with one voice they shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us." (<sup>19</sup> Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.)

<sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus.

<sup>21</sup> They kept shouting out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

<sup>22</sup> For the third time, Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I've found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go."

<sup>23</sup> But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out.

<sup>24</sup> Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. **25** He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

God be in our listening, God be in our understanding.

**Amen.**

## Anthem

### Second Reading Luke 23:32-49 (CEB)

<sup>32</sup> Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." <sup>48</sup> And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon    **Everything in Between: Finding God in the Midst of Extremes**  
*Acceptance & Resistance*    *Diane Walton Hendricks*

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND ARE SENT TO THE WORLD**

Hymn PH 101

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *v 1, 4*  
**When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

## Prayers of the People and 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. Amen.**

## Minute for Ministry

## Ringing of the Bell

## Charge and Benediction

**Benediction Response PH 535      Go With Us, Lord**  
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way**  
**through this and every coming day,**  
**that in your Spirit strong and true**  
**our lives may be our gift to you.**

*Thank you for joining us for worship this morning.*  
*We can be reached at [office@cliftonpc.org](mailto:office@cliftonpc.org)*

Prayers and Liturgy adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctified art.org  
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.

## Thanks to those leading us in worship

**Hosts: Joanne Woodward and Rene Law**  
**Deacon Prayer Recorder: Barbara Brown**  
**Liturgist: Sharon Corish**  
**Technical Team: Jim Wrightson**  
**Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis**

## CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor  
John Kim, Music Director  
Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist  
Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator  
Kate Trussel, Preschool Director  
Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita

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