

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

First Presbyterian Church
Yuma, Colorado

We are glad you are here!!
If you need a hearing assisted device,
please ask for one in the sound booth.

When you see * before something in the service,
please rise in body or spirit.



Passion/Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

Greeting and Scripture

Welcoming the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship & Prayer

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

One: Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

All: Hosanna! Blessed is our King who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

All: Blessed is Jesus, our Savior and our friend! Glory to the Creator and the Spirit, ever three and ever one!

Holy God, as we face the cross on which Christ gave himself, we confront your willingness to die for us so that we might find new life. As the Spirit speaks to us through the story of your amazing love, our hearts are moved to praise you. Words can't express our awe, the grief and the gratitude stirring within us, for all you have given us, and for all you will give us through such unspeakable love. Amen.

***“In Christ Alone”** (**see note below)

Insert

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Merciful God, we confess it is easier for us to follow the crowd than follow Christ; we prefer to avoid conflict rather than stand up for your mercy and understanding. We allow strident voices in our times to drown out your wisdom and truth. Forgive us, O God. Fill us with the courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus, even when the cost to follow is high and reputations are at stake, for we pray in Jesus' holy name...

**A favorite hymn/song from the Congregational Survey

“Observing Passion Sunday rather than Palm Sunday this year may allow worshippers to look for God in their own places of grief and despair.” — *Ginna Bairby, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Taos, New Mexico.*

The Last Sunday in Lent marks Palm/Passion Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Worship leaders must choose between the Liturgy of the Palms, the Liturgy of the Passion, or a combination of the two. In a reflection on Passion Sunday, Rev. Ginna Bairby shares that she is not ready for Easter's hallelujahs; *this* Sunday's cries of *Hosanna* — “Save us!”—feel more honest and appropriate to her.

As we reflect on Jesus' suffering, remember, “No matter the dark valley we walk, God has already been there. When we walk into the hopeless spaces of our lives, we will find Jesus there waiting for us, ready to accompany us through.”* That is the hope we have in Christ.

*Rev. Ginna Bairby

Words of Forgiveness and Peace

One: It doesn't matter how big or how small our sins; God's forgiving love in Jesus Christ can cover them all. Trust that, in Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

One: Be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other. Please stand as you are able and share this with those around you by saying: "The peace of Christ be with you."

All: And also with you.

Ministry of Music

"Embrace the Cross"

Dave Hoch

Prayer for Illumination *(in unison)*

Gracious God, shine your light through the darkness of this world into every corner of our hearts. As we read the many words of Scripture, may we recognize the presence of your one true Word, Jesus Christ, who bears your love into the world. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

***"Open Our Eyes"**

#491

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.

***"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"**

#489

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

MESSAGE

"JESUS, REMEMBER ME "

PASTOR MIKE

LUKE 23:42

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

#261

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.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

* **Giving to God and Others** (*Offerings may be placed in the plates by each exit.*)

One: Jesus tells us it is more blessed to give than to receive.

All: May we who have received so much from the Lord give back as we receive ...

*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.*

Doxology #34

Prayers of the People and 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 sins as we forgive
those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the Light of Christ

*Charge & Blessing

*Sending Song

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

#344 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus—no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me—no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?—no turning back, no turning back.

*** Fellowship and Greeting** — *Join us for conversation and delicious treats down in Fellowship Hall.*

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Glory to God Alone!

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael Fitzsimmons

Worship Leader: Saralynn Vetter

Greeter: Becky, Maurine, and Andrew Smith

Candle Lighter: Randy Wenger

Organist / Pianist: Leslie Woody, LuAnne Hoch

Media Support: Bill and Colette McCracken

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Thank you!