CHRIST THEKING

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. -1 John 4:16a

Palm Sunday April 2, 2023 10:30 am Morning Worship

Prelude

He died as three times excluded: by the Jewish law of its tribal nation; by the Roman universal law of empire; by the democratic will of the mob. In the whole summed-up history of human polity — the tribe, the universal absolute state, the democratic consensus — God found no place.

— John Milbank, Christ the Exception

Prayer (Collect) of Preparation:

Deliver us when we draw near to You, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind: Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Amen

Preparation

We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

Call to Worship

God calls his people to assemble for worship; accordingly the church calls itself together.

Call to Worship

Nathan Carter

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

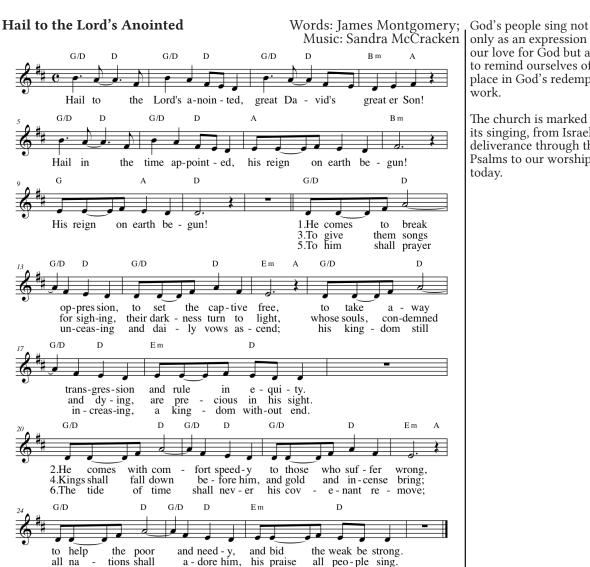
Congregation: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,

Leader: Humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Congregation: Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me.

All: And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. — Zechariah 9:9, Malachi 3:1

Invocation



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only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive work.

The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.

Confession of Sin

In God's presence, the evil that mars our lives – corporate and individual – comes to light. Through Jesus Christ, we are safe to be honest about ourselves because we fear no condemnation.

Assurance of Grace

God declares through his Church that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.

Confession of Sin

All: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen. — from the Book of Common Prayer

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Now hear this promise of grace and forgiveness from the word of God, from Hebrews 9, verses 24 through 26:

Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly... but as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Leader: To those who repent of their sin and look to Jesus Christ for salvation, the forgiveness of sins is fully yours, by the grace of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

Congregation: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

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

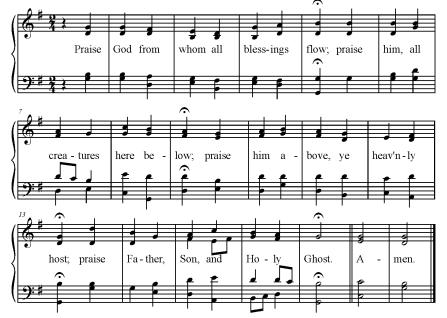


Offertory

We give back to God our wealth and talents in recognition that they all come from him. These gifts help support the mission and ministries of the church.

Offertory

Doxology Words: Thomas Ken; Music: Louis Borgeouis's *Genevan Psalter*



Receiving of New Members

Philip De Groot, Eric Fung, Kelly Fung, Kelsey Kindernecht, James McAllister

Dismissal of Children and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

Life Together

Passing of the Peace We remind each other of the peace given us in the gospel – peace first between us and God, leading to reconciled relationships

Life Together

with each other.

We share important announcements and prayer requests for our church community.

Scripture Reading

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Luke 15:1-3, 11-32, p874 in pew Bible

Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Travis Drake

Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat

Words: John Newton; Music: Kevin Twit













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Scripture Reading

The public reading of God's Word is integral whenever God's people gather to worship. The first step to faith is listening to his Word.

Sermon

God has ordained the preaching of his Word to illuminate and apply the good news of Jesus Christ to our hearts that would remain dull and hard apart from the operation of his Holy Spirit

Lord's Supper

God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form – uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ.

Servers come forward as liturgy begins.

We ask that those in the balcony come forward first, followed by those on the main floor, starting in the back row.

Grape juice is available in the center of each wine tray and gluten-free wafers are in the center of each bread tray for those who desire such. Please hold the elements until all can partake together.

At the end of the service, please dispose of your cup as you exit the sanctuary.

Lord's Supper

Invitation

Words of Institution

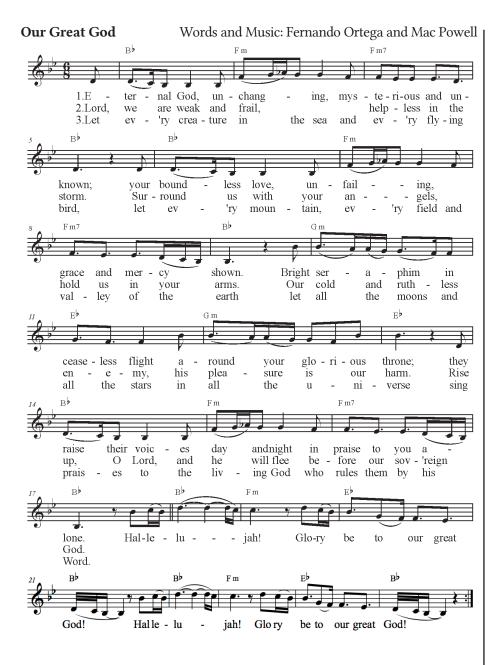
Distributing of Elements

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer for Those Desiring to Trust in Jesus Christ for the First Time Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.

Partaking of the Elements



Benediction

Benediction

We depart with this 'good word' of God's calling upon our lives in the world.

WELCOME

Welcome visitors! We're glad you could join us. Please fill out a digital visitor card at ctkcambridge. org/visit so we can get to know you better. Find out more by contacting office@ctkcambridge.org.

SUNDAYS

ADULT EDUCATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sunday school classes for Kindergarten through Grade 8 are currently offered Sunday mornings from 9:15a-10:15a. The current Adult Education class is described below:

For the last 3 Sundays before Good Friday, the Adult Ed class will be looking at the Seven Last Words of the Jesus from the Cross; looked at theologically, biblically, and devotionally, to prepare for the backward look of the crucifixion of Christ, Good Friday, noon, AD 30 under Pontius Pilate. Come sit at the feet of the cross and reflect on the Savior's love.

FOR FAMILIES

Nursery

- Open during the service for up to 8 registered participants ages 6 months (and sitting) to 3 years, with a waitlist available. The room is behind the sanctuary through the doors on the right.
- Please contact Lara Kastelein (lara@ctkcambridge.org) with questions or to cancel if registered and unable to make it.

Children's Worship

- Children age 4 thru 2nd grade are dismissed from the service prior to the sermon to classes that teach about worship suited to their age. Parents must escort kids to class in order to check them in.
- Pick up from Children's Worship comes after the sermon, during the song prior to the Lord's Supper. A parent can head to the back foyer outside of the social hall; pick up will take place at the door at the top of the stairwell. Please remember your security tag during pick up.
- Please contact Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org) with any questions.

During the service

- Encourage children to participate in each part of the service. For non-readers, place your arms around your child and point to the words in the bulletin as they are read.
- There are 'Pew Pouches' containing writing and drawing supplies in the front foyer of the church, and sermon worksheets available for kids to pick up during the Passing of the Peace to the right of the stage.

During the week

- Reread the Scripture passage. For younger children, read from a storybook Bible or more accessible translation like International Children's Bible (ICB) or NIrV available at biblegateway.com.
- Discuss the parts of the service as a family using the worship guide (ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids). Have everyone recall a part of the service that stood out to them.
- Listen to and discuss the songs from the service at ctkcambridge.org/songs. Visit this page to also pre view songs to prepare for the upcoming service (songs are updated mid-week).

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Now as always, Community groups are central to our life together at CTK as a way to study and pray together and serve each other and our communities. Some groups are meeting in person and some are meeting virtually. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/community-groups for a full listing with contact information.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

Men's Bible Study: Andy Stuntz (astuntz@gmail.com)

Women's Ministry: Martha Olson (women@ctkcambridge.org)

Youth Ministry: Ariana Smartt (ariana@ctkcambridge.org)

College Students can join Reformed University Fellowships

BU: nathan.dicks@ruf.org, serena.jones@ruf.org

Harvard: michael.whitham@ruf.org, catherine.cook@ruf.org

MIT: solomon.kim@ruf.org

Meals Ministry: Erin Ward (meals@ctkcambridge.org)

Overseas Partner Liaison: Morgan Crago (missions@ctkcambridge.org)

Online Resources

Samples of the songs for Sunday's worship service are posted on the website by the Wednesday before the service, along with the coming Sunday's bulletin and Scripture passage, at ctkcambridge.org/songs.

For **online giving**, visit ctkcambridge.org/giving.

Sermon recordings and Adult Ed classes can be found on the website at ctkcambridge.org/sermons and ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation, respectively.

For recommended daily Bible reading plans selected by pastoral staff, visit ctkcambridge.org/daily-bible-readings.

To sign up for the CTK Reader, our weekly e-newsletter, visit ctkcambridge.org/reader.

CTK is a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Scripture texts are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version™, ©2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, CCLI #912939.

LIFE TOGETHER

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Good Friday

Tenebrae Service :: Pentecostal Tabernacle :: 7:30p

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service :: Sanctuary :: 6:30a Sunrise Breakfast :: Social Hall :: 7:30a Easter Service :: Sanctuary 10:30a

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We're pleased to announce that Joseph Bartels, a seminary student at Gordon Conwell, is coming on board part-time to aid with leading and planning worship services through the end of the semester. Joseph and his wife Kelly attended CTK last fall and served on the worship team a few times. Joseph was also the music director at his former church. We are very grateful for his willingness to serve while Amanda is still on administrative leave.

Families: two Easter family resources are available in the Social Hall. The first is Mission Accomplished, a two-week Easter devotional book which begins on Palm Sunday. Sets of "Resurrection Eggs" are also available which offer a hands-on way to share the story of Easter with children. If you already have a set for your family, you might grab an extra one to share evangelistically with friends or neighbors.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/calendar, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

Today, 12:30p :: Emosewa (Grades 2-5) :: Basement

Today, 12:30p :: High School Meet-Up :: After Church

Sat, Apr 15, 8:30a :: Men's Breakfast :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/men

Fri, Apr 28, 7p :: Middle School Game Night :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/youth

Sat, Apr 29, 9:30a :: Women's Ministry Hike :: Walden Pond ctkcambridge.org/women

Weekly Events at CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/weekly-events, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

Tue, 7a :: Morning Prayer :: Online ctkcambridge.org/prayer

Wed, 7p :: Women's PM Bible Study :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women

Thu, 9:30a :: **Women's AM Bible Study** :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women

Fri, 6a :: **Men's Morning Bible Study** :: Online ctkcambridge.org/men

LINKS

GIVING:



READER:



VISITOR CARD:



Please contact the following staff members by calling our office at (617) 864-5464 or by email:

Senior Pastor Church Administrator Music Director Children's Ministry Director Children's Ministry Coordinator Youth Ministry Intern Rev. Travis Drake Laura Bullock Amanda Holley Dana Russell Lara Kastelein Ariana Smartt travis@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org dana@ctkcambridge.org lara@ctkcambridge.org ariana@ctkcambridge.org