

**Prayer of Preparation Before Worship: Patient Teacher, when we are stubborn as mules, show us a docile donkey, so that when we are willing to bear the burden you place on us, we may find ourselves bearing the Christ. Amen.**

**Gathering Music**                      **“The Festival of Palms”**                      Joseph M. Martin

**Words of Welcome | \*Passing of the Peace**                      Rev. Ann Hayman

**Call to Worship**      Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-25                      Elder Patricia Boykin

Let us give thanks to God, for God is good. God’s steadfast love endures forever!  
**Let Israel and the house of Aaron say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever!”**

Open the gates of righteousness that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.  
**This is God’s gate; the righteous shall enter through it.**

Thank you for answering me, you have become my salvation.  
**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is God’s work and it is marvelous!**

This is the day that God has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.  
**Save us, we beseech you, O God! O God, we beseech you, give us success!**  
Blessed are those who draw near in the name of God. We bless you from the household of God.

**God has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches and bring them to the altar.**

You are my God and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.  
**O give thanks to God, for God is good. God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

**\*Opening Hymn**                      **“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”**                      PH #89  
   Jennette Threlfall (1821-1880)

**Call to Confession**                      Elder Patricia Boykin

**Prayer of Confession**

**Dear God, we so often take for granted the magnificent abundance you continually pour into our lives-sunshine, rain, shelter, food, family, friends, meaningful work, your presence. These blessings give our life meaning and joy, but we act as though we have earned them through our own merit. Forgive us. Lead us from self-absorption. Forgive our blindness to how our acts affect other lives. We react quickly when others hurt us and yet often refuse to accept responsibility for the far-reaching effects of our own decisions. Please**

**move us from self-centeredness to being centered in you, that we may wisely balance our needs and the needs of others. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

As far as east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

**With God daily at the center of our lives, we will come to see the imprint of the Holy One on each person-from distant east to distant west, the face of Christ in all.**

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Rest assured, friends: God treasures you. God's heart is with you and is wide open to your prayer.

**We claim the promise of God's forgiveness! And promise to live with boldness as increasingly God loves us and thus do God's will.**

**Time with Children**                      "Palms Then and Palms Now"                      Rev. Ann Hayman

Children are dismissed to Sunday School waving palm fronds. They will return to lead the congregation as we visit the three crosses in the front of the church.

**Anthem**                                      "Hosanna We Worship You"                                      Janee Trotman

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture:**    Isaiah 50:4-9    International Children's Bible                      Elder Patricia Boykin

**Sermon**                                      "Palms or Passion?"                                      Rev. Ann Hayman  
Mark 11:1-11

### **Litany of Great Blessing**

Leader: God's treasured possession is ...

**People: God's people.**

Leader: We are blessed,

**People: Given food, shelter, rain, and sun.**

Leader: Yet, who will seek and help God's children in need?

**People: Who will help care for God's treasures?**

Leader: Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Do you love me? Feed my lambs."

**People: "Do you love me? Tend my sheep."**

Leader: How will we tend God's sheep?

**People: With the joy of God's love, we will reach out,**

Leader: For we are the Body of Christ.

**People: We will tend God's treasures,**

Leader: For where God's treasure is, there God's heart is, also.

**All: And there we will find our hearts.**

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**                                      Rev. Ann Hayman

### **The Offering**

**Call to Giving**

Elder Patricia Boykin

**Offertory**

“It is Well with My Soul”

Dr. Hansonia Caldwell-Harriford

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him all creatures here below.  
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts,  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Elder Patricia Boykin

**Announcements**

Elder Patricia Boykin

**\*Closing Hymn**

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

PH #88

**\*Benediction**

Go out into the world, strengthened by God's care and caring for God's treasured people.  
**We are the treasured people of God, may our life and work this week so  
shine with the holy imprint of Christ, that all may feel God's love through  
us. Hallelujah! Amen.**

**The Recessional of Palms and Crosses**

Dr. Hansonia Caldwell-Harriford

“Via Dolorosa”

Janee Trotman

Sandi Patty, Billy Sprague and Niles Borop