

First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024



Then They Remembered

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 12:12-16 | Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing

— ARTIST’S STATEMENT —

“This image attempts to visualize two locations in time and space. On the left, Peter looks out from the palm procession—his eyes glazed over as he watches Jesus riding into the city where he will surely meet his death. In the top right is Peter’s mirror image. . . .” *(read more at the end of the bulletin)*

— WELCOME —

Welcome | We are so glad you could join us!

If you are a visitor, please stop by the welcome table for information about our church. Listening devices and large print bulletins are available from one of our ushers. Please let us know if there is any way we may support or pray for you.

Nursery/Toddler Room & Sunday School for Children

The nursery/toddler room in the narthex opens at 9:15am for children under the age of 4. Children ages 4 through 5th grade will be dismissed during the Passing of the Peace for Sunday school. Teachers will bring your children to the oak tree at the end of the service.

This Season’s Theme

During this season of journeying with Jesus to the cross we have been focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus’ most famous disciples, Peter. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. For each step in Peter’s journey, a phrase from the hymn, “Come Thou Fount” has been selected. As we follow Peter’s story, we will bind our wandering hearts to God. As part of this season, you are invited to pour salt into the bowls of water before or after service, or during our prayers, as a prayer of lament.

Holy Week Services

3.28 Maundy Thursday | 6pm | Sanctuary

A traditional service with choir, communion and foot washing.

Childcare available for infants & toddlers

3.29 Good Friday | 6pm | Sanctuary

Experiential service with readings from the book of John.

Childcare available for infants & toddlers

3.31 Easter Sunday | 9:30am and Egg Hunt | 11ish

He is Risen! Worship followed by coffee fellowship and then a joint Easter Egg Hunt for the young and the young at heart with St. Alban's.

Sunday school (ages 4-5th grade) and childcare for infants & toddlers available

~ Please see additional announcements at the back of your bulletin ~

— GATHERING —

PROCESSIONAL: “HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA”

Presbyterian Hymnal #89

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The joyful anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
‘Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving,
And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven
Rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing songs of loudest praise!
Hosanna!
Sing songs that are unashamed.
Hosanna!
Sing songs without being afraid.
Hosanna!
Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.
Hosanna!
Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

HYMN: “HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA” ~ *cont’d*

“Hosanna in the highest!”
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heaven our King.

O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise!
We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.
However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.

Too often we stay quiet.

Too often we let others carry the song.

Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade
but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.

Show us which songs are ours to sing.

Show us which parades are ours to lead,

and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.

With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

**Please take a moment for your personal prayers of confession.*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

KYRIE: “LORD, HAVE MERCY”

**The Kyrie is a short repeated invocation in Greek or in translation used in many Christian liturgies. The congregation repeats each line after the Cantor.*

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ANTHEM: “HOSANNA! THE KING COMES TODAY” ~ *Emily Lund*

Lift up your heads, ye gates open wide, that the King of Glory may come inside.

Mighty and strong, holy and true! Rejoice! Your King comes to you!

Refrain: Hosanna, hosanna! Prepare ye the way!

Hosanna, hosanna! The mighty King comes today!

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice, let us be glad!

Blessed is he who comes in the name, the saving name of the Lord!

(Refrain)

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

**Children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

HYMN: “ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR” ~ *Presbyterian Hymnal #88*

Refrain:

All glory, laud, and honor,

To Thee, Redeemer, King!

To whom the lips of children

Made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed One. (*Refrain*)

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before Thee we present. (*Refrain*)

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. (*Refrain*)

POEM: "COURAGE" ~ written by Rev. Sarah Speed

We summon every ounce of courage.
We give ourselves pep talks
and we call our friends.
We dig deep within.
We practice the words out loud,
rolling them around in our mouths,
imagining the response.
We deal out every "what if" card our brain holds on to
and spend absurd amounts of time
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.
And then finally, blessedly, we say it:
I love you.
To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.
It always has.
But please,
summon your courage,
join the parade,
and speak with conviction.
For God has been saying to the world since day one:
I love you.
What is your response?

— **PROCLAIMING THE WORD** —

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 12:12-16 (NIV)

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “WANDERING HEART: *Fractured Fairy Tales*”

“Pierce My Ear” (Exodus 21:5-6)

Pierce my ear, Oh Lord, I pray.

Take me to your door this day.

For I will serve no other gods.

Lord, I’m here to stay.

For you have paid a price for me.

With your blood

you’ve ransomed me.

Now I will serve you eternally,

A free man I’ll never be.

— RESPONDING —

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who challenged Rome’s oppressive power with peaceful protest.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.

Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

SONG: “EL NOS AMA/HOW HE LOVES”

Verse 1

El tiene celo por mi

(He is jealous for me)

Su amor es un huracán yo árbol soy

(Loves like a hurricane, I am a tree)

Doblandome bajo el peso de su

viento y gracia

(Bending beneath the weight of your

wind and mercy)

Verse 2

Y así de repente

(And all of a sudden)

Ya no recuerdo mi aflicción

eclipsada en gloria

(I am unaware of these afflictions

eclipsed by glory)

Me doy cuenta de

cuan hermoso eres tu

(I realize how beautiful you are)

Y cuán grande es tu afecto por mi

*(And how great your affections
are for me)*

Chorus

O El nos ama,

(Oh he loves us)

Cuanto el nos ama,

(Oh how he loves us)

El nos ama O

(How he loves us oh)

Repeat vs. 1 & 2

Chorus

O El nos ama,

(Oh he loves us)

Cuanto el nos ama,

(Oh how he loves us)

El nos ama O

(How he loves us oh)

*Él nos ama, O! el nos ama O! El nos
ama cuanto Él nos ama (repeat)
(He loves us Oh how he loves, oh how
he loves us oh how he loves)*

Verse 3

El es mi premio y yo su porción,

(He is our portion and he is our prize)

Su mirada de gracia

nos trae redención

*(Drawn to redemption by the grace
in his eyes)*

*Si esa gracia es un mar, nos
sumergimos*

(If grace is an ocean we're all sinking)

Verse 4

El cielo y la tierra

(Heaven meets earth)

Se une en beso y mi corazón

salta en mi pecho

*(Like an unforeseen kiss and my heart
turns inside of my chest)*

*No hay tiempo de persistir
en lamento*

*(I don't have time to maintain
these regrets)*

*Cuando pienso en tu amor
(When I think about the way)*

*Él nos ama, O! el nos ama O! El nos
ama cuanto Él nos ama (repeat x3)
(He loves us Oh how he loves, oh how
he loves us oh how he loves)*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

English

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.

Spanish

Padre nuestro que
estás en los cielos
Santificado sea tu
Nombre Venga tu reino
Hágase tu voluntad En la
tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy el pan
de este día
y perdona nuestras deudas
como nosotros perdonamos
nuestros deudores y no nos
dejes caer en la tentación sino
que líbranos del malo.
Porque tuyo es el reino y el
poder y la gloria por siempre.
Amen.

Arabic

أَبَانَا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ
لِيَتَقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ
لِيَأْتِ مَلْكُوتُكَ
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ
اعْطِنَا خُبْزَنَا كِفَافَنَا الْيَوْمَ
وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا خَطَايَانَا
كَمَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا نَعْفِرُ لِمَنْ أَخْطَأَ الْبِنَا
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي التَّجْرِبَةِ
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّيرِ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمُلْكَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ
أَمِينَ

— SENDING —

SONG: "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME"

All hail the power of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all
O seed of God's chosen race
Now rescued from the fall
Hail him who saves you by his grace
And crown him Lord of all
Hail him who saves you by his grace
And crown him Lord of all

Let every tongue and every tribe
Responsive to his call
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all
Oh that with all the sacred throng
We at his feet may fall
Well join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all
Well join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all

BENEDICTION

— THANK YOU —

USHERS | Anthony Goodman and Dan Saragusa

LITURGIST | Stephanie McDonald

SLIDES | Cindy Graham

FLOWERS | Laurie Wood and Chuck Uhrig offer flowers in celebration of their 21st anniversary and to wish everyone a Happy Palm Sunday. Cindy Graham and Ginny Wisley also offer flowers in celebration of Elsie Hooper's birthday on the 21st. We thank Elsie for the many years of friendship and love she has shown for this church.

LITURGY AND PRAYERS | Liturgy adapted by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | Please join us after worship under the oak tree; hosted by the Deacons Committee.

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering | Today

Today we have the opportunity to give towards this PCUSA offering that goes towards disaster assistance, hunger programs, and self-development of people.

Small Candies & Toys Needed for Easter Egg Hunt

The Christian Education Committee is accepting individually wrapped candy and small toys that fit inside plastic eggs through today for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. There is a box in the narthex to collect them. Please note that we don't need anymore plastic eggs — thanks!

Today is the Last Day to Sign Up for Easter Lilies

Don't forget to sign up to purchase an Easter Lily for the sanctuary. The cost per 6" potted plant is \$25. Please sign up on the chart on the patio, or contact Ginny Wisley: ginny-beth@att.net or 1.619.337.6444. The absolute final date for requesting lilies is today, the 24th.

Memorial Service for Kelly Feldner

A memorial service for Kelly Feldner will be held in the church sanctuary on Saturday, April 6 at 11am with a reception to follow in Richardson Hall.

Affordable Housing Tour

Please join us as we visit some of the Community HousingWorks properties on Tuesday, April 9, beginning at 10am. We will visit three of their properties: North Park Seniors & Amanecer Family/Puesta del Sol Senior, located in Linda Vista. If you're interested in carpooling, meet in the Richardson Hall parking lot at 9:30am. Additionally, there are three other properties you may "drive by" and visit on your own time: Keeler Court, Kimball Highland and Paradise Creek (Southcrest/National City). If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Graham at: outreachandoperations@firstpres-elcajon.org. To view the above community properties or to learn more about Community HousingWorks visit www.chworks.org.

Save the Date: Committee Quarterly

Mark your calendars to join us after service on Sunday, April 14 in Richardson Hall for a discussion about the Community HousingWorks field trip. Session committees will be meeting afterwards, if desired. All are welcome to attend!

Making Art/Making Conversation

Ladies, if you enjoy having artful fun and would enjoy helping immigrants with their English as we play together, please join us Tuesday mornings in Westminster from 10am-12pm. Our long-time group of English learners is moving over from St. Alban's and remaking itself into practicing English as we make art together. We are expanding our outreach with invitations to the women of the neighborhood, Solstice, and Kidz Klub and Head Start moms. This is for women and for free, with the intent of making a safe, welcoming, communal place. More info: contact Lee Kaercher, lee.kaercher@gmail.com.

Sharing Love Through Our Online Presence

There are many ways we can connect with each other and share God's love outside the church walls. One of those ways is through our online presence! Below are a few next steps you can take if willing:

- Youtube: Subscribe, like and view our church services (www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchofec)
- Instagram ([firstpreselcajon](https://www.instagram.com/firstpreselcajon)) and Facebook: Follow and like the church's posts
- Share: Send pictures of yourself and ministry happenings to office@firstpres-elcajon.org so we can celebrate and share the good things happening here!

Prayer Chain

Have a prayer request? Place it in the prayer box in the narthex and it will be forwarded to our prayer chain. Have something to celebrate? Fill out a gratitude card — we want to rejoice with you!

2024 Sign Up Flower Calendar Is Here!

Check your calendars to get your name on the Flower Chart to reserve your memories for 2024! Sign up on the patio, or contact Ginny Wisley 619.337.6444 or gabby-beth@att.net.

Stay Connected During the Week

Our weekly eblast contains sermon reflection questions and additional ways of connecting, sign up at the bottom of our website or send an email to office@firstpres-elcajon.org.

— ARTIST’S STATEMENT —

In the Matthew, Mark, and Luke versions of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, two unnamed disciples follow Jesus’ orders to retrieve a colt. In these accounts, the disciples actively participate in the parade, laying down their cloaks and singing praise. In contrast, John’s version of this story provides minimal details and the disciples are hardly mentioned at all. However, the text does a unique thing: it breaks the fourth wall to tell us something important: “His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered” (John 12:16). Is Peter at the parade? Does he lay down his cloak and follow the others? Does he sing songs of loudest praise? Or is he lost in the cacophony of the crowds, confused by and afraid of what is taking place? Maybe he is thinking about the blur of events in the days just before: Lazarus raised from the dead, Jesus anointed in Bethany, the crowds knocking down their doors, the plot to kill Jesus and Lazarus swelling like a darkened, fast-approaching sky. They didn’t understand at first, but then they remembered. This image attempts to visualize these two locations in time and space. On the left, Peter looks out from the palm procession—his eyes glazed over as he watches Jesus riding into the city where he will surely meet his death. As the crowds sing “hosanna!” for a new, soon-to-be-killed-king, the dissonance of the scene causes Peter to tremble—like a guitar string snapped suddenly mid-tune. In the top right is Peter’s mirror image. In this mirage, we glimpse the future. Peter stands aghast at the empty tomb, waves of hope and relief rushing through him like a river of grace, the remembering happening all at once—like a childhood song plucked from memory, like the refrain of a chorus that won’t let you go: it’s true, it’s true, thank God it’s true. — *Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity*

— WEEK AT-A-GLANCE —

Monday, March 25

6:00pm - Mission and Outreach Committee (*Thomson Hall*)

Tuesday, March 26

10:00am - Making Art/Making Conversation (*Thomson Hall*)

Wednesday, March 20

12:00pm - Skeptics & Seekers Class (*Thomson Hall*)

3:00pm - Prayer on the Circle (*Zoom*)

6:00pm - Jubilation Bells Rehearsal (*Bailey Hall*)

7:00pm - Celebration Bells Rehearsal (*Bailey Hall*)

Thursday, March 28

6:00pm - Maundy Thursday Service (*Sanctuary*)

Friday, March 29

6:00pm - Good Friday Service (*Sanctuary*)

Church office closes at noon in observance of Good Friday

Saturday, March 30

9:00am - Centering Prayer (*Bailey Hall*)

Sunday, March 31 ~ Easter Sunday!

8:15am - Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

8:30am - Worship Team Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

9:30am - Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

11:00am - Joint Easter egg hunt with St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Our Mission

Connecting people to Jesus and each other.

Our Vision

To be a spiritually healthy church that reaches out to its congregation, community, and beyond through music, fellowship, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our Values

Spiritual Growth ~ Service ~ Compassion ~ Community

Staff & Contact Information

Rev. Kim Dawsey-Richardson // *Pastor* // pastorkim@firstpres-elcajon.org

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