

ONLINE WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR LIVESTREAM SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BAKERSFIELD, April 5, 2020, 9:30 AM
PALM SUNDAY

Opening Hymn: *Hosanna Loud Hosanna*

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely 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.

“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!

Jeanette Threlfall, 1873 | Gesangbuch der H.W. k Hofkapelle; 1784 and harmonized by W.H. Monk, 1868 | Public Domain

Invocation

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the
Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all
that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God, eternally begotten of
the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made
of one Being with the Father; through Him
all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down
from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and became truly
human.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius
Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again in accordance
with the scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at
the right hand of the Father. He will come

again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father and the
Son is worshiped and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets.

We believe in the one holy universal and
apostolic church. We acknowledge one
baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come. Amen.

DOXOLOGY (Old 100th)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

Invitation to Give and Offering Prayer

Praise Song: “Way Maker”

You are here moving in our midst.
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here working in this place,
I worship You, I worship You.

*You are Way Maker, Miracle
Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness,
my God, that is who You are! (repeat)*

You are here touching ev’ry heart.
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, healing ev’ry heart.
I worship You, I worship You.

You are here turning lives around.
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here mending ev’ry heart.
I worship You, I worship You!

Even when I don’t see it
You’re working.
Even when I don’t feel it
You’re working.
You never stop,
You never stop working.
You never stop,
You never stop working.

CCLI song #7115744 Osinachi Kalu | Okoro Egbu

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Scripture Reading: John 11:11-16, 21-27; James 1:2-4

James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

John 11:11-16, 21-27

¹¹ After He had said this, He went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” ¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but His disciples thought He meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then He told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Message: "Pivotal Circumstances"

Andy Stanley: *Five Things God Uses to Grow Our Faith*

Growing Bigger Faith

Pivotal Circumstances

Our faith in God is impacted by _____ that happen to us.

Psalm 22, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?"*

Pain Comes To All

_____ are not an exception to the rule.

Pain and tragedy are the rule for life . . . because of _____.

Jesus Is Life

Jesus knew He would use this circumstance _____ God. *"This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it,"* John 11:4

"Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" John 11:8

"Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe,"
John 11:14-15.

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died," John 11:21

"Whatever you ask from God, God will give you," John 11:22

God has gracious intentions even in seeming _____ to our requests.

Jesus says *"Your brother will rise again."* Jesus' purpose for Martha and Mary and His disciples is the same He has for us: to make God _____.

Words of Jesus that speak an _____ truth: *"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

God Has A Purpose

Dark times become pivotal circumstances through our _____ in God.

"The testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything," James 1:2-4

We can choose whether we will turn to God and get _____ or turn in on ourselves and get _____.

“God, what would you have me learn from this experience?”

Many become even better servants _____ as a result of their dark experiences.

Prayer of Confession

Communion Liturgy

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor continues and concludes with the following words:

Pastor: ... with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your holy Name and join their unending hymn.

People: **(singing) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might! Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: ...as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: **(singing) Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

Pastor: All honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

People: **(singing) Amen, Amen, Amen!**

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Communion Praise Song: *“King of Kings”*

In the darkness, we were waiting
Without hope, without light;
Till from Heaven You came running –
There was mercy in Your eyes.

To fulfill the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word;
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father!

Praise the Son!

Praise the Spirit Three-in-One!

CCLI Song # 7127647

Brooke Ligertwood | Jason Ingram | Scott Ligertwood

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*God of Glory,
Majesty!
Praise forever to the King of Kings!*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost;
To redeem the whole creation,
You did not despise the cross.

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side,
Knowing this was our salvation:
Jesus, for our sake, You died.

Unison Prayer

At this table, Lord Jesus, we are reminded of Your love. You called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light, and at the cross made the way for us to come to You. Cause us to live with Your compassion and courage in a world so desperately in need of healing and transformation. Shine Your love through us Lord Jesus that our works and witness might inspire many to follow You and know Your love, peace, and power. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *“Beneath The Cross Of Jesus”*

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain
would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within
a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest
upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide
heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at
times can see
the very dying form of One who
suffered there for me;

and from my stricken heart with
tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and
my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my
abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine that the
sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to
know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my
glory all the cross.

Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872 | Frederick C. Maker, 1881 | Public Domain

Benediction

Participating in today's live stream service:

Dr. Richard Thompson, Senior Pastor
Andrew Irvin, Director of Worship and Music
Darrell Arnold, Family Ministries Director

Offering: Greg Perrone

Scripture: Kathleen Schaffer

Sonshine Singers via video

Vocalists: Abegail Canlas, Beren Canlas, Sizakele Irvin, Kathleen Schaffer

Instrumentalists: Organ: Rebecca Spickler; Keys: Aaron Thompson; Drums: Dumisani Irvin; Bass: Emma Koehler; Guitars: Beren Canlas, Evan Koehler; piano: Andrew Irvin

Tech: Sound: James Dethlefsen; Live Stream Camera: Ed French; Projection and Lights: Erin Koehler

Announcements & Info:

Look for Holy Week Devotionals this week daily at noon on the church Facebook page.

Communion is today during the Live Stream and afterward at Drive Thru Communion from 11am to 12noon. If you are taking Communion during the Live Stream, please have pieces of cracker or bread and juice (or another beverage if you have no juice) and have them out. During the liturgy for Holy Communion, Pastor Richard will bless them and we will all take simultaneously. If you are considering Drive Thru Communion, we would love to see you! Please enter through the North (back) parking lot and drive around to the South (front) parking lot. You'll have an opportunity to pray with Andrew, or Joyce Perrone, one of our lay leaders, and later Pastor Richard or Darrell will serve the Communion elements to you. Everyone serving Communion will be wearing gloves and masks for your protection.

If you financially support FUMC with tithes and offerings, thank you! In the midst of this uncertainty, we appreciate your support! Please give via the church website (<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/fumcbfl>), text to give at 661-535-1115, or mail it to the church at 4600 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield, CA 93309.

Your ministry staff members love and care about you and everyone in our First Church family! If you feel the need to talk or pray with one of us, please call for an appointment. We plan to remain open for you! 661.325.1267 or office@fumcbakersfield.org.