

Thank you in advance for continuing to share your gifts, tithes, and offerings with Grace Community Christian Church. Our steadfast stewardship will enable us to continue to share the "Good News" of the gospel of Jesus Christ at a time when our hearts and minds are challenged and overwhelmed by the news we hear around us.

### *Offering prayer*

Mighty God, on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into the city where he would soon encounter celebration followed by misunderstanding and sacrifice. Just as his disciples and the crowds blessed his entry, spreading garments and branches, so we've come to lay at your feet these gifts – symbols of all we have and all we are. May this offering be our non-verbal "Hosanna," as we bless your beloved Son, the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

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### *Opening Prayer*

God of all good gifts, we raise our voices, our palms and our "hosannas" today, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We rejoice with those first disciples as we recognize the Lord among us. Keep our hearts oriented to you this day, so we may follow Jesus into peace that holds in times of trouble, persisting far beyond today's parade. Amen.

### *Palm Sunday Prayer*

Gathering for worship online today, we are like the crowd that lined the streets, witnessing your entry into Jerusalem. Some of us gather full of enthusiasm. Some of us gather wearied by what life has thrown at us. Some of us have come out of curiosity. Some of us gather with great expectation. Some of us with no particular hopes.

Open our heavy eyes, and tired minds, steal into our hearts and our uncertainty, and surprise us today with joy. Open us to the possibility of

### *Scripture - Matthew 21:1-11*

**21** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: **5** "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" **[a]** **6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. **8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna **[b]** to the Son of

hope and allow us to see the goodness of your purpose.

Even when we cannot name it ourselves you know what ails us. We submit to your knowledge of us and we open ourselves to the need for your forgiveness, a forgiveness that comes freely and abundantly.

So with cleansed hearts and open minds,  
we join in the cry Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Tell the daughters of despair, proclaim it to the sons of sadness: Christ has come to save us! Hosanna! We will give our thanks to God, who comes to bring us grace, hope, life. Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"[c] "Hosanna [d] in the highest heaven!"

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" 11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

#### Sermon reflection questions

The Disciples had been waiting to celebrate and waiting for an opportunity to openly share their knowledge of God. Can you recall a season of waiting that concluded in fulfillment? What did you celebrate?

What are the promises of God that are being fulfilled on your journey right now?

Are you ready to move forward into Holy Week?