

# Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education  
David Shedden, Seminary Intern  
James Frederick, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director  
Amy Shortt, Organist  
Leslie Young, Handbell Choir Director

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April 1, 2007

10:00 a.m.

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## Passion/Palm Sunday

*Enter Reverently, Meditate Quietly, Worship Devoutly,  
Leave Gratefully, Serve Christ Faithfully*

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

*I Was Glad*

Barnett

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### PASSION LITANY (based on Isaiah 50:4-8)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher that I may know  
how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wak-  
ens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

**People: The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious. I did  
not turn backward.**

Leader: I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who  
pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insulting and spitting.

**People: The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced.**

Leader: Therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know I shall not be put to  
shame.

**People: He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against  
me? Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

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### \* OPENING HYMN

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

#89

### PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice, not only  
with outward signs such as palm branches or the occasional “Hosanna,”

but with lives truly turned towards you. It seems such a distance from this present day, Palm Sunday in America, to that day when you entered Jerusalem with the shouts of the crowd ringing in your ears. Welcomed as a king, yet riding on a lowly donkey. Greeted with cheers and acclamations which were so soon to turn to jeers and condemnation. From this side of the resurrection, we confidently believe that we could never have been part of the jeering crowd – but would we, if we had been there?

(SILENT REFLECTION)

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, when our words and actions reflect a reluctance to confess you publicly as Lord of our lives:

**People: Forgive us.**

Leader: When we fear that humbling ourselves would be seen by others as weakness or some kind of defect in our character:

**People: Forgive us.**

Leader: When we have betrayed your love for us through our lack of love for you, for others, and for ourselves:

**People: Forgive us.**

Leader: When we find ourselves glossing over the events of your passion and death because we look forward to Easter as a time to enjoy holidays and have fun:

**People: Forgive us.**

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, fix your mind in us and remake us in your likeness; empty us of all that hinders us from following you to where pain and suffering, exploitation and injustice exist.

**People: Gracious and loving God, empower us with the Holy Spirit so that our lives continually glorify you and our tongues forever confess Jesus as Lord. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: *Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross (Philippians 2:6, 7a, 8b).* Through his obedience we are, therefore, freed from whatever sin enslaves us.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page)

#579

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*A short reading of the Passion Narrative is used today. We will share in the readings, so please keep the scripture insert handy and follow closely. It commences after the story of the Last Supper, Jesus' arrest and Peter's denial of him at the house of the High Priest (Luke 22:14-71).*

\* HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#2

THE PASSION NARRATIVE Luke 23:1-12

\* HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* #88

THE PASSION NARRATIVE Luke 23:13-25

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace!

**(\*\*Students in grades 1-12 are dismissed for their Bible class.\*\*)**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Near the Cross* arr. Dobrinski

THE PASSION NARRATIVE Luke 23:26-34

\* HYMN *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* #91

THE PASSION NARRATIVE Luke 23:35-49

\* HYMN *Were You There?* #102

SERMON *Nothing Deserves Death* Rev. Muriel Burrows

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,  
and put your trust in the Lord.*

*(Please note that the Ushers will take the weekly tithes and offerings –  
followed immediately by the Deacons who will take  
the monthly offering for their particular ministry.*

*Please hold your Deacons' offering and put it into the second plate.)*

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: We thank you Holy God for your son, Jesus Christ, who for our sakes  
became poor that we might be rich. We thank you for the fact that he  
gave himself up to death so that we might rise to life. Accept our gifts  
of thanksgiving now, O Lord, and use them so that they might bring  
blessings unto your name. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God (Psalm 34:8).

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: May the God of love be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Uplift and open your hearts to God.

**People: We open our hearts to God. Let us give thanks to God. It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Living God, we offer our thanks and praise to you; Creator of heaven and earth, lover of all humanity. You revealed that love when you heard your people's cries of pain and rescued them from slavery. You fed them and gave them water to drink in the wilderness, as you led them to freedom and a new way of life.

When the people turned away from you, forgetting the great things you had done, you spoke through the prophets of a new thing you were about to do. And in the fullness of time, you broke into our history in the person of Jesus Christ – the new and greatest sign of all of your love. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name saying:

**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!**

Holy God, this meal which we share today is indeed evidence of your love for the world, love revealed in Jesus, your Son, our Lord. He emptied himself of self and filled himself with others. Through his life and sacrificial love, he graced lives with healing and hope, with compassion and power and, as if that were not enough, he gave his very life for us. On the night of his betrayal, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: *Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Remember me each time you do this.* After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: *Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you – the beginning of a new relationship with God.*

God of all power, we praise you for these signs of your everlasting love and pray that you will breathe your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may make that life visible through our faithful witness to him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

We break this bread and take this cup so that we can all share in the life of Christ: God's gift for God's people. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

**Distribution of the Elements**

HYMNS	<i>Become to Us the Living Bread</i> <i>Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether</i>	#500 #504
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**Prayer after Communion**

**Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for making this no ordinary meal. It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with your life. May we go from here, refreshed and eager to share your life and love with others. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN *The Palms* (insert)

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Now Unto Him* Morris

\* Congregation stands  
\*\* Latecomers ushered in

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**WELCOME** - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshipers. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. If you do not have a church home of your own, we do sincerely invite you to be a part of our fellowship. Please contact the church office for further information if you are interested in church membership (609-924-1666 or witherspoon@verizon.net).



**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGE GROUPS!** Adults will meet on their own schedule each month in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-12 begin immediately after the Passing of the Peace. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)

**NURSERY CARE** is provided for children 0-5 beginning at 9:45 a.m. Today Elsie McKee is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Elizabeth Ferguson.

**FLOWERS** - If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or simply to beautify the church, please sign up on the chart located on the door of the sound room (left-hand entrance from the sanctuary to the parish house). After worship service, the donor may take the flowers home. At present, it is the responsibility of the person giving the flowers to make his/her own arrangements for preparation and delivery of the flowers for the Chancel. The next available date is April 15.

**USHERS** for this morning's service are Illeana and Manuel Ojeda. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Kalyet Blackwood-Chirchir and Cortne Edmonds with David McGriff, manager.

**COMMUNION SERVERS** for this morning are Anne Blackwood-Chirchir, Sharon Blount, Rebecca Campbell and Paul Stephens.



**COFFEE HOUR** – There is no Coffee Hour today. However, the host for the month of April is Valerie Smith. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Valerie (609-799-1817).

**ATTENDANCE** at the service of March 25 was 112.

**LECTIONARY TEXT** for next Sunday, April 8, is Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18.

**DOLLAR\$&CENTS** **COUNTERS FOR APRIL** are Robert Ellis (Team Leader), Rolston Gaiter, Briallen Hopper and Elizabeth Zingg. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Joyce Abbott, Barbara Brown and Florence Sharpless.



**PAUL ROBESON LECTURE SERIES** – April is the month of Paul Robeson's birth. In celebration and recognition of this event, Giles R. Wright, Director of the Afro-American History Program, New Jersey Historical Commission, will present a three-part lecture series for the Princeton community on the life and legacy of Paul Robeson. The lectures titled, *Paul Robeson: A Portrait*, will be presented at 3:00 p.m. on **April 15, 22, and 29** at the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding (86 Olden Street, Princeton). This free program is sponsored by WSPC and Nassau Church Partners in Faith Committee. Contact the church office (609-924-1666 or witherspoon@verizon.net) for details.

# Footprints Walk



**WALK FOR THE CRISIS MINISTRY** – We hope to send a team on the annual *Footprints Walk* on **Saturday, April 21**. The aim is to raise as much money as possible to help the work of The Crisis Ministry. The Crisis

Ministry is facing cuts in its funding this year, so every dollar will make a difference. The event begins at 8.30 a.m. with registration. The walk starts at Kingston Tow Path, on Route 27, up to Harrison Street and then back to Route 27. The entire walk is just over five miles. If you want to join the WSPC team, please contact David Shedden (david.shedden@ptsem.edu) or the church office. This will be a great opportunity to spend some time with other church family members. If you are unable to walk on that day, why not sponsor the team so we can raise as much money as possible?



**FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY** – The Deacons are collecting nourishing food for the Crisis Ministry. **\*\*\*NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.\*\*\*** Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering plate or given to a deacon. Please

consider an extra purchase during your next grocery shopping trip and place items in the wooden box in the Narthex.



Trenton Area  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK WEEK** – Our Habitat for Humanity project needs your help. To participate, please contact Meg Coghlan (609-651-2945 or meg\_coghlan@yahoo.com).