

## Theme: Rise Up—Not Give Up or Give In



## GATHERING

*Prelude:* “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” Holy Manna, arr. J. Wyrzten

## Greeting and Welcome

## Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we join Jesus in the final ascent to Jerusalem, knowing the depths we will descend on our journey through Holy Week.

**People: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may come to worship our God!**

Leader: We join the disciples in declaring that Jesus, riding on a donkey, is our Ruler, the One who will bring peace and salvation for all.

**People: Open to us the gates of peace, that we may gather to celebrate the reconciling work of our God!**

Leader: We join with the bystanders who questioned and wondered who this Jesus really was, while fearing the consequences of angering the powers that be.

**People: Open to us the gates of truth, to know his life giving ways instead brought suffering and death.**

Leader: Our journey through Holy Week brings us face-to-face with the stark reality of the powers of darkness, sin, brokenness and evil yet God's faithfulness to save endured.

**People: Open to us, Redeeming God, the gates of salvation, that we may come to worship the One whose steadfast love remains for all time!**

\*Hymn:#196 “All Glory, Laud and Honor” (with the Bell Choir)

\*Prayer of the Day

God, we gather on this day to begin a week of contrasts. From hope to despair and from despair to hope again. From a week that begins with

**celebration to one that passes to judgment and condemnation. From events that bring suffering and death to a new day bringing salvation and life.**

**Yet today, as we join with the crowd, help us cut through the noise to see what is happening, to see what is at stake, to embrace the enormous cost of redeeming love.**

**As the story unfolds, open us to both the hope and the pain. Prepare us, we pray, to celebrate, to weep, and to wait. AMEN**

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

*Anthem:* “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” M. Teschner, arr. A. Page  
The Bell Choir

Scripture: Isaiah 40:4-9a and Luke 19:28-40

Sermon: **“A Deep Paradox”**

\*Hymn#198 “Ride On! Ride on in Majesty!”

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## Offering of Tithes and Gifts

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of Peace, who reigns in unexpected ways, we gather bringing our gifts as an offering of our hearts. Just as the crowd welcomed Jesus with shouts of praise, we, too, lift up our voices, but most especially offering our lives in service to your kingdom. Use our gifts to bring hope, healing, and love to a world longing for your peace. in the name of Christ, our Savior. AMEN**

## Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People

\*Hymn: #216 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Charge and Benediction

Leader: Friends, go forth humbly to serve the God whose love endures forever.

**People: We go forth in the name of the Christ who entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey.**

Leader: Go forth in the shadow of the cross, humbly acknowledging the painful sacrifice, the cost of the life we enjoy.

**People: We go forward looking toward the strength of a God who defies the powers of death, raising the Christ, his Beloved Son, our Savior.**

Leader: As the Holy Spirit compels us,

**People: we depart to gather faithfully again with all God's people, rejoicing in love that endures forever. AMEN!**

*Postlude:* "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?" G. Allen, arr. C. Berry  
(Please remain seated)

The End of Worship  
The Beginning of Service

\*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor  
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

**Prayers of the Congregation**

**Prayer Person this week: Lauren J. Appel**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**BE AMONG THE FAITHFUL . . .**as we gather this week April 17<sup>th</sup> for our Maundy Thursday service 7pm including Holy Communion. Karen will lead the hymns and John Shuler will be here from Nashville to offer special music. For midday Good Friday, John will provide all music and hymns as well as the Easter Dawn service at 7am. As the Resurrected Jesus met with the disciples on the beach, we will gather outside Old Leacock around a fire then process indoors with lighted candles to continue worship. Karen will lead us again Easter Sunday morning at 9:30 with special music provided by Barb Andrews and daughter Jenn. LET US CELEBRATE this awesome week together!

## *Leacock Presbyterian Church*

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in  
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



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