

Jesus loves a parade

Palm Sunday had emerged upon the Skunk River Church of the Brethern* once again. Pastor Joyce was in a melancholy mood because this was her least favorite Sunday of the year. Worse yet, members of her church appeared to love Palm Sunday and the choir director pushed ahead with Easter anthems. Not even a double mocha latte could dent the grimace Pastor Joyce felt in her spirit.

But then things got interesting. By longstanding tradition, the service began with a few children and their Sunday School teachers walking the center aisle toward the front of the sanctuary waving palm branches while the congregation sang one of the hymnal's three Palm Sunday songs. Oddly, all three had the same tune.

The annual parade started with confusion which led to chaos. There were too many palm branches to wave because Sister Klara recycled ones from the previous year and two members of the worship committee placed orders. Even if every child and teacher waved two branches and a third was duct-taped to their backs, there were far too many branches. And the children were misbehaving by shouting, jumping, and running. The processional turned into a stampede. The organist lost his place in the music and old man Tate who wasn't supposed to move without his walker was doing a little jig with three-year-old Susie Mae.

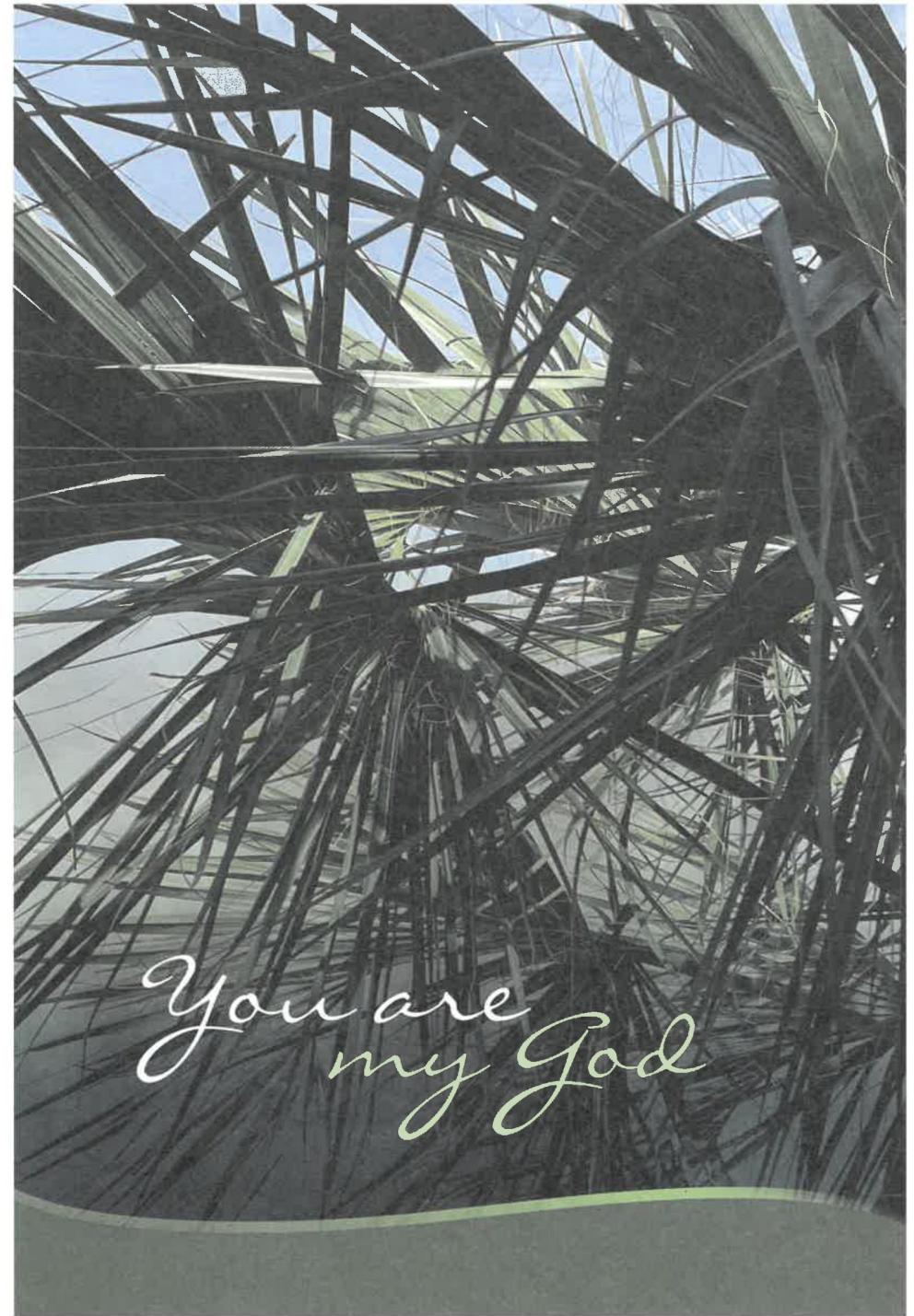
From the pulpit, Pastor Joyce felt her grimace shatter into a smile as people laughed and wondered what all this meant. "Somehow, I believe that Jesus is with us and enjoying himself," the pastor proclaimed. "Palm Sunday should be about spontaneous joy." Amen.

—Duane Grady
Goshen, Indiana

*Not a real place, and yes, I know that I misspelled Brethren.

"You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you."
(Psalm 118:28, *NRSV118*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49.

April 13, 2025, Palm Sunday. Photo © Wendy McFadden. Used by permission.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

April 13, 2025
Palm Sunday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD LAST WEEK?

PRELUDE "Hosannas, Laud, and Honor" (Larson)
Brethren Bells

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19:29-38 NT 83

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Donnie Maas, Worship Leader

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

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Blessed is God's only Son who takes away the sin of the world.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Blessed is the Lamb of God who suffers for our sake.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Blessed is the Prince of Peace who reconciles all humanity to God.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Blessed is Jesus Christ, Redeemer, Lord and King.

All: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

***HYMN #238** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

[Verse 1]

*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.*

[Verse 2]

*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.*

[Verse 3]

*"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our redeemer, the Lord of heav'n our king.
Oh, may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Living God, you give us this day, full of hope and promise. As our ancestors waved palms in praise of Christ, we bring our praises, too, that in joy you may take our lives and transform us as your presence alive in this world. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC "Antiphonal Hosanna" (Smith)
Our Children and Temple Choir

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

If Jesus Christ is to reign among us, much more will be needed than our praise and rejoicing when we are together. How do we witness and serve when we are apart? How much of ourselves and our substance will we invest?

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping with us on Facebook Live. We in-

vite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob webpage.

Offertory "Hosanna in the Highest!" (Paxton)

***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Grateful for your grace that is new every morning and thankful the gates of righteousness are open to us, we bring our gifts to your altar, O God. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves, that the reign of Jesus Christ may be realized and celebrated wherever Christians gather to worship and everywhere we scatter to serve. May every knee bow at the name of Jesus and every tongue confess that Christ is the world's salvation. May the needs of all your children be addressed by those who confess Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING ANTHEM "Ride On! Ride On!" (Yannerella)
Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 OT 565

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

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

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God,

and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,

up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

MESSAGE "Behold He Comes" Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #239** "Ride on, ride on in majesty"

[Verse 1]

Ride on, ride on in majesty, as all the crowds "Hosanna!" cry, through waving branches slowly ride, O Savior, to be crucified.

[Verse 2]

Ride on, ride on in majesty, in lowly pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your triumph now begin with captured death and conquered sin!

[Verse 3]

Ride on, ride on in majesty - the angel armies of the sky look down with sad and wond'ring eyes to see th' approaching sacrifice.

[Verse 4]

Ride on, ride on in majesty, in lowly pomp ride on to die. Bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy pow'r and reign.

*CLOSING LITANY FOR PALM SUNDAY

One: We have gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna!

All: ***Because even if we were silent the stones themselves would have called out.***

One: We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed,

All: ***and then it changed.***

One: We have walked with another crowd.

All: *One that called words of scorn and condemnation.*

One: And now we follow the crowd as it leads out to the cross, and yet even as the world grows dark, we cannot lose hope.

All: *Because God is with us. God will be with us. Whatever happens. We are not alone.*

One: And so, we watch the crowd and we follow...

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

POSTLUDE "Ride on in Triumph, O King" (Balcombe)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



PALM SUNDAY

Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland
21740
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship
at 8:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Worship and Facebook Live at
10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

Don Rowe
Interior Esthetics
Technician

*We welcome you to our church and
Rejoice in your participation with us in
worship. It is our prayer that you will
experience the presence of God's Spirit and
that it will equip you for service and ministry
in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons, and
Cluster Leaders are available after worship
and during the week to listen and assist you in
your Christian pilgrimage.*

THE ANNOUNCER April 13, 2025

If you placed someone on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

If you or a loved one has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

"Take a Moment" Let this be our daily "Take a Moment" prayer beginning on Sunday, April 13 - Praise be to my King...Jesus my Savior! You alone are the one who I want to rule my heart. I bow down to you with the crowds of worshipers...humbly shouting with them...Hosanna! Save me! And as this week unfolds in my memory, I will grieve what you had to go through to save me...and all of your children. I will, however, live in hope for the joy that will rise in me with the good news of Easter resurrection. You are my Savior...King in my heart. Amen.

Our thanks to Donnie Maas for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir, Brethren Bells and our children for our morning music.

Attendance. Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Adam Richard Kees, son, brother, and uncle, by the Kees and Ripple families.

The Christian Education Ministry Team is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for ALL children today, April 13th at 2 PM at Linden Hall Farm (Brian and Nicole Forsythe's farm) located at 10226 Downsville Pike, Hagerstown MD. All children are encouraged to bring a friend. (Grandparents, your grandchildren are also welcome!)

THANKS SO MUCH to the 23 HCOBers who attended last Saturday's disaster response benefit dinner at Bush Creek COB!! That was almost a record high for HCOB's participation. In all, from throughout our Mid-Atlantic district, more than 120 people came, which was itself a recent record high as our numbers have continued to rebound. All of which builds to this... More than \$8,000 was raised Saturday night for Brethren Disaster Ministries from the auction of baked goods, from extra donations and from the dinner itself, for which the Bush Creek church donated back ALL of the ticket money, making the food costs its own donation, too!!!!

Love Feast and Good Friday. You are invited to attend the following worship events as a time for personal reflection:

*April 17th (Maundy Thursday) at 7:00 PM – Love feast and Communion in the Fellowship Hall.

*April 18th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary- Good Friday service.

*Both Love Feast and Good Friday Services will be on Facebook.

On Easter Sunday, April 20, we will once again have our Living Cross outside near the west entrance. We invite you to bring in a flower or many flowers, and add them on the cross as you enter for worship.

Let's help get our college students across the finish line!! It's that time again. The Christian Education Ministry Team is asking for donations that we will assemble into care packages for our college students. We are preparing for four students. The care packages are our way of showing love and support to our students as they prepare (or cram, perhaps!) for final exams as the spring semester comes to a close. We are asking for donations of non-perishable, pre-packaged, single serve items. (PLEASE...no homemade goods. Save those for when the kids come home at the end of the semester.) We are looking for items that would include chips, Doritos, cookies, crackers (again, single serve bags or packages, please), bottled water, granola bars, candy, gum, mints, microwave popcorn, etc. We know studying for finals can be stressful and we want to ease the stress as much as we can. So please use your imagination and add items like bubbles, Play Doh, a stress ball, etc as you see fit. There will be a specially-marked box in the lobby area of the West Entrance. Please have all donations to the church by Sunday, April 27th. If you have any questions, please direct them to any member of the Christian Education Ministry Team (Brenda Shane, Debbie Long, Tina Mills, Tracie Poteet, or Kay Ogilvie). Thanks for your help!

First Quarter Contribution Statements can be found in the church mailboxes. If you do not have a church mailbox, your statement will be mailed. If you're new to HCOB and have been using an envelope and didn't receive a statement, please email or call the church office.

The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 27th at 9:00 am, Sunday School will follow at the normal scheduled time. There will be a combined service at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary.

Our May Congregational Business Meeting will be held May 4, 2025. We will have a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following our 10:45 am Worship and following lunch, we will have our Congregational Business Meeting. If you plan to attend and would like to bring a covered dish, please see the sign up sheet in the west entrance or fellowship hall.

The Novel Bunch Presents... Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen by Susan Gregg Gilmore. Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 AM—12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend, please see the insert in the latest Tidings or you can find copies of the sign up sheet on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall.

Deadline for bulletins and newsletters. Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to secretaryhcob@gmail.com. Thank you!

Cash for Causes/Martin's Gift Card Program. Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution. To purchase a card, please contact Larry Kees, Jr. (301-331-0107). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

Please remember to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or secretaryhcob@gmail.com.** Thank you!

Warm, sunny weather is here! We want to take this opportunity to remind you that in the warm weather many of the neighborhood children ride bikes, trikes, skateboards, and scooters, on our parking lot. They're often low to the ground and moving fast so please be on the lookout for them when you visit the church. When on foot, please also be on the lookout for cars speeding through the parking lot to "beat the light" at the corner.

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 13

Junior Church/Palm Sunday

8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt/Linden Hall Farm

Monday, April 14

Church office closed

6:30 pm Griefshare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, April 15

Tax Day

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Altruistic Room
12:00 pm Newsletter deadline
5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 16

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Mullendore Room

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Love Feast/Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 18

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)
7:00 pm Good Friday Service/Sanctuary

Saturday, April 19

Pastor Twyla's day off/Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

You may mail your offering to
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown MD 21740
OR
you can make a secure offering
donation on our website using
Breeze www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.

Grief Writing Workshop

Award-winning local author and former grief counselor Lisa V. Proulx will be conducting a workshop entitled *Writing Through Grief: Finding Light After Loss* at HCOB on Wednesday, May 7, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. This workshop is being hosted through the GriefShare group, but it is not limited to GriefShare participants. It is open to anyone who is interested in attending.

Content: The workshop will include guided writing prompts, exercises for emotional release, and techniques for using writing as a healing tool. It's designed to create a safe, supportive space for self-reflection and connection with others on a similar journey.

Location: Mullendore Room or Fellowship Hall depending on participation numbers

Cost: \$35.00/person

Registration: Make check payable to HCOB with "GriefShare Workshop" on the memo line.

If you have questions, contact Debbie Nycum.

Plant sale petal power!



This spring, let's harness the good in God's earth to help families who lose their homes to flooding and other disasters.

By planting a few extra perennials or annuals, or veggie, herb, berry and other plants, or groundcovers, trees, and shrubs, each of us can **GROW** money for Brethren Disaster Ministries!

Please pot and label each plant. Bring it to Arn Platou at HCOB on Friday, May 2, at a time to be announced or bring it to the **Plant Sale** at our District COB's Disaster Response fundraiser at Carroll County Ag Center no later than 9 a.m. on Plant Sale day, Saturday, May 3.



And, **stay awhile!** You may find new plants, as well as quilts and crafts to love and take home!!

Questions? Email Arn Platou at Arnwrite@myactv.net