

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



Matthew 21-25

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

March 29, 2026 • Palm Sunday

We Are Welcomed

Sunday: Jesus' Triumphant Entry (Matthew 21:1-11)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem,
the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

The crowds were saying,

"This is the prophet Jesus

from Nazareth in Galilee."

Come, let us celebrate and worship

the coming of the Messiah,

the one who saves!

Hosanna in the highest!

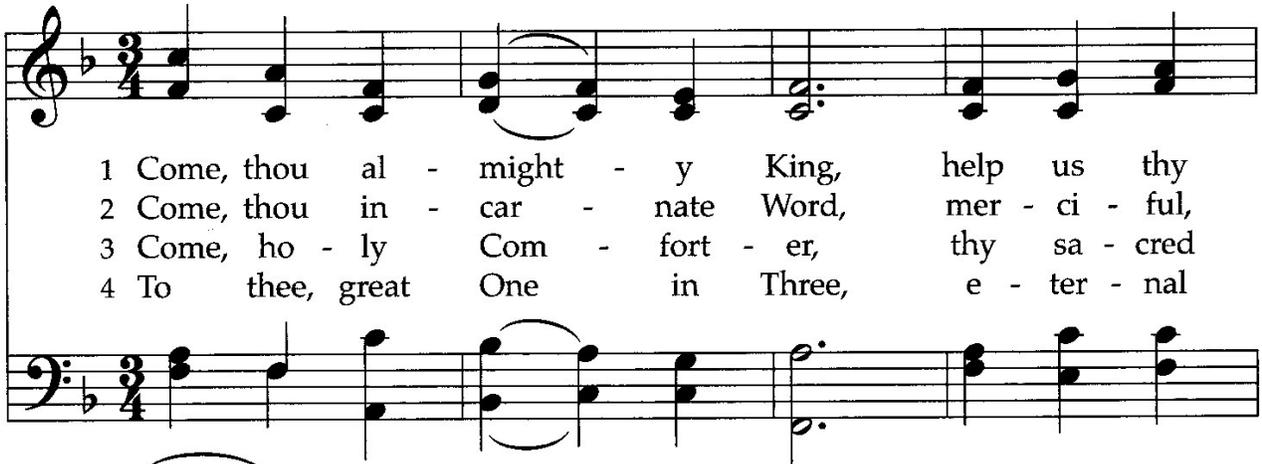
Hosanna!

Song of Celebration

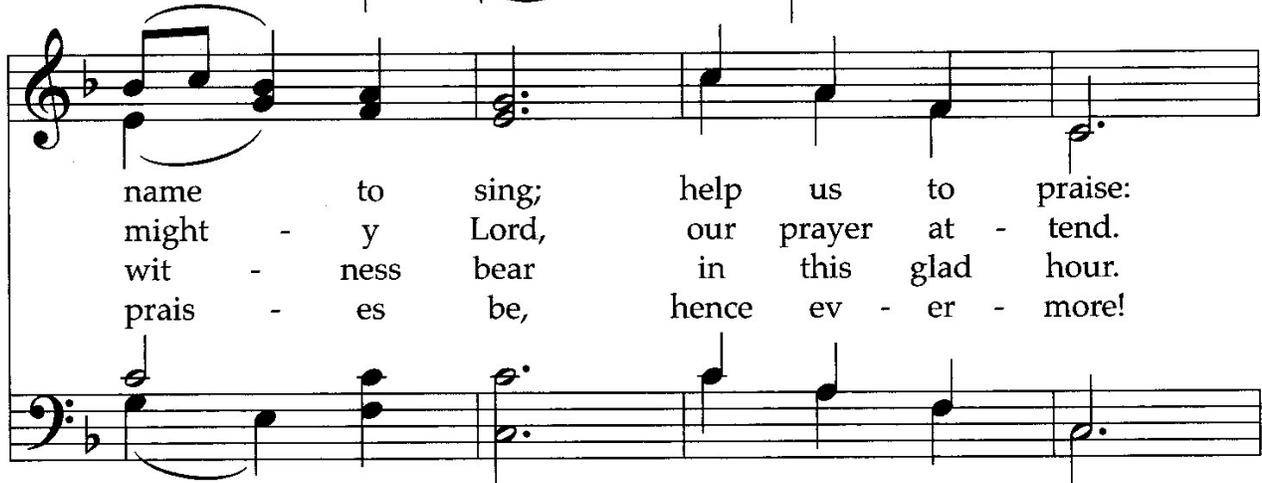
Come, Thou Almighty King *Glory to God #2* *[see next page]*

2

Come, Thou Almighty King



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful,
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal



name to sing; help us to praise:
 might - y Lord, our prayer at - tend.
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.
 prais - es be, hence ev - er - more!



Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,



come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

We Are Gathered

Monday: Jesus Clears the Temple (Matthew 21:12-17)

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers." The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them.

The chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

The chief priests and scribes became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

Song of Joy

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Glory to God #100

[see net page]

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus—

we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.

You marched through the streets and walked on water.

You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at dinner tables.

Your good news was not confined to conversation.

It was not confined to the Temple.

Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.

Holy God, we long for a faith like that.

Forgive us for the times we confine our faith

to something we think about,

as opposed to something we act upon.

Inspire us to love as you loved with our words and our actions.

With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Assurance of Pardon

Church family,
whether or not you wave your palm branch,
whether or not you live out your faith,
whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,
God will never stop loving you. Jesus will never stop marching for you.
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.

We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.

What good, good news. Amen!

Song of Gratitude

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God #598

Passing the Peace

Tuesday: Teaching in the Temple (Matthew 22-25)

In the morning Jesus returned to the city with his disciples and he entered the temple to teach:

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (22:36-40)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees: you self-appointed gatekeepers of heaven; you ill-informed, fanatical missionaries making other ill-informed, fanatical missionaries; you who make secondary the things of God while prioritizing the things of man; you who focus on the inconsequential and ignore the important: social justice, whole-hearted love, and real faith. Woe to you who make all attempts to appear holy but your heart is filthy; you who work to look good and upright but you’re just an actor playing the part; you who conclude that since your heritage is right, therefore you are right. (23:13-26, *Rev. LaRue’s translation*)

“How often have I desired to gather your children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” (23:37)

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars...nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes...” (24:6-7)

“Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (25:13)

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’” (25:34-36)

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” (25:40)

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A Time for Young People

Song of Preparation

Be Thou My Vision *Glory to God #450* *[see next page]*

The Proclamation of the Word

Moment of Meditation

We Respond to God's Word

The Offertory

Wednesday: The Offering of the Alabaster Jar (Matthew 26:6-26:16)

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor.” But

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D)

(G)

(D/F#)

(A7)

(D)

E^bA^bE^b/GB^b7E^b

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A)

(D)

(G)

(A)

B^bE^bA^bB^b

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G)

(D)

(F#m7)

(G)

(A)

A^bE^b

Gm7

A^bB^b

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm)

(D/F#)

(G)

(D)

Cm

E^b/GA^bE^b

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Song for Giving

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar *Glory to God #201* *[see next page]*

Receiving Tithes + Offerings

Quarter Donations Recipient: One Great Hour of Sharing

Doxology + The Prayer of Dedication *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Christ all creatures here below

Praise Holy Spirit evermore

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Joys + Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

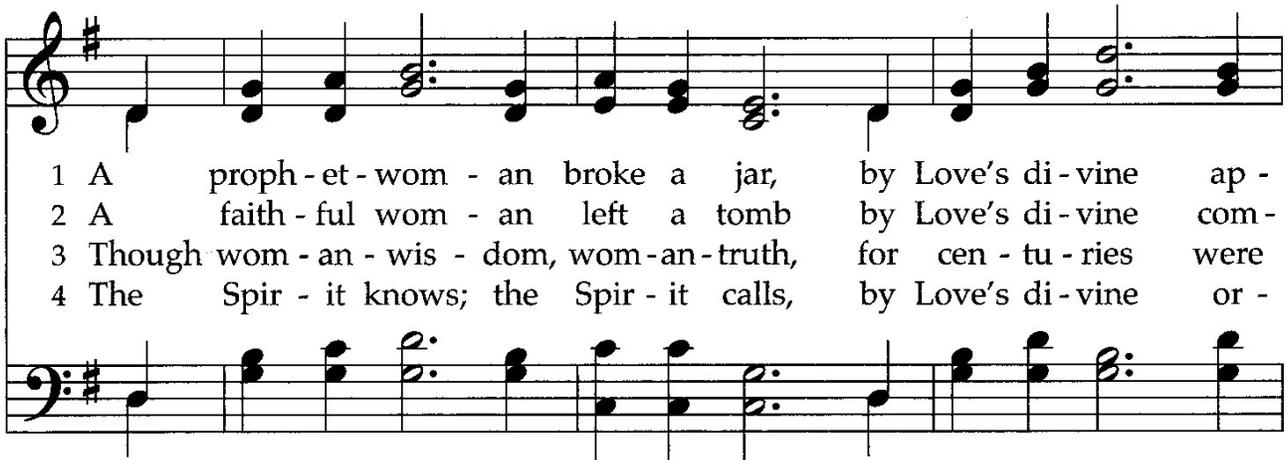
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song of Trust

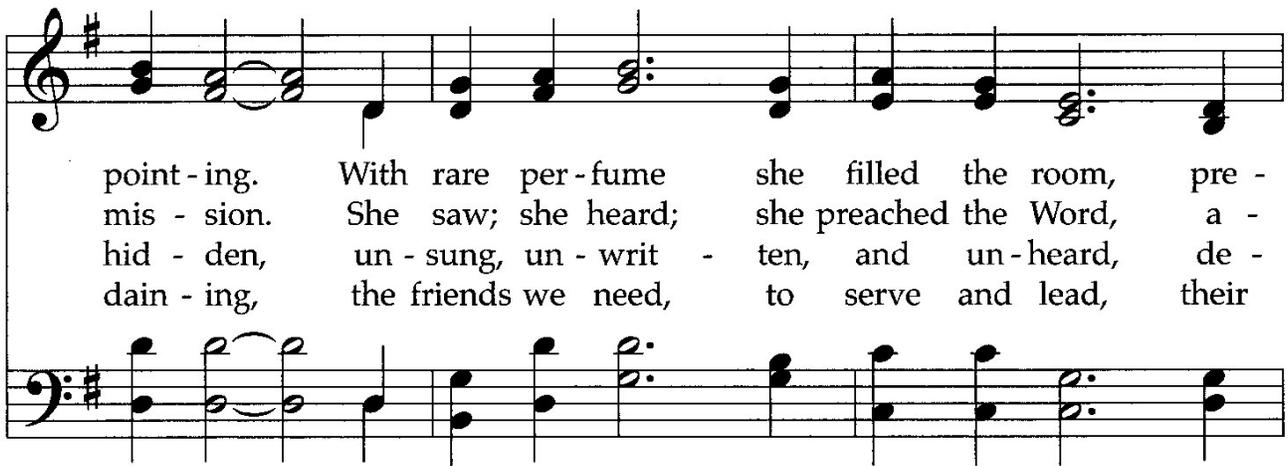
Amen *Glory to God #600*

Announcements

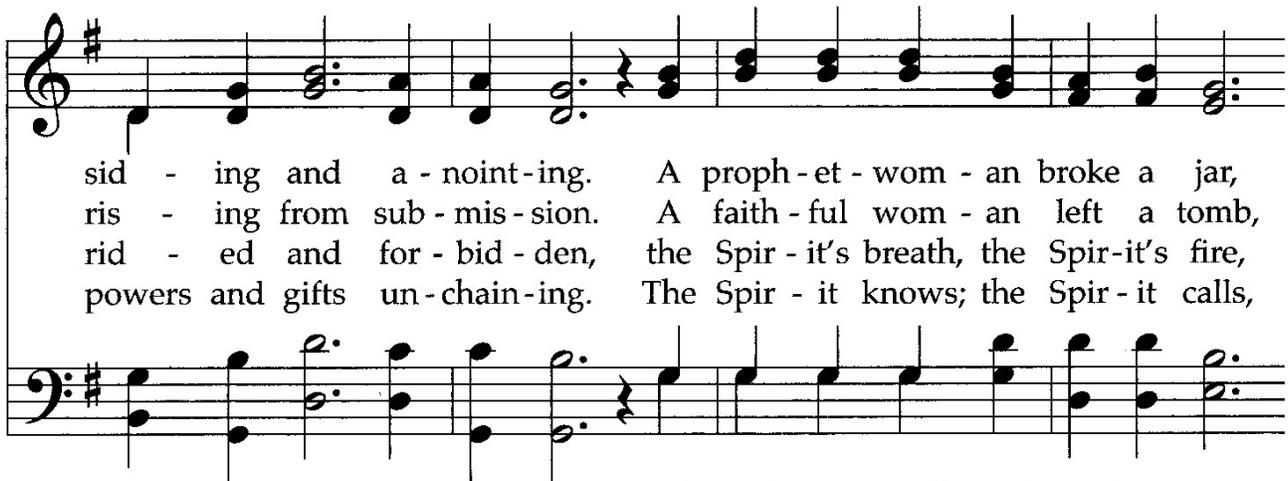
201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar



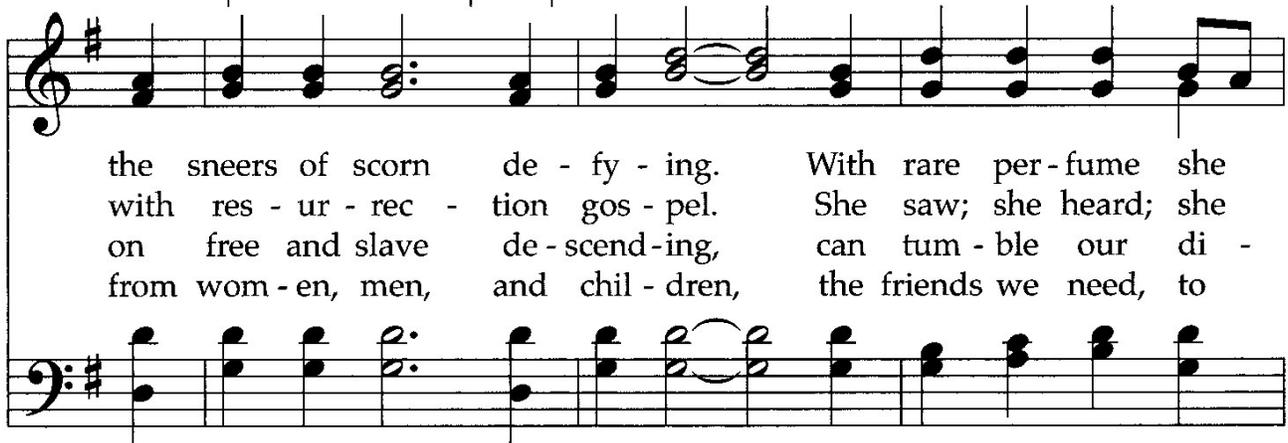
1 A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar, by Love's di-vine ap-
 2 A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb by Love's di-vine com-
 3 Though wom-an-wis-dom, wom-an-truth, for cen-tu-ries were
 4 The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls, by Love's di-vine or-



point-ing. With rare per-fume she filled the room, pre-
 mis-sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a-
 hid-den, un-sung, un-writ-ten, and un-heard, de-
 dain-ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their



sid-ing and a-noint-ing. A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar,
 ris-ing from sub-mis-sion. A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb,
 rid-ed and for-bid-den, the Spir-it's breath, the Spir-it's fire,
 powers and gifts un-chain-ing. The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls,



the sneers of scorn de-fy-ing. With rare per-fume she
 with res-ur-rec-tion gos-pel. She saw; she heard; she
 on free and slave de-scend-ing, can tum-ble our di-
 from wom-en, men, and chil-dren, the friends we need, to

We Are Sent by God

Song of Sending

Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

What is the World Like *Glory to God #771* [see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Holy Week Reading Plan

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11
Monday	Matthew 21:12-17
Tuesday	Matthew 21:18-26:5
Wednesday	Matthew 26:6-16
Thursday	Matthew 26:17-26:75
Friday	Matthew 27:1-61
Saturday	Matthew 27:62-66
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-20

Announcements

- **Protecting Children from Gun Violence: Imagining a New World** Each Wednesday at Noon from April 15-May 13. Register using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/332wvjzf> This five session series on Zoom will guide you and your congregation in finding your action for protecting children from gun violence. Created by educational and pastoral leaders in the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, this faith-based program covers in one hour a key topic each week:
 - Children in the Crossfire: Why is gun violence the top killer of our children?
 - Saving Child Lives with Secure Gun Storage
 - Seeing Our Children: The mental and spiritual health of children in the crossfire
 - Direct Action Options for Real Safety for Children
 - Advocacy, Voting and Finding Next Steps for Your Congregation

What Is the World Like

771

Capo 1: (G)

(Em7)

(C)

(D)

A^b

Fm7

D^b

E^b



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em)

(C)

(Am)

(B7)

Fm

D^b

B^bm

C7



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em)

(Am)

(D)

(G)

Fm

B^bm

E^b

A^b



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C)

(Em7)

(Am7)

(D)

(G)

D^b

Fm7

B^bm7

E^b

A^b



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

- **April 2: Maundy Thursday Services** will take place this Thursday at 1 pm and 7 pm. We will take time to meditate on that final evening long ago when Jesus and his disciples were together and we will do as Christ did: serve one another and feast at the Lord's Table. Both services will be the same—just two different opportunities to attend!
- **Join us April 3 at 530 pm** for dinner and a show! We will be screening *The Cotton Patch Gospel*—a modern telling of the Good News relocated to the mid-20th century American South, where Jesus challenges segregation and economic inequality. But before we watch, we'll enjoy some chili (vegetarian option available), cookies, and popcorn.

Coming Up

Monday	March 30	Pastor's Sabbath	
Tuesday	March 31	Bible Study @ 10 am Pub Theology @ 730 pm	The Gathering Space The Livery in Benton Harbor
Thursday	April 2	Veteran's Counseling—All Day Maundy Thursday Service @ 1 pm Community Dinner @ 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm	The Gathering Space The Sanctuary Goff Hall The Sanctuary
Friday	April 3	Dinner + A Show @ 530 pm viewing of <i>The Cotton Patch Gospel</i>	Goff Hall
Sunday	April 5	Easter! Sunday Worship @ 10 am Fellowship @ 1130 am	The Sanctuary Goff Hall