

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

March 29, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Andante, from 'Grande Pièce Symphonique'*

*César Franck*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*

Diana Rice

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

In preparation for worship, we pour baptismal water as a sign of our engrafting into the Body of Christ.

CHORAL INTROIT

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

*Mark Patterson*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Calin Baxstrom

One: Humble and riding on a donkey, we greet you.

**All: Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children, we cheer you.**

One: Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

**All: we salute you, the One who comes in compassion and peace.**

One: You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity; you are giving majesty a new face;  
you are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing.

**All: With them, with heart and voice, we shout "Hosanna!"**

**Come let us worship the One who comes in healing and wholeness.**

\*PRAYER +

We tell your story . . . We follow in your footsteps . . . Lead us into Holy Week.

We walk towards the city . . . We wait in the garden . . . Lead us onto Holy Ground.

We journey towards death . . . We hope for resurrection . . . Lead us into Holy Joy. **Amen**

\*HYMN 197

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

*ELLACOMBE*

CONFESSION +

One: Loving God, at this time we remember that going up to Jerusalem  
cost Jesus his very life.

So, we come before you, conscious of the way religious words and holy phrases  
can slip so easily from our lazy lips and our hardened hearts.

**All: Forgive us for the shallowness of our faith and the timidity of our following;  
forgive us for the ready excuses we make for going our own way  
and claiming it as yours.**

One: Turn us toward your Way again, we pray,  
by your Holy Spirit active within us and among us.

**All: Show us how to be open to your faithfulness and to your freedom,  
that we may live new lives and be bearers of your Grace and Peace.**

*Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

The God who calls us to take bold steps outward is the One who journeys closely within.  
In God, there is welcome, courage, companionship, constant forgiveness, renewed strength,  
and always a love that never lets us go. Trust this good news and be at peace! **Amen**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

*Hosanna to the Son of David*

*Healey Willan*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible page 21

SERMON

*On the Way*

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY

*Hosanna Filio David*

*Jeanne Demessieux*

\*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

\*LENTEN LITANY +

One: Holy God, refuge of questioning minds and spirits:  
as the seeds of grace you have planted within us bear a abundant harvest,  
we would offer the first fruits in thanksgiving to you and in service to others.

**All: Jesus, companion of Lenten pilgrims:  
you understood that God alone feeds us, and so became the Broken Bread;  
you know that the power to transform our lives comes from God alone,  
and so became our Servant;  
you did not ignore the warning not to test God, and so became our Hope.**

One: Holy Spirit, Leader of all who would follow the Way of Jesus:  
you fill the hungry with the Bread of Hope;  
you fill the arrogant with the Servant's humility;  
you fill the hopeless with that trust which endures.

**All: God in Community, Holy in One, in our hearts, and on our lips,  
we end this holy Lenten season  
still seeking to follow the one who followed you so faithfully.**

\*HYMN (see back page)

*We Meet You, O Christ*

*NORMANDY*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Choral*

*Joseph Jongen*

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

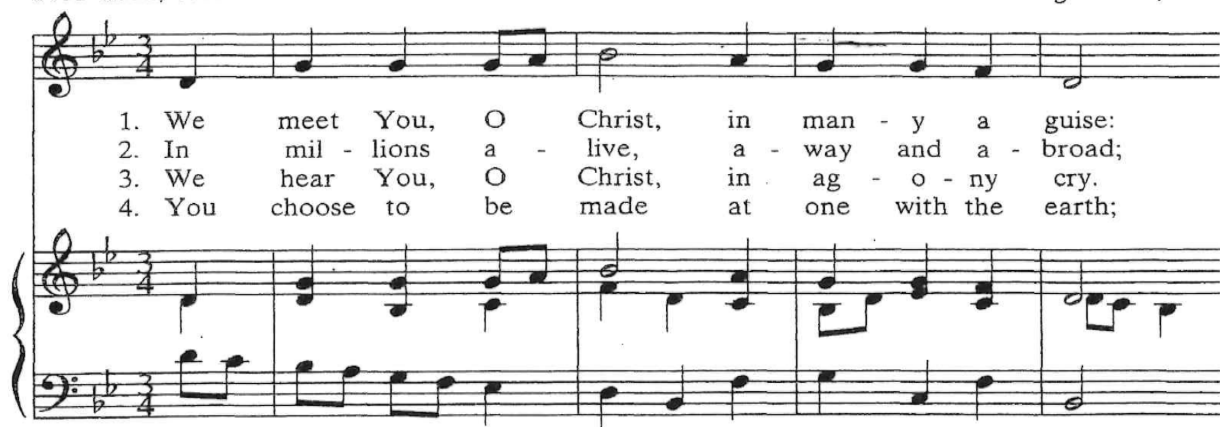


# We Meet You, O Christ

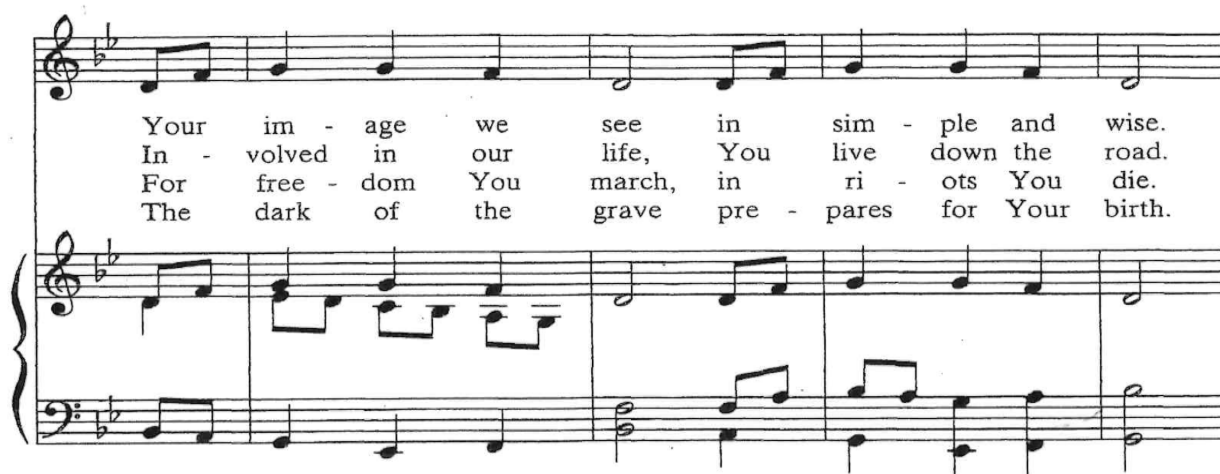
NORMANDY 10.10.11.11

Fred Kaan, 1966

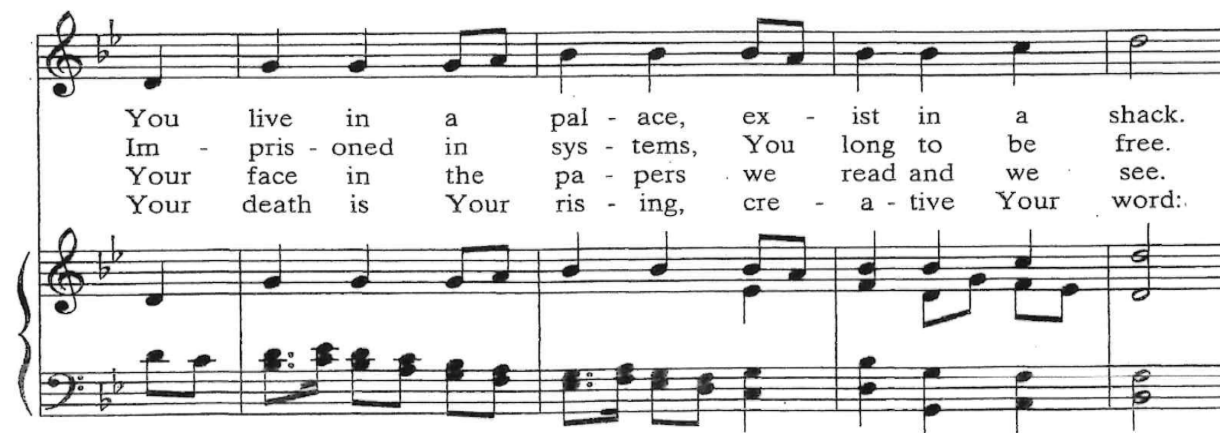
Basque carol  
Harm. George Mims, 1979



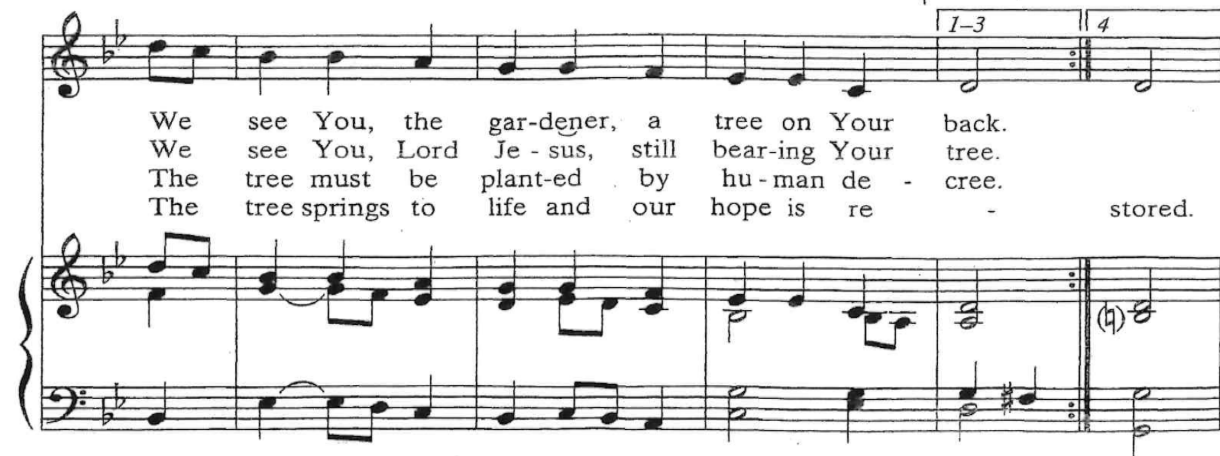
1. We meet You, O Christ, in man - y a guise:  
2. In mil - lions a - live, a - way and a - broad;  
3. We hear You, O Christ, in ag - o - ny cry.  
4. You choose to be made at one with the earth;



Your im - age we see in sim - ple and wise.  
In - volved in our life, You live down the road.  
For free - dom You march, in ri - ots You die.  
The dark of the grave pre - pares for Your birth.



You live in a pal - ace, ex - ist in a shack.  
Im - pris - oned in sys - tems, You long to be free.  
Your face in the pa - pers we read and we see.  
Your death is Your ris - ing, cre - a - tive Your word:



We see You, the gar - dener, a tree on Your back.  
We see You, Lord Je - sus, still bear - ing Your tree.  
The tree must be plant - ed by hu - man de - cree.  
The tree springs to life and our hope is re - stored.