



*Palm*  
SUNDAY

March 29, 2026

at



**CUCC**  
Columbia United Church of Christ

**Columbia  
United Church  
Of Christ**



**March 29, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**

**"Palms to Passion"**

*...the Pharisees took one look  
and threw up their hands and said,  
"It's out of control"  
- John 12:19 (from "The Message" Bible)*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Courante"

Steven Jannetti  
Bob Moore

Bringing in the Light of Christ

\*Gathering Scripture

John 12:12-19

Pat Forward

*The next day, the huge crowd that had arrived for the Passover Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off Palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered:*

*"Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Blessed is the one who comes in God's name!  
Blessed is the coming Kingdom of David!  
Hosanna in the Highest Heaven!"*

*The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, was there giving eyewitness accounts. It was because they had spread the word of this latest miracle that the crowd swelled to a welcoming parade.*

*But the Pharisees took one look and threw up their hands and said,  
"It's out of control."  
(From "The Message" Bible)*

\*Praise Songs & Palms Processional

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

#213

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

#216

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" (verses 1, 2, 4 only)

#215

\*Prayer Petition

"Jesus, Remember Me"

(Luke 23:42)

***Jesus, Remember me,  
When you come into your Kingdom!  
Jesus, Remember me,  
When you come into your Kingdom!***

\*Opening Prayer

Pat Forward

**God of humble majesty; today we hear the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a humble donkey and embrace the lessons of humility this teaches us. We, too, have been humbled in many ways in our Lenten journey and we find Your glory in the midst of humility. Forgive us for the times in our lives when we let pride overshadow our identity and teach us to embrace Your ways. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus entered Jerusalem among shouts of praise, but the fickle nature of the crowd led to Jesus' death later that week. In their transgressions, we recognize our own. But we know that God forgives all our transgressions when we are repentant. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

“Gloria Patri”

***Glory to the Creator,  
and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost!  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;  
world without end! Amen, Amen!***

\*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

***I have decided to follow Jesus!  
I have decided to follow Jesus!  
I have decided to follow Jesus!  
No turning back; no turning back!***

Mission Moment

“The Food Bank”

Mark Duncan

Psalter Lesson

Psalms 118:1-9

Pat Forward

*The Psalmist looks to God as his salvation, and speaks of God saving his community from distress. In response, he offers praise to God.*

*(page #492)*

Gospel Lesson

John 12:27-36

Pat Forward

*Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, a political demonstration against Pilate. But his ride is overshadowed by the Pharisees who see his truth as a threat. He talks about his impending death, and the effect his death and the ensuing mission of the Apostles would have on bringing the Word of God to the Gentiles*

*(page #802)*

Anthem	“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”	Celebration Singers <i>Mark Hayes</i>
Sermon	“Palms to Passion”	Pastor Rick
*Hymn	“Journey to Gethsemane”	#219

Community Prayer, Silent Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

*In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address “Creator God” in our unison recitation of The Lord’s Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say “Our Father” instead of “Creator,” “Trespases” instead of “debts,” or “Thy” instead of “Your” if you prefer.*

**Creator God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

Invitation to the Offering

*You are invited, at this time, to come forward and place your offering in the baskets at the foot of the cross. As you do, you are also invited to pause at the cross and reflect on the upcoming Holy Week journey that Christ is about to partake.*

*To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041  
You can also give online by visiting our website:  
[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)*

Offertory	“Near the Cross”	Steven Jannetti <i>Doane / Dockery</i>
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*Prayer of Dedication		Pat Forward
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**God of Palms and Passion, the offerings we bring forward today and lay at the foot of the cross are a shout of Hosanna; a testimony to our devotion. As You ride on into Jerusalem and the events of this week, we walk with You showing *our* love by spreading *Your* love. May these offerings be used to glorify You. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn	“The Old Rugged Cross”	#195
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*Gospel Reading	Mark 15:1-20	Pastor Rick
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\*The Light of Christ is Extinguished

\*Tolling of the Bell

*After the bell tolls, you may depart in silence*

## What Kind of King?

By Rev. Michael Gehrling

What kind of king are you?

What kind of king

rides on a donkey

a donkey that might be borrowed,

or might be hijacked?

What kind of king

builds a castle

with a wide open door for children to enter

but a needle-eye sized hole for the rich?

What kind of king

rides on a donkey

into the city where

his assassins are waiting?

What kind of king

enters his assassins' city

with a ragtag commotion for all to see

and not one security guard?

What kind of king

lets his subjects treat him like a

military liberator but doesn't

come with a single sword or weapon?

What kind of king

lets his followers send a

public message to the competing powers

with no intent of answering a single

challenge?

What kind of King are you?

What kind of King

can send two followers

to fetch a donkey

and know exactly what they'll need to say?

What kind of king

can tell a blind beggar

"your faith has made you well."

And actually make him see?

What kind of king

can weep at the funeral of his friend

only to say, "Lazarus, come out!"

and watch him come back to life.

A King who keeps his promises

A King who I can trust

A King who can save

A King I want to follow

And so I come to you, Jesus

not to be served by you

but to serve you

and to give my life to you.

So take my cloak

use it to clothe the naked

or use it for your donkey to step on.

I don't care

so long as you're the one taking it.

Because you're the only one who

will give me a new garment in return,

a white robe made of saints righteous

deeds,  
a garment that fits so well it'll be

a new self, your self.

Use me, King Jesus,

all of me.

As you see fit.

Make me a knight or a bishop or a rook,

or make me an expendable pawn.

I don't care what piece I am.

So long as yours is the hand that's moving

me.  
And all along this long rough road

let my song be:

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord!  
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our

father David!  
Hosanna in the highest!

*CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:*

*Welcoming all God's Children;*

*Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;*

*Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;*

*Building a supportive church family;*

*Transforming both the congregation and community  
through service and outreach*

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**Custodian:** Caleb Berry      [calebprenticeberry@gmail.com](mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com)  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Pat Forward  
Song Leader: Mike Pierson  
Ushers: Jane & Mark Duncan  
Greeters: Paula Wilson  
Technology: Brent Marcks & Lorry Dreier  
Council Stewards: Mary Lorber & Deborah Birkes



Online Giving

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Ashley Ramirez  
Song Leader: Mike Pierson  
Ushers: Phillip Neale & Christine Staelens  
Greeters: Susan Dunham  
Technology: Brent Marcks & Lorry Dreier  
Council Stewards: Jerry Kiesling

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:** Jerry Kiesling      [rollzierp50@gmail.com](mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com)  
**Vice Moderator:** Corinne Remeika      [remeikas@tranquility.net](mailto:remeikas@tranquility.net)  
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**Outreach & Advocacy:** Mahree Skala      [skalamahree@yahoo.com](mailto:skalamahree@yahoo.com)  
**Worship & Music:** Edie Diel      [edie@thedandegroup.com](mailto:edie@thedandegroup.com)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Rick Oberle      [rick@columbiaucc.com](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com)

**NURSERY CARE** is available for children in kindergarten and younger in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

### **CUCC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE - 4/1**

CUCC Scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 school year are due 4/1. Applications are available in the church office. Talk to Pastor Rick, Lena Muench, or Corinne Remika to receive one.

### **HOLY WEEK AT CUCC**

Holy Week is upon us! Good Friday (4/3) worship will be in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. with special readings and music. Easter Sunrise worship will be at 6:30 a.m. outside in the Shelter House, followed by breakfast. Our Easter Egg hunt and activities will begin at 9:00 a.m. and Worship at 10:30 a.m.

**SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR-** *We are reviving our Maundy Thursday worship service* celebrating the last supper Jesus and his friends shared, the promises of New Life and Resurrection that were given at that meal, and the “Love Commandment” Jesus gave his friends. We will gather on Maundy Thursday (4/2) around the tables in The Gathering Space (upstairs hospitality area) of the church from 12:15-1:00 p.m. and share this special time together. We hope you will join us for a very special Holy Week!

### **DAY CAMP REGISTRATION ENDS SOON**

LODO is hosting a Day Camp the first three weeks of June on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration ends on March 31! Sign up now to secure a spot for your child aged 2-6. Talk to Sara Koenig or Kristin Veteto for more information.

### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

Sun	3/29	<b><i>PALM SUNDAY</i></b>	
		Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon	3/30	Scouts	7:00 p.m.
Tue	3/31	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Wed	4/1	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation	7:15 p.m.
Thu	4/2	Maundy Thursday Worship	12:15 p.m.
Fri	4/3	Good Friday Worship	7:00 p.m.
Sun	4/5	<b><i>EASTER</i></b>	
		Sunrise Service	6:30 a.m.
		Breakfast	7:15 a.m.
		Bible Study/Sunday School/Egg Hunt	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

*All music photocopied in the bulletin and reproduced on the video screen is done so using onelicense.net: License #A-727757*

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

*Please keep in your prayers this week . . .*

The family of Larry Mehmert... on their loss (Janet's Husband)

Marshia Beckmann... health issues

The Family of Harry Besleme... on their loss

The Family of Stephen Price... on their loss

The Family of John Lund... on their loss (Edie's friend)

Michael Butterworth... recovering from surgery

Patty Schroeder... recovering from broken hip

Christopher Tennill... on deployment in the Middle East

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father)... more health issues

Evie Marcks... health issues

Jen Siebert... challenges in life

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism including:

Owen Ramsingh and family,

The family of Renee Good, The family of Alex Pretti,

Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

## *Health Issues:*

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeier, Theresa Westgate (Tracie Huffman's Grandmother) Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Karleen Martindale (Kasper's Mother), Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link; Peri Ann Gulerson; Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin); Marilyn Coronado & Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

## *Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Armstrong

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank

## *Living in Independent Living Facilities:*

Don Privitt, Sue Beckman, Linda Evans, Walter & Patty Schroeder

## *Serving us in the military:*

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

## *Pregnancies in our Church Family:*

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney; Chloe & Mark Eveler

*If you are interested in joining our Prayer Team or have a prayer request for our team to lift up please contact*

*Melba Shaffer (573) 474-2997 [melbamaes@gmail.com](mailto:melbamaes@gmail.com)*

*Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoncasie@aol.com)*

## **John 12:12-19**

12 The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: 15 “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

17 So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify.

18 It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.

19 The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

## **Psalm 118:1-9**

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

2 Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

3 Let the house of Aaron say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

4 Let those who fear the LORD say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

5 Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.

6 With the LORD on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me?

7 The LORD is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put confidence in mortals.

9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

## John 12:20-36

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

22 Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.

25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27 “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

34 The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”

35 Jesus said to them, “The light is in you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going.

36 While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.” After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

## "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

213

*Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.**Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15*

1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,  
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;  
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.  
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,  
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,  
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.  
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

*Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection Sunshine and Shadow.*

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen  
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

216

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century  
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

Matt. 21:8-9

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,  
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da-vid's roy - al line,  
 3 As you re-ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!  
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,  
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.

The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;  
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we, sing,

our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.  
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

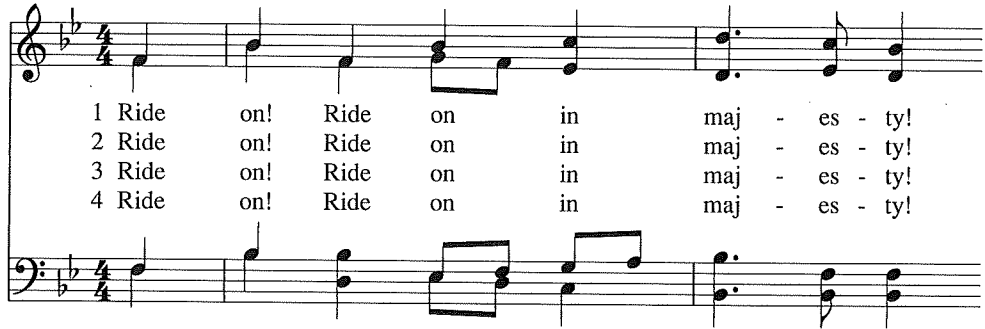
Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became bishop of Orléans but was later imprisoned by Charlemagne's successor. According to legend, he was released when the king, Louis the Pious, heard him sing this hymn from prison.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.  
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)  
 Melchior Teschner, 1615  
 For another setting, see 217

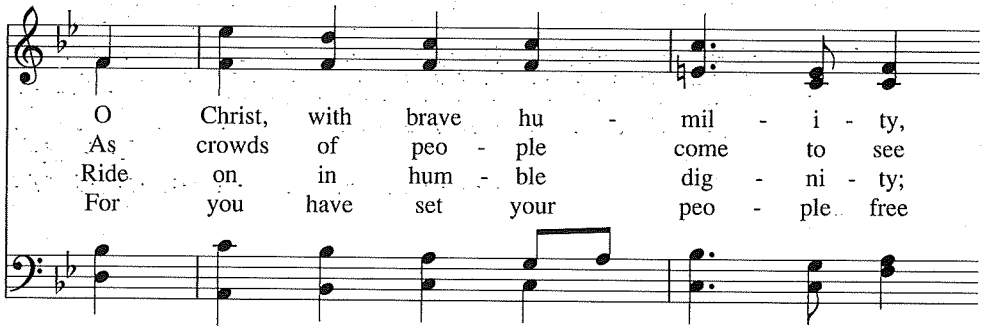
## Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

Luke 19:36-38; Zech. 9:9

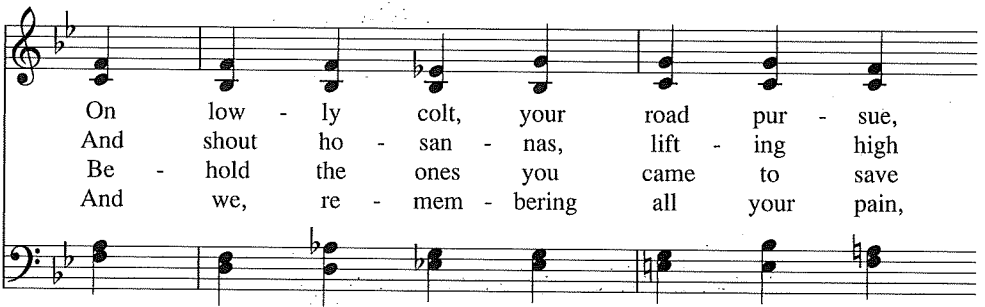
Henry H. Milman, 1827; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1993



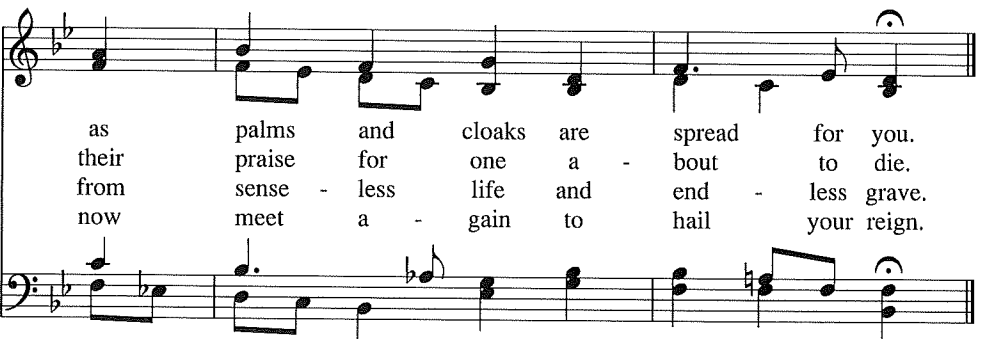
1 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!  
 2 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!  
 3 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!  
 4 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!



O Christ, with brave hu - mil - i - ty,  
 As crowds of peo - ple come to see  
 Ride on in hum - ble dig - ni - ty;  
 For you have set your peo - ple free



On low - ly colt, your road pur - sue,  
 And shout ho - san - nas, lift - ing high  
 Be - hold the ones you came to save  
 And we, re - mem - bering all your pain,



as palms and cloaks are spread for you.  
 their praise for one a - bout to die.  
 from sense - less life and end - less grave.  
 now meet a - gain to hail your reign.

Henry H. Milman, a priest of the Church of England, served successively as professor of poetry at Oxford, canon of Westminster, and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. He was also a successful playwright and historian.

Tune: ST. DROSTANE L.M.

John B. Dykes, 1862

Alternate tune: WINCHESTER NEW

# Journey to Gethsemane

John 18:1-20:18

James Montgomery, 1820; alt.

1 Jour - ney to Geth - se - ma - ne, go and feel the  
 2 Fol - low then to Pi - late's hall, view the Lord of  
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb, see the Sav - ior  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb, hear the cry of

tempt - er's power; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
 life ar - raigned; Crowned with thorns and mocked by all,  
 lift - ed high, Mark the mir - a - cle of time,  
 great sur - prise; Then the si - lence in the room,

watch the an - guish of this hour; Do not hide or  
 faith - ful - ly this pain sus - tained; Great - er still than  
 God's own Child is sac - ri - ficed; "It is fin - ished!"  
 Je - sus there no long - er lies: Christ is ris - en!

turn a - way: learn from Je - sus how to pray.  
 shame or loss, Je - sus now must face the cross.  
 Je - sus cries: learn from Je - sus how to die.  
 Re - al - ize that with Christ we, too, may rise.

James Montgomery, born of Moravian missionary parents, edited a newspaper in England. Risking imprisonment, he published articles advocating human rights, including the abolition of slavery. He wrote more than 400 hymns.

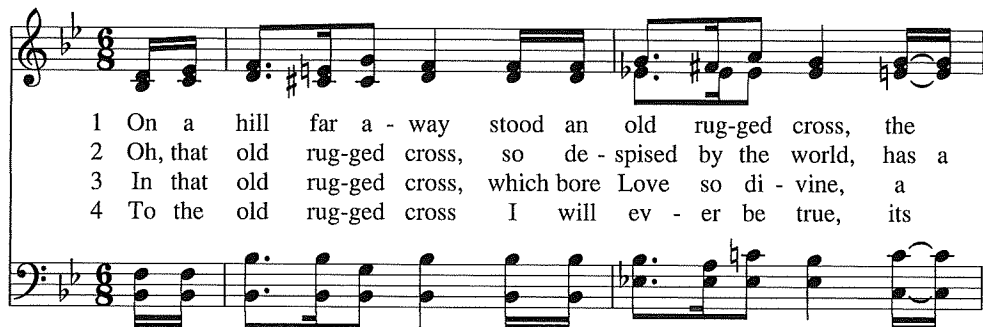
Tune: REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.  
 Richard Redhead, 1853

# On a Hill Far Away

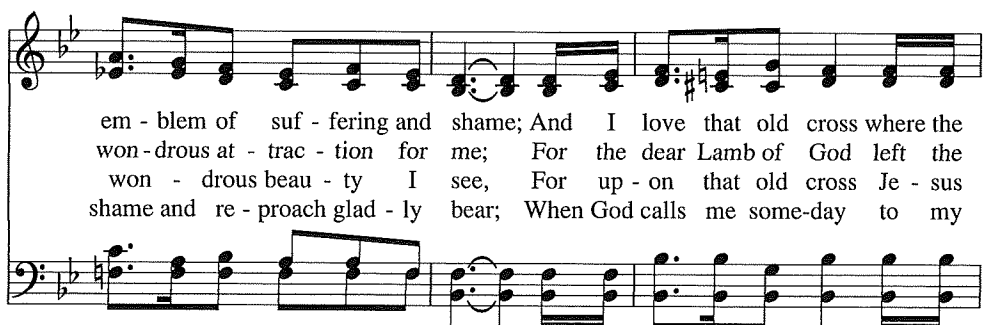
(The Old Rugged Cross)

Heb. 12:2; James 1:12

George Bennard, 1913; alt.



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, the  
 2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a  
 3 In that old rug - ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a  
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, its



em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the  
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the  
 won - drous beau - ty I see, For up - on that old cross Je - sus  
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; When God calls me some-day to my



dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.  
 glo - ry of heaven to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.  
 suf - fered and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.  
 home far a - way, there God's glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

### Refrain



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my  
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

After serving as an officer in the Salvation Army, George Bennard was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the midst of his travels through the Midwest conducting revival services, he was inspired to write this hymn.

Tune: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS Ir.  
 George Bennard, 1913

tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged  
cross, the

cross,  
old rug - ged cross, and ex - change it some-day for a crown.