

Great Thanksgiving for Palm Sunday  
(Who is this?)

Invitation:

Come as Jesus' guest.  
Come into the holy presence of Christ.  
Come and see his face in the face of others.  
Accept this invitation that is extended to all.

Confession:

Like the many faithful people before us, we have not always recognized You.  
You have come in the flesh and You dwell among us, yet we struggle to receive You.  
When we look, all we see are people just like us.  
You never seem very special. You are too ordinary to be You, the real You,  
almighty God, light from light, true God from true God.  
Yet here You are. Forgive our lack of enthusiasm, our hollow hallelujahs.  
Who is this? You are the Christ, the son of the living God. Receive our praise. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Christ understand you, knowing that you see but miss so much; that you hear but miss the conversation. Jesus does not hold our human weakness against us. By the mercies of Christ you are forgiven.

**All: Christ understands you too and does not hold your human weakness against you. By the mercies of Christ, you are forgiven. Hosanna in the Highest, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thanksgiving:

One: God has become flesh and dwells among us.

**All: God comes in humble attire.**

One: God speaks to us through the lives of those who live around us.

**All: God dwells in every human heart.**

One: We are blessed by God's presence,

**All: We are filled with joy as we proclaim to all the coming of our Lord!**

One: It seems so easy to miss Your presence.

As we wait for You, we feel so lonely, even deserted by You.

Yet You have never left us.

We are never forsaken, for You are closer to us than our next breath.

You are the incarnate God.

You come to us in every friend and in every enemy.

You come to us crossing our borders to find safety in our care.

You come as a child abandoned by all, trusting in our compassion.

You come speaking languages we still need to learn.

You come sharing ideas that seem dangerous to our ears.

You are always near.

This is how You dwell in the praises of Your people.

We are all Your people, filled with Your holy presence.  
Within this great constellation of people, we are filled with hope and encouragement.  
We cannot help but smile and be of great courage for we are not alone.  
You are here! Right now! A very present help in our time of need.  
So receive the worship due your name:

**All: Dance before the Lord!**  
**Celebrate before God in the sanctuary.**  
**Dance with joy because of his mighty deeds;**  
**Dance because of his surpassing greatness!**  
**Dance to the sound of trumpets, lutes and harps!**  
**Dance with a tambourine and to the joyful sounds of strings and pipes!**  
**Celebrate with the brash noise of clanging cymbals, even the loud clashing of cymbals!**

**Let everything that breathes dance before the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (Based upon Psalm 150)

One: We celebrate Your presence and recognize Your incarnation in Jesus Christ.  
Jesus was so human:  
born a typical human baby to a humble human mother.  
Jesus grew to become an average human child, full of curiosity and billions of questions.  
Jesus was a humble man,  
tempted like us all to become self-serving, self-aggrandizing and power seeking,  
yet chose a path of service to others.  
The miracles that Jesus performed in his care for others,  
he saw as the work of God, taking no credit for himself.  
He believed any one of us could do the same or even more.  
At the end Jesus died a very human death  
and for many it was hard to see him as divine at all.  
Who was he? He was always more than he appeared to be.

Even Jesus' disciples were surprised.  
Jesus did not act like a divine being,  
Jesus acted instead like the lowliest slave,  
stooping to wash their feet, something they  
would never think of doing themselves.  
In this we see divine love.

Jesus' disciples were surprised when Jesus  
took the unleavened bread, blessed by ancient prayers, broke it and said:  
"Take and eat, this is my body broken and given to you."  
In this we see divine love.

Jesus' disciples were surprised when Jesus took the cup,  
blessed by ancient prayers and gave it to them, saying:  
"Drink with me, this is the cup of my blood,

poured out freely in recognition of the eternal covenant of God,  
promising to you and to all the world the forgiveness of your sins  
and eternal life.”

In this we see divine love.

In the life of this very human Jesus  
we do see Your divine love shine forth.

The same great love that is seen in this mystery we now proclaim:

**All: In an act of divine love, Christ died for all.  
In an act of divine love, Christ lives for all.  
In an act of divine love, Christ comes again in us for all.**

One: Incarnate Truth, Amazing Mystery  
settle upon these gifts of bread and wine  
allow us to experience through them  
the body and blood of Christ, the gift of salvation.

Incarnate Truth, Amazing Mystery  
settle upon the gift of our lives:  
our humanity and your divine presence  
allow others to experience through them, Your church,  
the very human body and the sacred bride of Christ, the gift of salvation.

Incarnate Truth, Amazing Mystery  
be gracious to the Choptank charge of the United Methodist Church.  
Enable them to observe You clearly in the lives of those who live around them.  
Allow Your love to shine through them to bring Your comfort to this world.  
Be for them their greatest joy, their deepest passion, their fullest hope.

**All: We humbly lift these prayers before You,  
O Christ, who has shown so much mercy towards us,  
Who has breathed upon us the blessing of the Holy Spirit,  
bringing honor to the one who created us to bring You joy,  
may to You receive all our worship and praise, our adoration and devotion  
now and always. Amen.**

One: Join me now following the pattern for prayer shared with us by Christ:

**All: Incarnate God, who becomes flesh and dwells among us,  
touching our earth with heaven.  
Give to us all we need, so we might pass it along to others.  
Forgive us for not seeing people in all their complexity,  
just as we forgive those who are not able to see us fully.  
Guide us away from all that tempts us to stray from your ways,  
and from bondage to all that is comfortable and familiar.  
For you are with us, and near us, even to the end of the age. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you for allowing us to share in this holy mystery in Jesus Christ. Where we had tasted and saw only common bread and juice, we have caught sight of Your divine presence. Once again You have demonstrated to us that everything is more than it seems, for You are there with blessing. Now send us out to share this revelation with others. Use our lives to display Your presence in the world. Enable our lives to bear the fruit of the Spirit for the nourishing of the world. May we bring You joy always. Amen.