

HE IS COMING

by June Todd



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1 **PROCESSIONAL:** It is suggested the processional music might
 2 be: "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" by Steven Schwartz, from
 3 *Godspell* — available in sheet music form. Choir and others
 4 proceed to accustomed place. Choir hums processional music as
 5 readers enter. Each reader speaks during humming — as
 6 entering.

7 **VOICE 1:** In his presence, I became aware: I have seen the
 8 colors brighten where he is.

9 **VOICE 2:** I have heard his truth; heard it falling gently in
 10 the April rain on the hopeful heads, dripping, listening.

11 **VOICE 3:** I have seen his mercy in saved lives, when the lost
 12 reached out — and his hand was waiting.

13 **VOICE 4:** I have sensed his understanding of my struggle
 14 to understand when our eyes met in the crowd.

15 **VOICE 5:** I have seen his healing — the caressing gesture,
 16 a quiet word (*Pause*) then the joyous cries of the cured.

17 **VOICE 6:** I have felt the peace that is his presence, a stillness
 18 that moves all that is grasping and grubby and shrill
 19 away a distance. Shining is within him.

20 **VOICE 1:** Today, in joy, we welcome him to Jerusalem.

21 **ALL:** (*Joyous*) He is coming. Jesus is coming.

22 (*Choir sings one more refrain of processional hymn.*)

23 (*The following quietly joyous*)

24 **VOICE 1:** In the countryside of Palestine ... our
 25 homeland ... For some, only over to the next village ...

26 **VOICE 2:** For all, close enough that the word travels swiftly
 27 as the swallow's homeward flight ...

28 **VOICE 6:** ... Talk of great mysteries.

29 **VOICE 4:** ... Talk of great miracles.

30

31

32 Scripture quotations are from the *Good News Bible* — Old
 33 Testament: Copyright (c) American Bible Society 1976: New
 34 Testament: Copyright (c) American Bible Society 1966, 1971,
 35 1976.

- 1 **VOICE 1:** There was a man of vision, a man of power among
 2 us in the countryside, doing works of wonder, speaking
 3 boldly of God.
- 4 **VOICE 5:** An exceptional man, as had never been seen
 5 before . . . and as had never been heard before.
- 6 **VOICE 3:** And we went, leaving our fields, leaving our shops.
 7 Friends came by for us, calling, but we were not there . . .
- 8 **VOICE 4:** Business came knocking at our doors, but we were
 9 not there.
- 10 **VOICE 6:** Out on the dusty roads, excited, eager with
 11 anticipation we walked — seeking the teacher, seeking
 12 the healer.
- 13 *(Pause)*
 14 *(The following with excited wonder and a sense of mystery, awe.)*
- 15 **VOICE 2:** I was there — were you there, any of you — on the
 16 day of the great feeding? Were any of you among that
 17 multitude?
- 18 **VOICE 3:** Yes, I was. A vast throng it was, people to every
 19 side as far as I could see.
- 20 **VOICE 5:** I, too. I remember it well. It was late in the day . . .
- 21 **VOICE 3:** We were all hungry by then.
- 22 **VOICE 2:** We'd walked for miles to be with him. And then
 23 we'd sat for hours listening to him tell of the Kingdom
 24 of Heaven . . .
- 25 **VOICE 5:** And watched the healing of the afflicted . . .
- 26 **VOICE 2:** Then Jesus called together his disciples and said
 27 he was sorry for us all, that we had been with him for so
 28 long and had nothing to eat . . .
- 29 **VOICE 3:** But the disciples were only perplexed . . .
- 30 **VOICE 5:** They said, "Where can we find enough food in this
 31 desert to feed this crowd?"
- 32 **VOICE 2:** Then Jesus asked them — "How much bread is
 33 there?"
- 34 **VOICE 3:** "Seven loaves," they told him. "And a few small
 35 fish."

- 1 VOICE 2: Jesus ordered us all to sit — to sit down on the
2 ground wherever we were.
- 3 VOICE 5: And he took the seven loaves and the fish and gave
4 thanks to God. I saw him, the fish in one hand, the bread
5 in the other, held out before us.
- 6 VOICE 3: I saw, too.
- 7 VOICE 5: Then he broke them, the loaves and the fish, and
8 he gave them to the disciples.
- 9 VOICE 2: And the disciples came among us reaching into
10 the baskets passing out bread and fish. . .
- 11 VOICE 5: Up and down the rows they went, a broken piece
12 of bread, a piece of fish to everyone. On and on, down
13 the hill, and around the field. . .
- 14 VOICE 3: They never slowed, they never stopped, row after
15 row, until all were fed.
- 16 VOICE 2: That vast crowd fed, everyone, from the seven
17 loaves from the few small fish. . .
- 18 VOICE 5: I was there. I ate from the fishes and the loaves.
19 And I wonder on it, to this day.
- 20 VOICE 2: (*Awed, Reverent.*) . . . to this day . . .
21 (*Pause*)
22 (*In the following, VOICE 1 is the narrator, the others enact the*
23 *afflicted as they read their parts.*)
- 24 VOICE 1: In the hills, in the back country, outside
25 Bethsaida, outside Capernaum, Jesus began his
26 ministry . . . his ministry of teaching . . . his ministry of
27 healing. The people came, carrying their aged, their
28 crippled, their desperately ill . . .
- 29 VOICE 6: . . . Cure my baby . . . Cool the fever . . .
- 30 VOICE 4: Unclean! Unclean! (*Rings small bell.*)
- 31 VOICE 6: Give her roses in her cheeks again. She is too
32 young . . . Too young to have forgotten life . . .
- 33 VOICE 3: Over here, Rabbi. Touch here this withered arm
34 and make it whole . . .
- 35 VOICE 5: Rabbi! Rabbi! These eyes — make me see!

- 1 **VOICE 4:** Unclean! Unclean! (*Rings small bell.*)
- 2 **VOICE 2:** To walk, great healer, I beg you. Make me walk . . .
- 3 **VOICE 1:** He stood among them, curing them. The healing
- 4 flowed from him. The blind were made to see; the
- 5 anguished freed from their mental prisons; the diseased
- 6 skin became fresh and clean. One more gift he gave them
- 7 as he healed them . . . the gift of hope . . . hope for them
- 8 in God a loving father.
- 9 **MUSIC:** Solo, "Got Us Here a Miracle Man." (*See page 12*)
- 10 **THE LESSON:** (Zechariah 9:9-10, *Good News Bible*)
- 11 Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people
- 12 of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes
- 13 triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a
- 14 donkey—on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- 15 (*The following with an attitude of peaceful understanding*)
- 16 **VOICE 1:** The multitudes came to hear him. Throngs of
- 17 thousands, from Judea, Jerusalem, from Syria and the
- 18 land on the other side of the Jordan. In Galilee, he
- 19 climbed to the top of a hill and sat on a tall rock where
- 20 he could see out over them all, and he told them . . .
- 21 **VOICE 6:** (*From Beatitudes*) Happy are those who know they
- 22 are spiritually poor, the kingdom of heaven belongs to
- 23 them!
- 24 **VOICE 3:** Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort
- 25 them!
- 26 **VOICE 2:** Happy are those who are humble; they will receive
- 27 what God has promised!
- 28 **VOICE 5:** Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do
- 29 what God required; God will satisfy them fully!
- 30 **VOICE 4:** Happy are those who are merciful to others; God
- 31 will be merciful to them.!
- 32 **VOICE 6:** Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!
- 33 **VOICE 2:** Happy are those who work for peace; God will call
- 34 them his children!
- 35 **VOICE 5:** Happy are those who are persecuted because they

1 do what God requires, the kingdom of heaven belong to
2 them.

3 *(Pause)*

4 **VOICE 1:** And his voice was heard across the hills; his voice
5 was heard among all the thousands. In every ear, quietly,
6 a voice.

7 **MUSIC:** Choir Anthem, "Hosannah, Hallelujah!," by Avery and Marsh.
8 *(See page 10, or substitute other appropriate hymn.)*

9 **THE EPISTLE:** Phillipians 2:5-11, *Good News Bible*.

10 The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus
11 had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not
12 think that by force he should try to become equal with
13 God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all
14 he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like
15 man and appeared in human likeness. He was humble
16 and walked the path of obedience all the way to death —
17 his death on the cross. For this reason, God raised him
18 to the highest place above and gave him the name that
19 is greater than any other name. And so, in honor of the
20 name of Jesus, all beings in heaven, on earth and in the
21 world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly
22 proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God
23 the Father.

24 *(The following with a feeling of foreboding, menace.)*

25 **VOICE 1:** And as he walks among the people...
26 teaching... healing... speaking of the kingdom... he
27 has been confronted. There are those who belittle him,
28 attack him...

29 **VOICE 5:** The Pharisees. Yes. They hate him.

30 **VOICE 4:** And the Sadducees.

31 **VOICE 2:** Why? I don't understand it.

32 **VOICE 5:** They fear him.

33 **VOICE 4:** He threatens their power over the people.

34 **VOICE 6:** These are the Council, our leaders and our
35 teachers. Who remembers a time when we did not have

1 a Council of the Elders? Men of prominence and
2 importance, to interpret the Scripture...to set
3 guidelines for us.

4 VOICE 4: They send their questioners. They come, seeking
5 out faults in him.

6 VOICE 5: We were with him, listening...and it was the
7 Sabbath. Hungry, we went into the fields to pluck some
8 wheat.

9 VOICE 1: And the Pharisees, angered, said:

10 VOICE 6: "It is against our law that your disciples do this
11 on the Sabbath..."

12 VOICE 5: And Jesus answered them... "The Son of Man is
13 Lord of the Sabbath..."

14 VOICES 2,3: (*Dismay*) (O-o-o-h!

15 VOICE 1: Another time they came to him and asked:

16 VOICE 6: "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in
17 the law?"

18 VOICE 1: And he answered them:

19 VOICE 5: "Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with
20 all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest
21 and most important commandment.

22 VOICE 4: "The second most important commandment is like
23 it," he said. "Love your neighbor as yourself."

24 VOICE 2: How could anyone hate this man?

25 VOICE 1: I will tell you! They hate him because he has
26 spoken of the Pharisees this way: (*Emphatic*) "How
27 terrible for you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees! You
28 hypocrites!"

29 VOICES 2,3: (*Dismay*) O-o-o-o-h!

30 VOICE 1: He has called them "Blind Guides." He has said:
31 "How terrible for you teachers of the Law and Pharisees."

32 VOICE 5: "You are like whitewashed tombs which look fine
33 on the outside, but are full of bones and decaying corpses
34 on the inside."

35 VOICE 4: "In the same way, on the outside you appear good

1 **to everyone but inside you are full of hypocrisy and sins!"**

2 **VOICE 2: He is making powerful enemies for himself.**

3 **VOICE 3: Why does he do this?**

4 **VOICE 5: It is the truth he speaks.**

5 *(Pause)*

6 **VOICE 2: (With a shudder, looking down the aisle.) I am afraid**
7 **for him.**

8 **VOICE 3: Yes. I, too. I am afraid.**

9 **MUSIC:** Congregational singing hymn "Crown Him With Many
10 Crowns." *(See page 11)*

11 **PASTOR:** The Pastor's welcome.

12 Offertory. Choir Anthem.

13 **THE GOSPEL:** Mark 11:1-7, *Good News Bible*

14 **As they approached Jerusalem, near the town of**
15 **Bethphage and Bethany, they came to the Mount of Olives.**
16 **Jesus sent two of his disciples on ahead with these**
17 **instructions: "Go to the village there ahead of you. As**
18 **soon as you get there, you will find a colt tied up that**
19 **has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. And if**
20 **someone asks you why you are doing that, tell him that**
21 **the Master needs it and will send it back at once. so they**
22 **went and found a colt out in the street, tied to the door**
23 **of a house. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders**
24 **asked them, "What are you doing, untying that colt?"**
25 **They answered just as Jesus had told them, and the men**
26 **let them go. They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their**
27 **cloaks over the animal, and Jesus got on.**

28 *(The following with mounting excitement)*

29 **VOICE 1: Many people spread their cloaks on the road . . .**

30 **VOICE 3: While others cut branches in the field and spread**
31 **them on the road.**

32 **VOICE 2: The people who were in front and those who**
33 **followed behind began to shout, "Praise God!"**

34 **VOICE 5: "God bless him who comes in the name of the**
35 **Lord!"**

- 1 **VOICE 6:** "God bless the coming kingdom of King David, our
2 father!"
- 3 **VOICE 4:** "Praise be to God! *(All previous, Mark 11:8-9)*
- 4 **ALL:** He is coming! Jesus is coming! Hosannah! Hosannah!
5 *(Enter the children waving palm branches, congregation and*
6 *choir sing "All Glory, Laud and Honor," see Page 9. Children*
7 *assemble in front with branches.)*
8 *(The following as response reading.)*
- 9 **LEADER:** We praise and thank you, oh God for our
10 redemption through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 11 **PEOPLE:** Hosannah.
- 12 **LEADER:** On this day he entered the holy city and was
13 acclaimed King of Kings and Son of David by the people.
- 14 **PEOPLE:** Hosannah to God in the highest.
- 15 **LEADER:** They showed their love by putting down their
16 garments in his path, and by waving palm branches and
17 hailing him Lord and King.
- 18 **PEOPLE:** Hosannah. Praise to our heavenly Father.
- 19 **LEADER:** We ask Lord, that you will bless these branches,
20 those who carry them and all who are gathered in praise
21 and adoration, today.
- 22 **PEOPLE:** Hosannah, Father.
- 23 **LEADER:** As from this Palm Sunday celebration we enter
24 Holy Week, we ask you to guide our thoughts to the
25 passion and the victory of our Lord, making us mindful
26 of his suffering and resurrection. From the promise of
27 Palm Sunday to the fulfillment of Easter, help us grow
28 closer in our hearts and minds to our Lord and Saviour
29 who taught us to pray:
- 30 **ALL:** "The Lord's Prayer"
- 31 **PASTOR:** Benediction
32
33
34
35

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

(found in most church hymnals)

Refrain:

**All glory, laud and honor to thee, redeemer, king;
To whom the lips of children made sweet Hosannas ring.**

**Thou art the King of Israel, thou David’s royal son,
Who in the Lord’s name comest, the king and blessed one!**

(Refrain)

**The company of angels are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things created make reply.**

(Refrain)

**The people of the Hebrews with psalm before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we pre-
sent.**

(Refrain)

**To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

(Refrain)

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we
bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious king.**

(Refrain)

“Hosanna, Hallelujah!”

“Hosanna, Hallelujah!,” Copyright by Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh, 1967, from the *Avery and Marsh Songbook*, Proclamation Publications, Port Jervis, NY.

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

(found in most church hymnals)

**Crown him with many crowns, the lamb upon this throne:
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.**

**Crown him the virgin's son, the God incarnate born.
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his
brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown him the Lord of love — behold his hands and side.
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may ease, absorbed in prayer
and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**



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