Look! Your king is coming, humble and riding on a donkey.
Hosanna to the Son of David!
Lay your cloaks before him; spread palms to honor him.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Raise your voices. Lift your hearts. Rejoice—our Savior comes!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

(1) Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

(2) From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

(3) "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
The journey you lead, O Lord, is draining, demanding, and fraught with danger. You ask us to stay by your side as you make your way through Jerusalem to the cross. But weariness and fear overtake us. Like the first disciples, we are quick to betray you, deny you, abandon you. Forgive us, we pray, and strengthen us for the journey ahead. Give us courage to face the pain and suffering of this world and to respond with compassion. As the darkness gathers, renew our faith, fill us with hope, and startle us with your grace. Hear now the prayers we bring to you in silence …

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
GOD'S WORD TO US

ANTHEM
Ride on, King Jesus
Spiritual, arr. by Steven Seigart
b. 1990

SCRIPTURE LESSON
Matthew 21 and 27, selections
Rev. Ann Herlin

TIME WITH CHILDREN
The Pommerer Family

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Dr. Robert R. Laha

SERMON
A Different Kind of Parade

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
Adapted from A Declaration of Faith, 1977
Mrs. Noelle Castin
We confess that in the execution of Jesus the sin of the human race reached its depths. The only innocent One was condemned and put to death, not by the sinfulness of one nation, but by the sinfulness of us all. In the presence of Jesus, who lived out what God wants us all to be, we were threatened beyond endurance. Blinded by our rebellion against our Creator, we killed his Son when we met him face to face.
In his lonely agony on the cross, Jesus was acting on behalf of God, manifesting God's love that takes on itself the loneliness, pain, and death that result from our waywardness. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self, not holding our sins against us. He is our only hope in life and in death.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN 198
Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

(1) Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues its road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

(2) Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

(3) Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The hosts of angels in the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

(4) Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain;
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Improvisation on ST. DROSTANE
Steven Seigart