

**Once Upon a Tree (reprise)** For God so loved the world, He gave His priceless pearl. What greater love could there be? He died, He rose again, still the story doesn't end, for His spirit is living in me. What tale of human love could there ever be told? What song could compare with the one I hold? Through ev'rything I am and through ev'rything I'll be, let me sing my story: "Once upon a tree."

**The Song Lives On, Hallelujah!**

The song lives on within my heart, as earth and heaven sing their part, "Hallelujah!" The song lives on through all our lives, and opens gates of paradise. Hallelujah! Though Christ would die in shame, all heaven sings His name, for God transformed His shame to glory. Though on the cross He died, Christ conquered death to rise and lives in our hearts as we sing the story. The song lives on as we rejoice in Christ, the life of all our joys. Hallelujah to the living Lord!

**First Parish Choir**

**Sopranos**

Mary Ellen Cook  
Marty Farmer  
Diane Houghton  
Maggie Michael  
Rebecca Shrimpton

**Altos**

Lauren Goudonis  
Penny Lapham  
Betsy Nickless  
Jen Powers  
Lelly Smith  
Pam Spencer

**Tenors**

Jim Brennan  
George Nickless

**Basses**

Paul Knox  
John Round



His Spirit is Living in Me

# Once Upon a Tree

words and music by Pepper Choplin

**Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea as Luke**

**Jim Brennan as Pilate**

**Paul Knox as Jesus**

**Rebecca Shrimpton as Mary**

**First Parish Choir**

**Dr. Herman Weiss, director**

**Palm Sunday**

**April 10, 2022 at 10:00**

**First Parish Congregational Church**

**Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA**



### **Once Upon a Tree**

Once upon a tree, a good man died, and though He did no crime, He was crucified. If the story ended there, I would have no song to share, but my heart will ever sing the story. Once upon a tree, so the story goes, and all the mystery surely no one knows; could the Father's will be done through the suffering of His Son? And there comes the answer, "Once upon a tree". For God so loved the world, He gave His precious pearl. What greater love could there be? He died. He rose again, still the story doesn't end, for His spirit is living in me. What tale of human love could there ever be told? What song could compare with the one I hold? Through everything I am and through everything I'll be, let me sing my story: "Once upon a tree".

### **Blessed is He**

Look in the distance, what can you see? I heard the Messiah is coming. Could it be? We have been praying and waiting so long. Now the crowds gather to see, the waiting is over and now the Messiah is here. He is here! Arise and shine, your light is coming. Look and see. The glory of the Lord is rising, look and see the Lord. Come prepare the way before Him, Blessed is He. Make the highway straight before Him. Blessed is the Lord, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Bring your joyful songs of praises. Come and sing. Raise your voice and wave the branches. Come and sing to the Lord. Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, come and praise the Lord!

### **Jerusalem**

Be careful in this city; this is no place to prophesy. The world comes here to worship, and prophets come here to die. Be careful in this city; be careful where you tread. The people rise to praise you, the Pharisees want you dead. The streets fill with Hosannas, but the Pharisees detest the sound. When God raises up a prophet, they try to take him down. This town is full of danger. Speak clear, but count the cost. Better choose your battles wisely or you could end up on a cross. He threatens the temple's power, the time to act has come. They meet this very hour, for something must be done.

### **Do This and Remember Me**

See, the table is set, the food is prepared. We gather to share this holy meal. Do this and remember me. Come and eat this bread; and take the cup; it will fill you up with my memory. Do this and remember me. And when your journey's long and all your strength is gone, when you wonder if my spirit is there. And though the world is cruel and evil forces rule, I will be with you. I will be with you forevermore. Though I go away, remember my friends, I'll see you again when in heaven we'll meet. Do this and remember me. Go and share the bread and offer the cup, there will be enough for all who believe.

### **Gethsemane**

*Jesus:* Come, go to Gethsemane. I will take you there with me. *Disciples:* We will follow, Lord. Do not worry, we will follow where you lead. We will never leave your side. *Jesus:* Will you stay awake with me? Stay alert and pray with me. Pray that we will stand the test. *Disciples:* We are weary, Lord. All we need is peace and rest. We will pray as evening comes, God's will be done. *Jesus:* Father, take this cup from me. It is more than I can bear. *Disciples:* Where did Judas go, Lord? *Jesus:* Must it be my destiny to die in shame and suffering? Still, I am your son. Your will be done. *Disciples:* Someone's coming, Lord. *Jesus:* My friends, do you not understand? Look, the betrayer is at hand.

### **Crucify Him**

*The Crowd:* Crucify him, now crucify Him! *Pilate:* What has he done that He should die? You choose to kill Him, not I. His blood not be on my hands! *The Crowd:* Let His blood be on us and all our Children! Let Him die! Let him be crucified! *Pilate:* I'll free Barabbas or Jesus, you decide. One shall live, the other man shall die. *The Crowd:* Give us Barabbas! *Pilate:* Why should I free a man like that? *The Crowd:* Set him free and save the cross for Jesus! Let Him die, let Him be crucified! *Pilate:* Stop! Take Him, He's yours to crucify. *The Crowd:* Crucify Him!

### **Father, Forgive Them**

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do. Jesus, priceless treasure, love beyond all measure, how could You forgive the pain and cruelty that You bore? From the cross You showed us the miracle of grace. Lord, we stand in reverence of the life You gave to come to save the world. Lord, you come as Savior, full of love and favor. Who could ever stand before Your throne without Your grace? As we are forgiven, so let us live to sing, lifting high our voices as we worship You in gratitude and praise. We bring gratitude and praise.

### **Now it's Time to Rest**

*Mary:* Oh, my Precious Jesus, now your suffering's over. Poor and tortured body, now it's time to rest. Why were they so angry? Love was turned to hating. How could they kill you; steal your life away? *Disciples:* Soon it will be Sabbath, cruel work is over. Take his broken body, lay it down to rest. You wouldn't lead an army, still You fought the battle, with love Your only armor, truth Your only sword. Death, now he is laughing, thinks he won a prize. The story is not over. God will overcome. Your days on earth have ended, Your words will live eternal. Your spirit lives among us, You will never leave. *Mary:* Lord, Your breath is still now, peace is on Your face. Poor and tortured body, now it's time to rest. Now it's time to rest. It's time to rest.