



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

A dramatic Reading followed by prayer...

God of wonder, the drama of the day fills us with awe. We marvel at its intensity. We all share as actors in this lifelong spectacle. Inspired by this, may we convey this message of hope to a troubled world. Encouraged by this, may we tell the timeless story of a humble Christ who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Amen

Response

O Jesus, I Have Promised (V.1,2,4)

VU 120

- 1 *O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*
- 2 *O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.*
- 4 *O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.*

Life & Work of the Church

Land Acknowledgement & Candle Lighting



Opening Hymn

All Glory, Laud and Honour (v.2,3,4)

VU 122

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

- 2 *The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.
All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

- 3 *To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

- 4 *Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king.
All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Prayer for Grace

***Come let us follow Jesus, for Jerusalem is near.
Jesus and his friends are ready to enter the town.***

As we approach the end of the journey, there is a sense of wonder and mystery, even as we know that difficult days still lay ahead.

We hear the cries of the crowd and as we celebrate, we are uneasy.

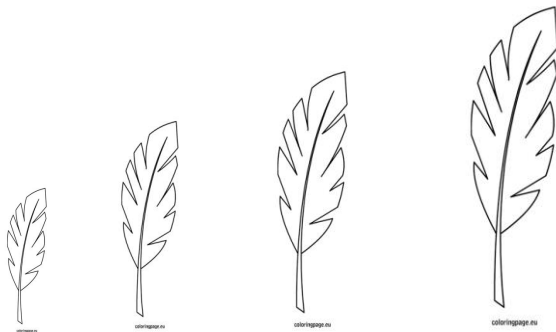
Before us lies the cross.

God, walk with us through the streets of Jerusalem; the Garden of Gethsemane; through betrayal and denial; so that when we stand at the foot of the cross we can see it, and see past it, to the renewal that Christ offers us.

Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And now for something completely different...



Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

VU 365

- 1 *Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

- 2 *Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me.'
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

- 3 *Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Prayer of Illumination

Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.

May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.

Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen

Psalm 118

The Voice

Give thanks to the Eternal who is *always* good.

Who never ceases to be loving and kind.

² Let *the people of Israel* proclaim:

“The Eternal never ceases to be loving and kind.”

Open *wide* to me the gates of justice

so that I may walk through them

and offer praise *and worship* to the Eternal.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Eternal;

the righteous *children of God* will go through it.

²¹ I will praise You because You answered me *when I was in trouble*.

You have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very stone that holds together the entire foundation.

²³ This is the work of the Eternal,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.^[a]

²⁴ This is the day the Eternal God has made;

let us celebrate and be happy today.

²⁵ O Eternal One, save us, we beg You.

O Eternal One, we beg You, bring us success!

²⁶ The one who comes in the name of the Eternal will be blessed;^[b]

we have blessed You from the house of the Eternal.

²⁷ The Eternal is the True God; shining light on us.

Let the feast begin.

Bring the sacrifice, and tie it to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I give You thanks;

You are my God, and I praise You.

²⁹ Give thanks to our Eternal God who is always good.

Who never ceases to be loving and kind.

Hymn:

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

VU 123

*1 Hosanna, loud hosanna
the happy 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 victory palm branch waving,
 and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven
 rode on in lowly state,
content that little children
 should on his bidding wait.*

3 *'Hosanna in the highest!'
 That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
 earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him
 with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence
 eternally rejoice!*

Matthew 21:1-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.^{[a]”}

⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

I Love a Parade



Hymn

Filled With Excitement

*Filled with excitement
All the happy throng
Spread cloaks and branches
On the city streets
There in the distance they begin to see
Riding on a donkey comes the Son of God
From every corner
A thousand voices
Sing praises to Him Who comes
In the Name of God
With one great shout of acclamation
Loud triumphant song breaks forth
Hosanna hosanna to the King
Hosanna hosanna to the King*

*As in that entrance to Jerusalem
We sing hosannas to the Christ our King
To the living Savior Who still calls today
Asking us to follow Him with love and faith
From every corner
A thousand voices
Sing praises to Him Who comes
In the Name of God
With one great shout of acclamation
Loud triumphant song breaks forth
Hosanna hosanna to the King
Hosanna hosanna to the King*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



Prayers of the People



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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

VU 127

- 1 *Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy 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 winged squadrons of 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.*

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

Other Resources for Today

Psalm 130 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² *Lord, hear my voice!*

*Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!*

³ *If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?*

⁴ *But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.*

⁵ *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;*

⁶ *my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.*

⁷ *O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.*

⁸ *It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquity.*

Romans 8:6-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit^[a] is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ *But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,^[b] since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit^[c] is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ^[d] from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through^[e] his Spirit that dwells in you.*

