

March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: All Glory, Laud and Honor. Melchior Teschner. Arr. by Cindy Berry

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Look! Your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he –

humble and riding on a donkey;

on a colt, the foal of a donkey!

Hymn VU 124 “He Came Riding on a Donkey”

He came riding on a donkey,

he came riding into town;

slow and easy kind of lowly

he came riding with the dawn.

His disciples walked beside him,

staying close, a little shy;

not too sure where he would guide them,

on to live or on to die.

But all the morning sang his praises;

waking birds and dancing wind;

here he is, the Son of David;

riding on to take his throne.

Then the children gathered, singing

shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;

in the streets their song was ringing,

'Hosannas' filled the morning air.

Timid adults strained to see him,

caught the Spirit, joined the song;

spread their cloaks along before him,

branches flashing in the sun.

So all the city sang his praises;

waking streets and dancing crowd;

here he is, the Son of David;

our Messiah, Son of God.

In our fasting, and our feasting,
called to follow in his way;
called to walk his road to Easter,
called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David,
hosanna in the heavens above;
blessed is he who comes to save us,
blessed is he who brings his love.
Let us join to sing his praises;
open hearts and souls to God;
he is with us, Son of David;
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, today your Christ entered Jerusalem, surrounded by cheers and waving branches; the way paved with the cloaks of the people. Today your Christ comes riding into our hearts; and we sing and cheer and wave our branches and pave the way with the cloaks of our faith. And after the parade is over, we will turn away and go back to our old lives, our old ways, our old sins. With all due haste we will discard our commitment as we discard our palms. We will pick up our faith, shake it out, fold it up, and put it back on the shelf, where it belongs. Merciful God, save us! Save us from ourselves. Help us to let our fears, our doubts, our faithlessness slip from our lives and fall at your feet, so we may stand with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ, who comes in your name to save us all. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @



Anthem:

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 VU 837 *parts one, three, and four*

Let Israel now say:

'God's love endures forever.'

Let the house of Aaron say:

'God's love endures forever.'

Let those who fear God say:

'God's love endures forever.'

Open to me the gates of the temple,
that I may enter and give thanks to God.

**This is the gate of God;
through it the righteous shall enter.**

I thank you for you have answered me;
you have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

**This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Save us, O God, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;

with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will extol you.

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Palms: John 12:12-16; Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Meditation: “What a Parade!”

Hymn “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

WORDS: *attr. to* S. Sundar Singh; *alt.* MUSIC: “Assam”; Hindustani melody. Public Domain.

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
my cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
my cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
no turning back, no turning back.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

As Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey so many years ago, Christ continues to ride into our world and into our hearts through our ministries and through our offerings, bringing grace and hope and life to the vulnerable and marginalized of our day. Jesus, may our offerings this morning be like the donkey that you rode into Jerusalem; may they support your ministry, and may they carry that ministry into all the places in our community and in the world where it needs to go. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Yet, within days, the triumph turned to tragedy, the hosannas turned to calls for his crucifixion, the elation turned to agony. You, O Lord, know our suffering.

You who faced opposition from many know the difficulties your church faces in this world. This week we pray especially for Springfield Pastoral Charge.

You, who came to be saviour of the world, know the struggles of people everywhere, like the people of the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.

You, who wept at Lazarus' death know the pain of mourning, like the friends and family of John Freymond and Sandy Weiczorek.

You, who healed many, know the suffering of those like Rob Ford, Roger Henry, Mary Kaiser, Bobby LaRush, Andy Linell, Phil Shelley, Marlene Smith,

You, who spent forty days and forty nights in the desert know all about walking difficult paths. Lord, in your faithfulness, be with all for whom we pray, and see us all into your kingdom, where, with God our Father, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and forever.

**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,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 127 "Ride On! Ride on in Majesty!"

- 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.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the God of hope,

grant us strength for the journey;

the Christ of compassion,

grant us empathy for all we meet;

and the Spirit of truth

grant us wisdom and vision for the way ahead,

as we journey through this Holy Week.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 425 “God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” vs 1

God, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us,
travelling through the wilderness.

Postlude: Lift High The Cross. Sydney H. Nicholson. Arr. by Cindy Berry.

Announcements.....

Good Friday: April 2, 2021 @ 11 am..... Zoom link will be sent out.

Scripture Lessons for next week:

Maundy Thursday:

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-7, 31b-35

Good Friday:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 OR Hebrews 4:16-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday:

Acts 10:34-43 OR Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118-1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;
John 20:1-18 OR Mark 16:1-8