

PALM SUNDAY

CELEBRATING THE KING



And the
multitudes
that went
before, and that
followed,
cried, saying,

Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he
that cometh in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest.
Matthew 21:9

@juneoreyes

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

March 28, 2021



Worship Service

1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

Palm Sunday March 28, 2021

Welcome/Announcements & Sharing of Our Vision

Preparing to Meet God

Bells

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Barbara Kinyon

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...



"He humbled himself and became obedient..." From this biblical phrase flows the vintage hymn Christians have sung through the centuries – that Jesus Christ is Lord! Lordship equals authority and power. Worldly culture practices power over others. Jesus exercised Godly power on our behalf, and he calls us to have the same mind – refusing selfish ambition and conceit, and serving the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of others in grace-filled humility.

We bumble along in selfishness and hollow glory, building ourselves up, until our egos collapse, only to humiliate ourselves. By contrast, Jesus emptied himself preemptively in the forge of temptation, and on the anvil of Gethsemane. He took the humble servant position. "Not my will, but yours be done." The cross was Christ's obedience for our sake, to save us from ourselves. He didn't clutch being equal with God as his personal right, and he died in humility and obedience.

"Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?" "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." Jesus is Lord! To God be the glory!

Call to Worship

L: I can tell: Word has gotten out! Today is a good day! Today we tell an ancient story of a parade, palms and possibilities.

P: ***We wear palms and crosses, reminding ourselves that both ecstasy and agony, joy and disappointment, are part of our lives.***

L: Today we say: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!

P: ***This One is Jesus of Nazareth – teacher, builder, cornerstone, Christ, the Son of God.***

L: In ancient Jerusalem, people gave Jesus a wonderful welcome the week before Passover rituals.

P: ***Today, we celebrate the presence of the living Christ!***

A: ***Holy One, thank you for your unmistakable presence! With our senses and our minds, we delight in the gift of life. We honor you with attentive listening and we eagerly wait for your voice. Amen.***

*Hymn of Praise #196, red

All Glory, Laud and Honor

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 people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. **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***

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem knowing that you were called to die for our sins. We confess that we have not hailed you as king or gone before you in the world with praise. For unsteady faith that fades in times of trouble, for enthusiasm that dwindles in the face of discouragement, for hope we parade but do not pursue, have mercy on us. Forgive us, O God, and give us such a trust in your power that we may use our lives to serve you. And now, holy God, we come before you in prayer to ask forgiveness for sins.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

- L: Hear the Good News: The curtain of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom,
P: *Signifying our ready access to the mercy seat of God.*
L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel -
P: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Second Lesson *Mark 11: 8-11, 15: 1-24* *The Last Week of Jesus' Life on Earth*

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' 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.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Sermon

Side by Side – Palm and Passion Sunday



Responding to the Word

*Hymn #212, red *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

*Alas! And did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I!*

*Was it for sins that I have done he suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!*

*Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in,
When Christ, the great Redeemer, died for human creatures' sin.*

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.*

*Affirmation of Faith

We experience God as good and loving, believing that the Holy One continues to create, and that all that God creates is good.

We experience the teachings of Jesus as foundational for the living of our lives.

We experience the Holy Spirit as the catalyst for thinking outside worn boxes; empowering our actions on behalf of fairness, peacefulness and collaboration, and strength-ening us for each day's tasks.

Together, we encourage one another to continue our lives' journey to be faithful to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer - to explore new symbols, new rituals and fresh interpretations of God's work in the world. Together, we enjoy human and divine interaction. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord God Almighty!

Cares Chorus, Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime, I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

Invitation and Prayer of Dedication:

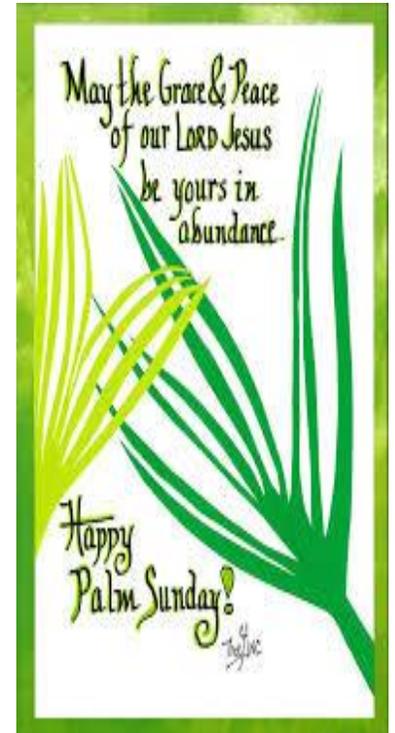
God has provided for us in so many ways. All that we have truly comes from God. Giving of our resources is an essential part of discipleship. We feel grateful for our blessings and we share a good portion of them to do Christ's work. Since we cannot gather together for worship, we encourage each of you to send in your tithes and offerings so that the church can continue its ministry.

Going Out to Serve

*Hymn #197 red

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*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.*



*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.*

*"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.*

Blessing

L: Go forth from this place in joy,

P: Praising God for his gift of enduring love.

L: Lift high the palm branches of your faith,

P: Waving them in thanksgiving for the steadfastness of a loving God.

A: Who is with us always, even as we travel our own roads to Jerusalem.

L: And may the blessings...

***Response**

He Is Lord

*He is Lord, he is Lord. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, Every tongue confess, That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

Friends, consider watching an appropriate and joyful Palm Sunday praise song on YouTube:

Hosanna! By the Maranatha! Singers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YApEIjvE6S4>

Have a blessed Palm Sunday to worship Almighty God – the King of Kings! And make the time to worship with us on Maundy Thursday. We will enjoy an in-person and online communion service. And on Easter, we will gather to worship God and appreciate God's awesome power as evidenced in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

