



Palm
SUNDAY

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church - Online Service
Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021 - 11:00 AM

Welcome

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: Humble and riding on a donkey,

P: We greet you.

L: Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,

P: We cheer you.

L: Moving from the peace of the countryside
to the corridors of power,

P: We salute you, Christ our Lord.

L: You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity;
you are giving majesty a new face;
you are giving those who long for redemption
a new song to sing.

P: With them, with heart and voice, we shout "HOSANNA!"

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

God of infinite power, we praise you for Jesus Christ,
who came riding into the city of Jerusalem on a lowly beast,
victorious through love and not through violence.

Help us to learn the meaning of power and of glory through Christ,
who, though being one with you, took on the form of a servant
and shared our human life and sufferings.

May we truly participate in the life and struggles
of the world's peoples, to our joy and your glory. Amen.

*Ho-san-na, loud ho-san-na,
the lit-tle chil-dren sang;
through pil-lared court and tem-ple
the joy-ful an-them rang.
To Je-sus, who had blessed them,
close fold-ed to his breast,
the chil-dren sang their prais-es,
the sim-plest and the best.*

*"Ho-san-na in the high-est!"
That an-cient song we sing,
for Christ is our Re-deem-er;
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ev-er praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his bliss-ful pres-ence
e-ter-nal-ly re-joice.*

Call to Confession

Let us face this day of palms with honesty,
confessing our sin before God.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

**God of steadfast love and purpose,
you know how we love to serve you
in the sunshine of success and popularity,
and how we shrink away when you ask us
to walk through the fire of trial and suffering!
Forgive our unfaithfulness, and teach us to walk
with steady obedience in both joy and suffering,
through Jesus Christ, your faithful servant. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

God sweeps into our human scene,
redeeming all who turn from evil and do good.
There is grace, mercy, and renewed strength for all
who earnestly seek the new life Christ brings.
Let us rejoice together, for even the stones cry out with good news.
God forgives.
We are freed from the burden of our sin.
Praise God!

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:
Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day
through the power of the Holy Spirit,
that we may enter into the coming Holy Week
with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Wisdom Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *(A Song of Victory)*
Gospel Mark 11:1-11 *(Jesus' Triumphal Entry ...)*

Sermon

“Jesus, Save Us!”
The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed *(Traditional)*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the People

(poem by Ann Weems from Kneeling in Jerusalem)

O God, we pray this day:

For all who have a song they cannot sing,

For all who have a burden they cannot bear,

For all who live in chains they cannot break,

For all who wander homeless and cannot return,

For those who are sick and for those who tend them,

For those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,

For those who live in hunger

and for those who will not share their bread,

For those who are misunderstood

and for those who misunderstand,

For those who are captives and for those who are captors,

For those whose words of love are locked within their hearts

and for those who yearn to hear those words. Amen.

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 sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever. Amen.

*A cheer-ing, chant-ing diz-zy crowd
had stripped the green trees bare,
and hail-ing Christ as king a-loud,
waved branch-es in the air.*

*Lest we be fooled be-cause our hearts
have surged with pass-ing praise,
re-mind us, God, as this week starts
where Christ had fixed his gaze.*

*In-stead of palms, a wind-ing sheet
will have to be un-rolled,
a car-pet much more fit to greet
the king a cross will hold.*

Benediction

Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
Look not to rewards and celebrity for your good deeds.
Do unto others what will nurture God's will for them.
Listen to the word of the Lord, and believe.

Go in peace, assured of God's presence with you,
with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide,
and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit.

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Text: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, alt.

Music: Gesangbuch der Herzogl.

Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1787; alt.

“A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd”

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1985

Music: Paul Benoit, OSB, 1959, alt.

Text © 1985 Oxford University Press

Music © 1960 World Library Publications

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