

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, April 5 2020
Palm Sunday: A Service for Worship at Home

Prelude

Take this time to take a breath, and quiet your heart and mind.

Opening Prayer

Lord, still the turmoil of our hearts. Fill us and the places in which we worship you now with your Spirit. In the prayers that we pray, the songs that we sing, your Word that we hear, and in our lives that respond, show yourself that it may truly be said, "blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:26; Matthew 21:9

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

Hosanna to the Son of David!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Confession

Lord, we are weary. We are worried. We are sad. These are not sins. But instead of coming to you who have called all who weary and heavy laden to find rest in you; instead of laying our worries at your feet; instead of crying out to you in lament, we turn inward. Our weariness becomes despair. Our worries become fears. And our sorrow becomes isolation.

Enlarge our hearts, Lord. Give us courageous faith, that in our weariness, we may lean on you. That in our worries, we may love and care for our neighbor all the more. And that in our sorrow, we may find your grace and steadfast kindness.

Assurance and Peace

Matthew 21:5; Psalm 118:1, 14

Hear the Good News: *"Your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey!"*

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!...The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Throughout this week, please find ways to share the peace of Christ with one another, with neighbors, and with those in your communities. (In fact, if you're able, even right now in the middle of worship, you might even take just a moment and text someone, sharing the Peace of Christ!)

Children's Message

Downloadable materials for children (and the young at heart!) can be found on the church website (www.CalvinChurchRI.org) with the worship materials.

Scripture

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ 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. " 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 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."

Sermon

Hymn

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Offering

Matthew 21:8

"A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road."

We understand that these are uncertain and difficult times. But that is all the more reason that the work of the church continues. Please prayerfully continue to give your gifts to this ministry. You can take just a moment to give online through our website, or prepare a check to be mailed.

Prayer of Dedication

Lord, take our gifts, offered in gratitude – never adequate, but in your grace always blessed, multiplied and used to show your love, compassion and care. May the resources you have entrusted to us, freely given to you, make visible here and now Jesus' timeless mission of justice and mercy.

Prayers of the People

Lord, your word sustains the weary. You bind up the brokenhearted and bring good news to the poor. As you enter into the chaos of Jerusalem, we trust you come to us in whatever turmoil we are experiencing. Even as some of us shout our praises, others among us cannot find the strength to even murmur a word of hope. You see us all, lined up by the road, isolated in our homes, incarcerated, or incapacitated, worried about our loved ones and those who are ill, exhausted from caring for the sick and laboring at essential work, and you are moved with compassion. You come to Jerusalem, getting ever closer to the cross, pouring yourself out in order to bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and salvation...and hope.

Seeing you, humble, riding on a donkey, vulnerable and unwilling to turn away from suffering, we are bold to pour ourselves to you, crying, "Hosanna!" and "God, help us!" We do not know how to voice our deepest needs or fears or hopes or longings, yet you know them all before a word is on our tongues. We cast everything before you, Lord of all, trusting your promises of an easy yoke and a light burden.

We call out for healing for the sick, relief for the suffering, justice for the oppressed, strength for the exhausted, hope for the downtrodden, and comfort for those who mourn. As we wonder what will come next, as we struggle with countless uncertainties and mounting anxieties, we look to you, the blessed One who comes in the name of the Lord, for help, for assurance, and for the peace that passes understanding.

As we draw close to you and attempt to follow, even to the cross, we rejoice in your near presence. We give thanks for the health care professionals, the grocery store workers, those who deliver food and mail, and all front-line responders. We pray for those who have lost jobs and livelihoods, opportunities and dreams. We remain grateful for all those on the Way with us.

We lift up to you those whose names and needs are known to us...

United in you, Lord Christ, we will stand together and stand up for those who have fallen by the wayside and walk with those who fear they have been forgotten amid the tremors and turmoil of this time. Strengthen us for the days ahead so that we will remain faithful to you, your will and your call, until we see you face to face.

**Adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Jill Duffield. Used by permission.*

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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Hymn

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Benediction

May the Hosannas on our lips, become love in the works of our hands.

May the love of God the Father, The grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, One God, be with you, now and forever. Amen.