

Palm Sunday

Ypsilanti First, St. Matthew's & Cherry Hill UMCs
April 5, 2020

Worship Preparation

We are accustomed to being handed a palm branch as we walk into worship on Palm Sunday – but on the first Palm Sunday, the people improvised: they waved whatever they could find as they welcomed Jesus into their midst. You can cut your own palm branch from green paper, or print and color one from online; you could bring a branch inside from your own yard or neighborhood; or you can lift and wave anything else that brings you joy: flowers, handkerchiefs, bandanas, a piece of paper, ribbons, pom-poms, streamers, or just your hands!

Order for Worship

Gathering Song **Give Us Clean Hands**

*We bow our hearts, we bend our knees,
Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Lord, we cast down our idols*

*Give us clean hands; give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another (2x)*

*O God, let us be a generation that seeks,
Seeks your face, O God of Jacob (2x)*

Welcome

Call to Worship

During the litany, the pastor will say: And the people shout...

*Your response is: **Hosanna in the highest!***

You are invited to wave your branches (or anything else) as we enter into worship together.

Leader: Jesus rides into Jerusalem, and the people shout:

People: **Hosanna in the highest!** *(wave your branches!)*

Leader: Branches are saved, and the people shout:

People: **Hosanna in the highest!** *(wave your branches!)*

Leader: Hopes and dreams run along with the parade,
and the people shout:

People: **Hosanna in the highest!** *(wave your branches!)*

Leader: Sing and shout for joy, for the Lord comes.

We welcome him! And the people shout:

People: **Hosanna in the highest!** *(wave your branches!)*

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Bishop Bard's Remarks.

We are so grateful to have Bishop David Bard join us this morning!



Opening Song *O Worship the King*

1 O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love.
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise!

2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light and canopy space
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Chorus: You alone are the matchless King
 To You alone be all majesty
 Your glories and wonders, what tongue can recite?
 You breathe in the air, You shine in the light

3 O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to worship above
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend (*to chorus*)

Scripture Luke 19:28-40 NRSV

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode

along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Message

Pastors Bri & Mike

Prayer

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 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 forever. Amen.*



Spiritual Communion

Lord, we believe that you are present in all things and in all places.

By your grace, you make even ordinary things holy.

Water, bread, and juice fill us with your grace.

Joining together in community fills us with your grace.

Lord, we wish we could be together around the table today.

We love you above all things,

and we desire to receive your grace in our souls.

Though we cannot share the sacrament of communion together,

we ask you to come into our hearts today.

We embrace your presence.

We welcome your comfort.

We trust in your strength.

May your love become a part of our very being,

and may we know that nothing can separate us from you.

In Jesus' name we pray; amen.

Opportunities for Ministry

- **Join us Maundy Thursday** at 7:00pm for a virtual worship service. Bring something to eat and drink (bread or crackers, any kind of juice or water) as we will share a love feast across the distance. The service will stream on the churches' Facebook pages and on YouTube (www.bit.ly/TheRevs).
- **Join us Good Friday** at 7:00pm for a virtual worship service. The service will stream on the churches' Facebook pages and on YouTube (www.bit.ly/TheRevs).
- **Please continue to support the church** financially if you can! Though the buildings are closed, our ministries continue. We are working to help create opportunities for "virtual" community, reaching out to our neighborhoods, caring for one another, and offering assistance to those in need.
- **Please join us in caring for one another** by phoning other members of the church community. If you are willing to be a

part of a virtual visitation team, calling a few members on a regular basis, please let one of the pastors know.

- **Online devotions continue** Monday through Friday at 10am. Pastors Mike and Bri stream the devotions live on Facebook and YouTube, and videos are available on both platforms after the devotion is over.
- **Virtual Bible Study** is being offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Look for the link to join or call in on the churches' Facebook pages. (Note: there will be no Thursday bible study this week due to the Maundy Thursday worship service.)
- Past online worship services may be viewed at any time on Facebook or YouTube.

Closing Song

Hosanna

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Lord we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise.

Be exalted, O Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, glory, glory to the King of Kings!

Glory, glory, glory to the King of Kings!

Lord we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise.

Be exalted, O Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessing

Stay home, stay safe, and let us know if we can help! Remember, no matter where you are this Holy Week or how the world's been turned upside-down, God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it!

