



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome To Worship

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

9:30 a.m.



Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

"Songs of Loudest Praise" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude – *Mantos y Palmas 199*** and procession of the palms

✧ **Introit *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*** (v1 on song sheets)

✧ **A Lenten Ritual of Candle Unlighting 205 *Ubi caritas***

As we sing, one candle among our Lenten candles is extinguished. With each week of Lent, yet another of the candles will be extinguished. (The Christ candle remains lit.) The dimming of light during the season of Lent reminds us that this 40-day journey is leading to the cross of Good Friday. The Christ candle returns Easter morning.



✧ **Welcome and community news**

- Join us this evening at 6:30 pm in fellowship hall ~ Tippe is providing the meal for our Divine Intervention guests. Fellowship is central to our “DI dinners,” and your presence is welcome!
- Save the dates - Holy Week worship opportunities in Bay View:
 - **Palm Sunday** service March 24 at Tippe 9:30 am – together we’ll imagine Peter’s experience as Jesus enters Jerusalem
 - **Maundy Thursday** service **Thursday, March 28 at 7:00pm** at **Grace Presbyterian Church, 2931 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue**
 - **Good Friday** service **Friday, March 29 at 7:00pm** at **Bay View United Methodist Church, 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue**

- Siena Retreat Center’s Annual Spring Benefit Concert with Carrie Newcomer
Sunday, April 7 at 2 pm at 5637 Erie Street in Racine (Tickets \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door)
If you’re interested but the price is steep for you, there is support to buy a ticket – just reach out to Pastor Trish. Also, carpooling is available.



✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!
Surely God is in this place,
Holy Ground!

✧ A Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment

Courage

We summon every ounce of courage.

We give ourselves pep talks
and we call our friends.

We dig deep within.

We practice the words out loud,
rolling them around in our mouths,
imagining the response.

We deal out every “what if” card our brain holds on to
and spend absurd amounts of time
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.

And then finally, blessedly, we say it:

I love you.

To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.

It always has.

But please,

summon your courage,

join the parade,

and speak with conviction.

For God has been saying to the world since day one:

I love you.

What is your response?

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

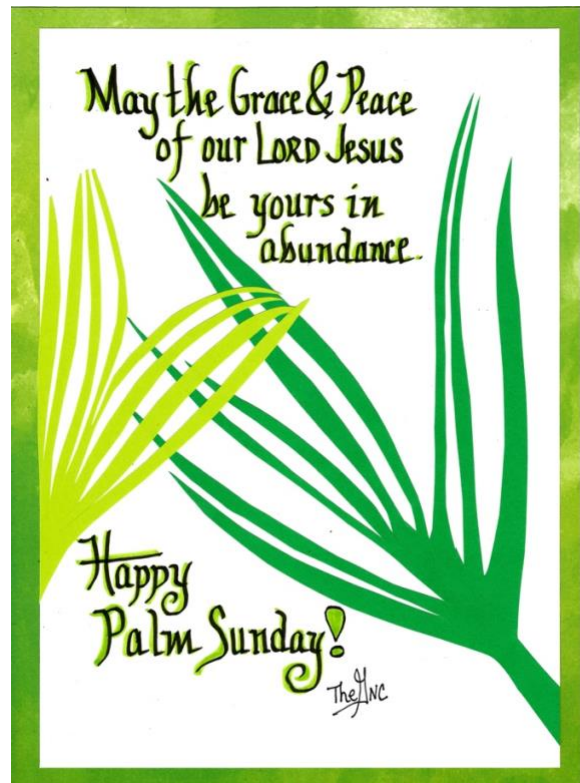
✧ Becoming Present to God and Each Other - Our Check-in

~ The Joy of Passing the Peace ~

One: May the peace that surpasses all
understanding be with you

All: And also with you

One: Thanks be to God



✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Lenten Theme – *Wandering Heart***
Songs of Loudest Praise

On this Palm Sunday, we enter Holy Week. Throughout this Lenten season, Peter has played a major role, yet for this morning's text and throughout the week, he won't be mentioned much at all. This leaves us to fill in the gaps with our imaginations.

We've come to know Peter pretty well. Let us remember how this all began: with an abundant catch, and a charge to drop everything and follow. Peter has walked on water and clung to Jesus for rescue. He has pronounced his faith confidently and been told to get out of Jesus' way. He has asked questions and learned about the expansiveness of grace. And now, the end is near. He stands among the crowds as they sing songs of loudest praise. We've come to know Peter pretty well, and we also hear this story unfold every year – we know what's coming.

The Palm Sunday story leaves us imagining where Peter might be and how he is participating. On this day, we are often charged to consider where we would be in the crowd. Are we singing praise? Are we joining in, or standing back? This year, we invite you to imagine where Peter is in the parade, and as we recognize ourselves in Peter, consider, how might we have responded?



✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

✧ **Gathering Hymn *Christ is Coming* 360**

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

Sing songs of loudest praise!

Hosanna!

Sing songs that are unashamed.

Hosanna!

Sing songs without being afraid.

Hosanna!

Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

Hosanna!

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

ALL: Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise!

We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.

However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.

Too often we stay quiet.

Too often we let others carry the song.

Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade

but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.

Show us which songs are ours to sing.

Show us which parades are ours to lead,

and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.

With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

✧ **Prayer for Illumination**



God of grace,

your Word is like a song.

It is the melody that we long to sing,

the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads.

So as we return to scripture once more,

we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song.

Allow us to hear the truth in between the words.

Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own.

With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.

✧ **Special Music *Road to Jerusalem*** ~ by Betsy Gonwa (song sheets)

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.

Hosanna!

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

✧ **Prayer of Intention**

Holy Spirit, may we hear your gracious Word for us today. May we grow in wisdom, strength, and love as we open our ears, our minds, and our hearts to the transformative message you have in store for each of us. Amen.

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching**

John 12: 12-16

12 The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

'Hosanna!

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

the King of Israel!'

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

15 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,

sitting on a donkey's colt!'

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

All: **Thanks be to our God.**

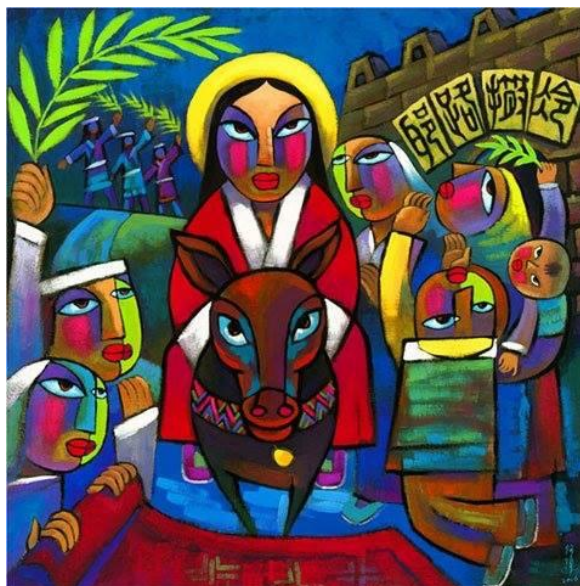


✧ **Reflection Questions**

- ◇ The word for “remember” (John 12:16) will show up again in our Easter Sunday text when the men in dazzling clothes tell the women at the tomb to remember what Jesus had told them. Immediately, “they remembered his words” (Luke 24:8). And yet, the rest of the male disciples dismiss the women’s report (except for Peter who runs to the tomb.) when do you think the disciples will remember? What exactly will they remember? Do you think each disciple will experience remembering at a different time?
- ◇ In your faith journey, when have you gone through a confusing and uncertain season? Have you ever found clarity by looking back on that time with a new perspective? What allowed you to understand in hindsight? What did you realize? What did you remember?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**



✧ **Hymn A Prophet Woman 201**

✧ **Our gifts of support**

✧ **Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

**ALL: Spirit of Life and Love, Holy God, Source Eternal,
in our midst yet still ever so elusive:**

To breathe your sacred name is a blessing.

Your world become,

**Your will be done here, on Earth,
inspired by our aspirations to do and be better people.**

May we have all that we need to survive, live, and thrive.

**Remind us to be gentle; may we love mercy and kindness,
recalling the times when we've fallen short ourselves.**

**Call us to be firm; may we not be tempted to follow selfish motivations
or reside in our narrow privileges, unexamined and uninterrogated;
move us to counter and overcome evil and injustice in ourselves, our
lives, and institutions.**

**Yours is the Beloved Community,
the fire of commitment in our hearts,
and the spirit of generosity and abundance, now and always. Amen.**

Author, Alex Jensen (Unitarian Universalist)

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/invocation-spirit-life-alternative-lords-prayer>



✧ **Benediction**

Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs,
you always belong to God.
Go now in peace.
Go trusting that good news. Amen.

Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.

✧ **Our Response:**

Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.

Please remain quiet in place until the postlude is finished.

✧ **Postlude** *Jesus, Remember Me 227*

