

Worship on April 10, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Palm Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 216 Hosanna
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – BOP 64 Be still and know that I am God

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 19:28-40
- Sermon: Overcome death with love
- The prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, April 10th, 2022. This is Palm Sunday. Jesus walked in the city of Jerusalem toward trial, suffering, and death. On Friday, Jesus was crucified. Fear occupied the earth. Yet, Sunday was coming. Jesus' resurrection is our foundation of faith. Let us praise and worship God.

. There is Good Friday service on April 15th at 10:30 am. Zoom worship will be broadcasted using the same link.

. Next Sunday is Easter Sunday. We will have the Communion at the Lord's Table celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

. From next week, we will have coffee and cupcake after worship service.

. The Rev. Soong will have his study leave from April 18th to 24th. He will be back on 25th.

. The Rev. Soong has his office hours on Wednesday from 9am-12pm. (not on April 20th)

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, let us know.

Cheryl Daddis @ cheryl@pathcom.com or Soong @ revsoonghuh@hotmail.com

. Please continue to pray for people who are ill.

. Please help Ukraine with donation and prayer, and support the Aurora Food Pantry and Food Bank.

. Thank you for your continuing support with your gifts. As we offer our gifts to the Lord, let us give our hearts and our lives to the Lord as well. May God be in the centre of your hearts.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds,
and focus on our Lord and King.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Jerusalem, at last! We join the crowd streaming to the mountain. We watch Jesus approach on a lowly donkey. We hear the crowds cry “Hosanna!”

All: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

One: There is a joyful song in the air: the people cheer and the palms wave. But the adulation of the crowd is shallow.

All: Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to the blessed of God. Son of David, save us now.

One: The crowd grows—the people want to be part of something important.

All: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

One: Let us pray.

All: God of all times, we have followed Jesus into the crowded city. We too want to catch a glimpse of Jesus. Reveal to us what true glory, leadership and obedience look like under your reign. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Praise song – BOP 216 Hosanna

<u>Vs. 1</u> Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Lord, we lift up your name with heart full of praise; be exalted, O Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!	<u>Vs. 2</u> Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings! Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings! Lord, we lift up your name with heart full of praise; be exalted, O Lord my God! Glory to the King of kings!
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Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Holy God, Source, Saviour and Spirit of all life, Holy Three and Holy One,

In you, we confront the mystery of mercy and the courage of compassion. As we face the Cross on which Christ gave himself, we confront your willingness to die for us so that we might find new life. As the Spirit speaks to us through the story of your amazing love, spilled out in the blood of Christ, our hearts are moved to praise you. Words cannot express our awe, the grief and the gratitude stirring within us, for all you have given us, and for all you will give us through such unspeakable love. We praise and worship you in wonder and thankfulness.

Merciful God, filled with wonder and praise, we acknowledge to you how often we fall short of your purposes for us. We confess it is easier for us to follow the crowd than follow Christ; we prefer to avoid conflict rather than stand up for your mercy and understanding.

We allow strident voices in our times to drown out your wisdom and truth.

Forgive us, O God. Fill us with the courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus, even when the cost to follow is high and reputations are at stake. We pray to you, Holy God.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord’s Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those

who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ, The Apostle Paul wrote: “This saying is sure and worthy of our full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

It doesn’t matter how big or how small our sins, God’s forgiving love in Jesus Christ can cover them all. Trust that, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Be at peace with God, be at peace with yourself and be at peace with each other.

Peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to share our peace to each other.

Prayer for children and youth

Gracious Jesus, thank you for your love and thank you for your invitation for us. Jesus loves children and youth. We pray for these children and youth this time. Help them know your love. Jesus died for them out of his unmeasurable love. Pour out this love upon them over and over again, so they may be immersed in your great love. In Jesus’ precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 64 Be still and know that I am God

<u>Vs. 1</u> Be still and know that I am God Be still and know that I am God Be still and know that I am God	<u>Vs. 2</u> I am the Lord that health thee I am the Lord that health thee I am the Lord that health thee
<u>Vs. 3</u> In thee, O Lord, I put my trust In thee, O Lord, I put my trust In thee, O Lord, I put my trust	

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, as we hear the stories of Jesus’ final days again, help us listen as if we had never heard them before. By the power of your Holy Spirit, engage us, shock us, and pierce our hearts, so that your undying love overwhelms us with mercy and grace through Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

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.”

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Triumphal Entry of Jesus

People eye-witnessed many many wonderous miracles of Jesus. He healed the sick. He opened the eyes of the blind. He cast out demons. He fed the hunger. And he rose the dead.

Crowd fell in love with Jesus and they went crazy over what Jesus did.

Today, Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. And the people welcomed him with all their hearts.

Today’s sermon title is **“Triumphal Entry of Jesus.”**

Triumph. Victory. Bible scholars titled this passage “Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.” I first thought, they used ‘Triumphal’ because crowd welcomed and celebrated the entry of Jesus into their city. Winning their love, becoming famous, and being welcomed could be considered as triumphant. But, the Bible scholars had different idea about this.

This entry is triumphant not because crowd went crazy about Jesus, but because it is the beginning of Jesus’ final victory.

This is triumphal entry because Jesus takes the final victory after being suffered, crucified, died, and resurrected!

As Jesus going close to Jerusalem, he said to his disciples, V30-31, **“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. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’**

This is the preparation of Jesus declaring that he is the Messiah. **Zechariah 9:9, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”**

This is the clear expression of Jesus identifying himself the coming Messiah. Publicly, Jesus is announcing that he himself is the coming King and the Messiah.

Baby donkey, a colt that has never been ridden. What is it important?

This is also the expression of the characteristic of Jesus. Horse is the animal of war. On the other hand, comparison to horse, donkey is the animal of peace. Therefore, riding on a donkey indicates that Jesus is humble and Jesus is the King of peace.

Numbers 19:2, “This is a statute of the law that the Lord has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without defect, in which there is no blemish and on which no yoke has been laid.”

When preparing a sacrificial animal, it should be without defect or any blemish. Moreover, no yoke has been laid. In other words, this is the sin offering to the Holy God. It is to make peace between sinner and the Holy God. Therefore, this sacrificial animal must be clean, pure, and perfect.

The colt shows that Jesus being the clean, pure, and perfect sacrificial animal to restore the brokenness of human kind.

In the book of Hebrews, the author describes Jesus: **“14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)**

This is Jesus whom we believe. This is our King and Lord Jesus whom we are serving. Jesus is humble and pure and perfect. Jesus sympathizes with our ups and downs. Jesus knows our pains. Jesus knows our joys. Jesus was tested. But, the difference between us and Jesus is that Jesus is without sin. That is why Jesus is able to become our redemption. Jesus satisfied the wrath of God by taking all the consequence of our sin. God’s only Son Jesus took the place of sinners; that is us. Let us praise and worship God for his amazing love and grace.

And, when we think about Palm Sunday, we think of palm branches and loud cheering. **V38, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”**

Crowd spread out their cloaks and palm branches where Jesus was coming. They welcomed and honoured Jesus by spreading their cloaks on the road. They covered the road so that Jesus did not go on the dust.

Do you know Red Carpet? The iconic red carpet sets the movie stars who step on it apart from normal people. The Red Carpet stands for respect and honour. Palm branches and people’s cloaks were the Red Carpet at that time. Jesus was the star. Jesus was the special One. Everyone looked upon him. This also was the tradition to welcome and honour the king. Everyone had their own expectations of the changes Jesus would bring when he became the king.

What is our expectation?

We like victory. We like to be special. But, this triumphant entry of Jesus leads Jesus to suffering. He was arrested and stood before the judges. Crowds who welcomed Jesus turned around. They shouted in the face of Jesus. “Crucify him!” Jesus was beaten badly. Unable to walk, Jesus fell, again and again, as he carried the cross. Jesus died on the cross. One of the sinners who crucified beside Jesus mocked Jesus, **“Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” (Luke 23:39)**

Isn’t this our honest expectation? The Jesus we love, the superhero, who is saving us all, is powerful and victorious. But, this Jesus, who didn’t do anything, does not seem to be the true king. He does not satisfy our expectations.

True triumph. True triumph can be different from what we look for. Have we experienced prayer answers in unexpected ways? We never expected God would work in certain ways, but God has his own ways.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

We want to see Jesus breaking the power of the cross and coming down in power. But, this is not the sacrificial Lamb that satisfy God’s justice. At the cross, Jesus had to satisfy two opposite characters of God: love and justice. Because of the justice of God, God cannot allow sin. Sin must be punished. On the other hand, because of God’s love for us, God sent Jesus as the clean,

sinless, pure, and perfect sacrificial Lamb, so that our sin can be removed, so that we may have new life, so that we are redeemed from the power of death.

Satisfying God's love and anger, Jesus took our place. Because Jesus did not have sin, death had nothing to do with Jesus. Jesus overcame the power of death. This is true victory.

This victory, Jesus gave to us. We are living in true triumph. Our sin is forgiven and we are made new and clean in Jesus' true victory. Live in him and live in truth and live as the triumphant people. Jesus walked into Jerusalem in victory for us.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God:

God of love and grace, we thank you for your presence here with us. The walk of Jesus entering into the city of Jerusalem was the walk toward the cross, the walk toward death. But, you did not hesitate. Your steps were confident and certain. Because you love us so much, you did not spare your own life. Because you were not able to see us dying, you died for us. Let these words of prayer come into our hearts, and let this prayer become our life.

Loving Father God, we come to you in humble hearts. We are seeking your power. We are asking for your wisdom. You are the King and you are the Lord of our lives. Heavenly Father God, we are hoping our comfort. We love what this world can give us. Our lives and our thoughts are filled with this world. You gave us life. You gave your all, but we are looking at our own selfishly desires. Help us come to your cross. Jesus, you promised, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened," then you will give us rest. You will give us freedom. You will give us power to overcome. Change our hearts. Change our whole being, so that we come to you.

Precious Jesus, we pray for your church. You called each one of us and we build your church. You are the head of the church and we are your hands and feet. Help us serve you with our lives. Help us desire your presence in our lives. Help us experience you in our daily lives. There are many of our congregants who are experiencing difficulties. Physical pain, mental hardships, relational struggles, and financial difficulties. At this time, we lay down all our worries and our fears. As you promised, carry us. Carry our burdens and give us rest. Give us peace. Give us freedom in you.

Lord Jesus, help us think about you this week. Remind us your love as we carry out our daily responsibilities. We thank you for your love and your life-giving sacrifice for us. We worship you and we praise you. Be lifted up through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering.

On this Sunday, we remember that Christ faced down his critics, looked danger in the eye, and gave up his life on the cross for us. Now it's our turn to find the courage to give up something in gratitude for all he gave. Let us present our offering to God with grateful hearts. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Gracious God, when we look at what you have done for us in Jesus Christ, our offering seems so small. Yet the story of Jesus tells us five loaves and two fish can feed a multitude, and a man condemned to death on a cross becomes Living Bread for a hungry world. Accept the gifts we

offer you today, and use them to ensure that Jesus' story will be told for generations to come. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

<u>Vs. 1</u> Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood	<u>Chorus</u> This is my story; this is my song. Praising my Saviour all the day long; This is my story; this is my song. Praising my Saviour all the day long;
<u>Vs. 2</u> Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love	<u>Vs. 3</u> Perfect submission, all is at rest I in my Saviour am happy and blest Watching and waiting looking above Filled with his goodness, lost in his love

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Palm Sunday, it is the beginning of the Passion Week, which Jesus started his triumphal suffering journey for us. Let us remember that Jesus was not able to give us up. He had to go through our pain and the consequences of our sin. He took our place. Live with Jesus. Have him in the centre of your heart.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.