

Order of Worship for at Home Use Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020



Welcome to worship with Grace@Home! <https://youtu.be/fcPk0rn-aXU>

We pray that you are blessed as you worship, that God will provide you with all hope and mercy as you enter into His Presence. Today is Palm Sunday, as well as Communion Sunday.

As we begin you are invited to **prepare your worship space.**

https://drive.google.com/open?id=163XtaUpF5S-whpJidyFN7DZ3VzV_hEMz

For Communion: Please prepare a plate with bread and a glass with grape juice or wine *use what you have, a slice of bread or a roll, water, wine, or juice is fine...don't run to the store if you don't have it*.

For worship on Palm Sunday: You are invited to decorate your worship space with a symbol which will remind you of the events of Palm Sunday as we will read in scripture. You might want to lay a cloak, robe, or coat on the floor, bring in a palm branch from your yard, print and color the palm branch on this link <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1aDRRxDnui2YyoWzHWNpTSrJiAA07GzJ2>, or simply light a candle to remember that the light of Christ is with us. Maybe today, as you begin worship, you parade around your house with some festive music playing to remember bodily the way Christ entered Jerusalem to the sound of a jubilant crowd.

Please note: The video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2-Tdau5_uM here does not contain all that is in the printed bulletin. Please feel free to use the additional printed materials if you wish by pausing the video in the appropriate places.

We Gather as God's Family to Worship

Call to Worship:

Hosanna!

Blessed is Jesus who comes in the name of the LORD!

Hosanna in the Highest! Let us worship God!

*Hymn/Praise Palm Sunday Praise <https://youtu.be/mGuIzhprjWI>
Kathy Koch and Savannah Scarlet

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you...

and also with you.

In this time of social distancing it is important for us to remember that in Christ we are connected to all who believe in Jesus in every time and place. As we share the peace of Christ today we use the familiar words, "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you... and also with you."

Now, or after your time of worship, reach out via text, email, phone or video call, to someone outside of your home extending the invitation to enter into the peace of Christ with our faith community.

Praise God, that His peace is with us, always!

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer <https://youtu.be/q12gpdCaAlw>

(for written prayer or spontaneous prayers pause the online service)

Let us pray together... Today, great God, we come to our time of prayer somewhat disoriented by our circumstances. Therefore, we approach Your throne of grace seeking orientation, not to the world, or our internal landscapes, but to You. It is in You we live and move and have our being... so in these moments we rely on Your Holy Spirit to fill us and grant us mercy and grace.

We ask now that You forgive us for our failings. We know, O God, that we lack patience, we struggle with grace and holding space for one another. We have spoken and acted in ways that are not pleasing to You, do not edify Your kingdom, and even injure ourselves or others. We confess our struggles now in the silence of our hearts...

Holy God, as we seek Your forgiveness, we pray that by Your grace we would be forgiven, restored, and renewed.

We rejoice great God, in Your love and forgiveness. We proclaim now our belief that You will make us new, whole, and give us Your perfect peace. We thank you that in Jesus name, You walk with us as we learn to live into the freedom only You offer in Jesus name.

Holy God, as we pray this day we ask Your continued guidance and discernment. We pray for Your light and life to penetrate our spirits and bless our every word and deed.

We lift up to you all who are sick, those who mourn, all who live in violence, the many who are persecuted, those who live with unrelenting fear. As we pray this day we ask Your hand to be upon all who are working to care for others, who daily put themselves in harms way to keep the peace, to offer comfort and medical care, to provide for others at their own risk. We pray blessings on them, asking for protection and extra measures of Your grace, and for joy and knowledge of Your mercy. Today we continue to pray for a cure, for medical treatments and vaccines, for a miracle of medicine or a miracle by Your hand, that the CoronaVirus be eradicated and cut off.

Today we pray that you would help us to be joyful, as were those who greeted Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday long ago. Grant us thankful hearts as we pray in Jesus' holy name... praying the words He taught us to pray saying...

<https://youtu.be/C51ijZ3pPDo>

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 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 and ever. Amen

The God of the universe on a colt? Other versions say it was a donkey. God almighty who created the majestic oceans and scooped out the Grand Canyon rode into town on a donkey? God who created human life out of dust and his breath simply came to his own on a beast of burden? It doesn't seem quite right. There should have been trumpets and fireworks. There should have been singing and a Military like march or Vegas party! But all he got was a donkey! That is what we have come to believe about this high holy event: Palm Sunday the day where Jesus humbled himself. But there is so much more to this story that we have missed over the years. We have probably missed it because of our disdain for donkeys born out of Festus' donkey in the great television show Gunsmoke. Or if you are like me, born of our hatred of donkeys from the one that ruined my car in Red Rock Canyon. But Jesus' donkey is different.

On the Sunday before His death, Jesus traveled from the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem, the capital city of the region and certainly the capital for the Jews. This was the City of David, the place where it was believed that God would set up His throne and re-establish his kingdom. On Palm Sunday Jesus, the one who had been preaching about God, the one who had performed miracles in the name of God and the one who was heralded as God's chosen one, rode into town on a donkey, a donkey with her baby donkey alongside.

I know we have talked about this before, but I want to remind you of the Roman idea concerning donkeys. According to William Barclay, there were two types of royal parades. When a king was leading the armies off to battle, he would ride a stallion surrounded by his legions. When a king came in peace, he would ride a donkey and the people would parade with him laying their cloaks on the roadway making the journey smooth and soft. Making it a roadway fit for a king. In the time of Jesus, the donkey being ridden by royalty was a message of royal good news – peace.

Jesus comes to the capital city as a king. He knows that this metaphorical statement will offend both the Jews who would think it blasphemy and the Romans who think it an act of defiance. Yet, Jesus marches into Jerusalem with a crowd in a parade fit for a king. It was an incredible act of bravery. It showed that Jesus knew the truth, He knew who He was and what he had been called to. Palm Sunday showed that Jesus would not back down from His mission, His ministry, His calling or the truth. The truth was, and is, that He is the King of kings, the messiah, Jesus Christ is the Son of the Most High God, whether or not Rome, the Jews of first century Palestine or this modern world recognizes him!

So, Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus journeyed from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem, was the moment Jesus declared through his actions, the messiah, the awaited king, has come. The crowd that joined him was part of the tremendous proclamation to the world that the time of God choosing had come. Things were about to change forever.

When we look at this incredible story, there is one group that does not get mentioned. The people who were not there. In this story I don't see Pilate or Herod, or the religious elites. Those in power seem to be nowhere in the story. The crowd was there, the people, the ordinary people were there. And they celebrated the coming good news. But where were the leaders?

The rest of holy week tells us that the leaders were scheming and in hiding. They were planning on how to destroy Jesus and His message so they could protect themselves, their power and their position from the change God was bringing.

Often in our world it seems that the system, or the powers that be, stand in the way of progress because it is too difficult to face change and the challenge it brings. For me it seems that we are in a time of turbulent change. We are sequestered in our homes, illness in America rages and the voices of leadership are confusing. At this moment political parties are blaming one another; certain groups are trying to gain advantage. All this while what we really need is to come together with compassion and hope.

Well, I say this is the time to be people of the cross. People who follow Christ. We need to be the people who are in the crowd paving the way for the Good News.

There are new things coming our way. Change is on the horizon. After the COVID19 mess passes the world and our country will never be the same. This is a scary time. But folks, we can be paralyzed with fear or we can embrace this moment in history as an opportunity to bring hope, compassion and the good news of the gospel to others.

Don't stop being the church my friends! Reach out with compassion, worship God, online in your homes, make calls, send messages, write letters, do a favor. Be better than you are now, there are people who need you. This is grace in action. This is what it means to march in the parade of Christ. This is how we celebrate and live into this moment as people of Grace.

Today I want you to be part of the Palm Sunday parade by reaching out to someone. Do it safely, stay at home, but find a way to reach out. Be an instrument of Grace.

Amen!

We Respond to the Voice of God

Tithes & Offerings

In these moments, remember and share ways that God has brought light and life, joy and other blessings into your life this past week. In addition, share ways you will offer yourself to God today and in the days ahead. Take this time to return your tithe to the church via mail or online giving, using text to give or the following

link: <https://onrealm.org/gracepclv/-/give/now>

Offertory Prayer

God of life and abundance, bless us as we offer all that we have and all that we are, for we know that we only have because You have first been generous to us. Bless us today with open hands and open hearts, and enough to share, that Your Kingdom would be blessed, in Jesus name, Amen.

Hymn

“Doxology” <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KMqQchPdfizWmds7SObce94OFK9a-01/view?usp=sharing>

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Service of Communion https://youtu.be/u_dYLtMod-o

Communion Transcript:

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.

Friends, this is the Lord’s Table, our Savior invites those who trust Him to share the feast which He has prepared.

Today, we celebrate this great gift on our own tables...in our own homes... yet we celebrate as one body, the body of Christ, United in Christ in every time and place, in Jesus name.

Please pray with me: Creator and Sustainer of all creation, in Your wisdom you made all things and sustain them by Your power. You

formed us in Your image to love and serve You, but we forget both who and Whose we are so easily.

We are so grateful that in Your Mercy You do not reject us, instead, you name us and claim us as Your own. We thank You that You call us back to You every time we stray, and we thank You for the gift of Your only Son, the way to eternal life, Who loves us even to death on the cross.

We praise You, and we sing once again with the angels, *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna, in the highest.*

You are holy, God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

We thank You that Jesus took for us the weight of our sin, and carried for us our guilt. We thank You that He shares our life in every way, and in His dying and rising we have been delivered from slavery to sin and death, and brought into a new life by covenant of water and Spirit.

We remember now Your mighty acts, Triune God, and we ask that You pour out Your blessing on this bread and on this cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By Your Spirit, unite us now with Christ and with all that are baptized in His name, around every table around the world, that as this bread is Christ's body for us, You would send us out to be the body of Christ for the world. Amen!

On the night of his arrest, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread and after giving thanks to God He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, *Take, Eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

And in the same way he took the cup saying: *this cup is the new covenant in My blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until He comes again. These are the gifts of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God!

Come, and share in the joyful feast of God, for all is prepared.

As you take the bread, share the words: *This is Christ's body, broken for you* or *this is the bread of heaven*.

As you share the cup, share the words: *This is the cup of salvation* or *this is the cup of the new covenant*.

We Go with God to Love and Serve

* Closing Song All Glory Laud and Honor
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15lsAyeTzt0VF8AljCMdwb5BvjFmJIuQJ/view?usp=sharing>

* Benediction from 1 Tim. 1:17

*To the King of ages,
immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

As you continue to worship this week, please keep the following people in prayer, and reach out to one another in word or deed.

In Need of Prayer

Violet Cross (*Spanish Hills Wellness Suites*)
Dolores Harris (*Merrill Gardens*)
Mary Phillips (*Legacy House*)
Bill Franklin (*Summerlin Hospital*)
Judy Aitken, Becky Aldridge, Alice Black, Bill Carlston, Bob Clark,
Carol Daniel, Ann Donithan, Rosamaria Duenas, Pennie Everhart,
Joice Franklin, Pam Kodey, Lara Kolberg, Dorell Koon, Carole McKinnis,
Sherrie Miles, Beth More, Don Neeley, Maggie O'Donnell, Alice & Gary
Oiler, Dodi Palmer, Russ & Pat Reid, Aminta & Jorge Santanilla, Marty
Swartout, Nick Vogelzang, Sharon Wilson, Dick Wohletz, and

Lynne Zenier.

In Memoriam:

Jack Crockett 3/18/2020

Randy Innis 3/18/2020

Clark Trapp 3/18/2020

Ruthy Stull 3/19/2020

Ted Phillips 4/1/2020