

"O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!"
- Psalm 118:1



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April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday

Meet with us online or via phone at 10 am:

[Click here to join via Zoom](#)

Or call 312-626-6799 and when prompted
enter the meeting ID: 942 617 477

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks!

God's love is constant and devoted to us.

Many: Let us say over and over:

God's hope is unfailing in caring for us,
through health care workers and researchers,

through teachers offering online lessons,
and therapists available around the clock.

One: Give thanks, O give thanks!

Justice is the gate God opens to all.

Many: Let us say over and over:

God hears the cries of those who are forgotten:
those who sleep rough in emptied streets,
those who are most vulnerable around us,
those who have no family to care for them.

One: Give thanks, O give thanks, people of God!

God comes to bring us new life.

Many: Let us say this over and over:

God takes the stone tossed aside by us
to build the foundation of salvation,
a foundation made out of grace's gravel,
the sand of hope shaken out of Jesus' shoes,
and mixed with the waters of life.

Hymn

"We are Gathered"

Tune: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

"We Are Gathered" by Amanda Udis-Kessler

1 We are gathered in the Spirit
though our bodies are apart,
Filled with joy and touched with wonder,
separate hands but mingled hearts
Giving thanks and singing praises
for the love that calls us on.
From our many different places
we are gathered into one.
We are gathered in our sorrow.
We are gathered in our fear,
In our pain and in our worry,
in our anger and our tears.

2 As we tend to one another
with our gifts and with our care,
Our community is strengthened
through the faith and hope we share.
We are gathered in commitment

to a planet that is whole.
Works of justice, acts of kindness
bless the world and heal our souls.
As our voices join together,
may our song of peace resound.
May we offer in abundance
all the grace that we have found.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness: God of constant love, we are so busy thinking about ourselves that we can't imagine what was in Jesus' mind. We shout for joy on a day like this, smiling as we remember waving our palms, yet quickly toss these memories aside in the pain of what cannot be. We harden our faces, not in discipleship, but to turn away those who come looking for help from us. Yet, because he was fully human like us, God of compassion, we too can be more like Jesus. So, as we begin our journey through Holy Week and beyond, may we choose humility over pride, weakness over strength, compassion over bullying, and seek to do what we are called to do, without any promise of reward. We pray this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus. Amen

Let us confess our individual sins in silence. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

Many: and also with you.

One: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace.

Passing the Peace

Conversation with Children of God

You are a beloved child of God.

With you God is well pleased.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and the Lord has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Sermon

Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

1 Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

2 From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

3 “Hosanna in the highest!”
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

Affirmation of Faith from *A Declaration of Faith*

Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead. The risen Lord appeared to his followers. They recognized him as their Master who had been crucified. Before Jesus left them, he commissioned them to proclaim to all people the good news of his victory over death, and promised to be with them always.

Offering Give electronically by [following this link](#)
Checks may be mailed to the church office

Response of Praise

“Take My Life”

Take my life and let it be

consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Prayer of Dedication: We are pretty sure we have nothing to offer to others, but when we begin to think like Jesus, we see the blessings we have, and the opportunities we are given to be your grace, your hope, your love in the lives of those around us, as we care for all your children in these days. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Were You There

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O! Sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O! Sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
O! Sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O! Sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O! Sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Charge and Benediction

Liturgy from Thom M. Shuman: lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

