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Facebook: Bethel United Church of Christ – Kansas City
Bethel United Church of Christ Bulletin
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
March 28, 2021-

"Every time I look at this Christ on a donkey, I am reminded again that I am seen by him with all my sins, guilt and shame and loved with all his forgiveness, mercy and compassion."

Henri Nouwen, Eternal Seasons, c2004

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cry out people of faith! Rejoice and praise God!

If we did not sing praise, the very stones would cry out!

Cry out people of faith, for your Savior draws near to Jerusalem.

Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!

Blessed is Jesus Christ, who did not turn back for fear of the cross.

Let us praise the God who loves us, sharing Christ's triumphs and sufferings.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Living God, you give us this day, full of hope and promise. As our ancestors waved palms in praise of Jesus, we bring our praises too, that in joy you may take our lives and transform them in Christ's image. Be with us as we worship and breathe your Spirit into our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Palms and a Donkey"



OUR SACRED STORY

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with "Hear us, O God: **Congregation responds: *Your mercy is great.***

O God of Grace, your Son endured triumphs and terror in his return to Jerusalem. He suffered persecution and abuse and we ask prayers for all people and religions who continue to suffer discrimination of any kind. Give us endurance in this Holy Week and give us courage to open ourselves fully to its life and mystery. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

O God, may the gentle rule of Jesus as the prince of peace be a reality in every nation of the earth. Bring wisdom that will guide us to the paths of peace. Nothing is impossible with you. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

O God, Even as we celebrate your coming among us, this joyous crowd that greets you will turn and flee. From a crowd of hosannas, we turn into a silent, denying crowd at the Cross. Give us strength to believe that fear separates and destroys all that is whole and holy. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

O God, even though we may leave you, do not leave us. Work in us and through us as we become new again. As we walk through holy week, may we return to you changed and ready to live our discipleship in new and extraordinary ways. . Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

We ask for your blessing as we struggle to build relationships and understanding. Bless Bethel in our missions and ministries. Keep us vigilant in our faith. Pour out your healing and comfort on all those who are suffering, lost or alone. We lift prayers for healing for names that are written on our hearts.

All things we pray in the name of the one who entered Jerusalem humbly riding a donkey, showing us a heart of love and not fear. Today we lift the words he taught us when asked "How should we pray, he said..."

LORD'S PRAYER (*forgive us our sins...*)

305 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are: 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your spir-it in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!'. The final system includes a first ending labeled '1 (optional)' and a final ending labeled 'Final'.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your spir-it
in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!

1 (optional) Final

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation
Prayer of Dedication

EASTER CANTATA

"Come to the Table"

Music by: Joseph Martin Narration by: Pamela Martin

Come to the Table

Come to the table, all who hunger, those who seek the Break of Life.
Come to the table, all who are thirsty, those who are seeking living wine.
At the table, leave your burdens; lean upon the Savior's breast.
Come to the table, all who are weary, come and find your promised rest.
Come to the table, bring your troubles; lay them at the feet of Christ.
Come to the table all who are needy; God Himself has paid the price.
To the table bring your sorrow; wipe each teardrop from your eye.
Come to the table, God is calling. All who come are satisfied.
Come to the table, all are welcome; Christ invites the world to dine.
Come to the table, Christian pilgrims, come and taste the bread and wine.
At the table there is plenty; ev'ry need will be supplied.
Come to the table, Christ is waiting, come and celebrate new life.

Can God Spread a Table in the Wilderness?

Stan Niederhauser, soloist

Can God spread a table in the wilderness? Can God make the desert come to life?
Lord, let the water flow, give us the Bread of Life; we put our trust in you.

God reached down and out of dust, he made a man; out of darkness, he created light.
Out of love, he made for us a Savior; out of death, he formed eternal life.

Let the Rocks Keep Their Silence

Let the rocks all keep their silence; let creation hold its voice.
Mountains, valleys, stand in wonder as God's people now rejoice.
Hosanna, hosanna, lift up your voice and sing "All glory, laud, and honor be to Christ the King of kings."
Let the doubters end their babble, silenced by the voice of truth.
Prophets' words were more than fable; Jesus is the living proof.
O Zion, you have seen the light. O Zion you have heard God's voice.
Raise now your praises to the heights. Let all the people now rejoice. Hosanna! Hosanna, glory in the highest!

All We Like Sheep

All we like sheep have gone astray, and we have turned each to his own way.
For the Lord has laid on him the sin of us all.

Bread of Heaven, Wine of Heaven

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Lord, on you alone we feed;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, for you satisfy our need.
Always may our hearts be fed with your true and living bread.
Day by day with strength supplied through the life of Christ who died.

Wine of heaven, Wine of heaven, O the joy your love supplies.
Wine of heaven, Wine of heaven, O blest cup of sacrifice.
By your wounds our sin forgive; to your cross we look and live.
Christ our life! O let us be dead to self and one with thee.

See from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorry and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Near the Cross

Randa Niederhauser, Soloist

Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day With its shadow o'er me.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river.

Jesus Is Risen

Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen in deed.
Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen, let all the heavens ring, let all creation sing,
Jesus is risen indeed. Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen let the world praise his name,
let ev'ry tongue proclaim, Jesus is risen indeed.

For three days the tomb was still; for three days the grave hid life.
For three days earth's heart was broken; silence ruled in endless night.
Then the dawn brought alleluias and the hope of never ending light.

Jesus is risen indeed. Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen let the world praise his name,
let ev'ry tongue proclaim, Jesus is risen indeed. Alleluia!

COMMISSION/ BENEDICTION

May we carry the jubilation of Palm Sunday into Good Friday.

Today we heard the whole story and we know that sorrow will lead to joy. The stone will be rolled away.

May God's face shine upon us, be gracious to us and grant us peace as we look toward Easter morning!

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

Amen.

RECESSIONAL/POSTLUDE

CANTATA PARTICIPANTS

Narrator: Pastor Karen Aitkens
Director: Jeremy Faust
Accompanist: Chad Willis
Flutist: Tiama Chavez

Sopranos

Anne Eversmeyer
Toni Faust
Randa Niederhauser
Marquita Pace
Susan Schindler

Altos

Lauri Buck
Liz Guevel
Kathy Hayes
Marie Penrod
Jan Rickert
Shellie Willis

Tenors

Don Eversmeyer
Fulvio Hayes
Stan Niederhauser

Basses

Mike Mendon
Randy Pace