

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
April 2nd, 2023
Palm/Passion Sunday The Beginning of Holy Week

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us raise our voices with the multitudes and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works we have seen!

P: Come, let us rejoice, crying: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord."

L: Let us sing Hosanna to the King of Kings for if we are silent, the very stones will cry out!

HYMN "All Glory, Laud and Honor" vs.1 #173

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, creator and ruler of the universe, our burdens are many for we fail to accept you as king of our lives. Where once you wept over Jerusalem for her blindness, we now weep over our own cities for their corruption, their injustice, their afflictions. Would that even today we knew the things that make for peace! But, they are hidden from our eyes and our hearts because we are unwilling to bear the cost. When the way becomes difficult, we doubt you. When we face difficult decision, we often turn away from your truth. Forgive us, we pray, O Lord, and grant us grace in our doubts and indecision to greet you as the King of Kings. Help us to celebrate your triumph with rejoicing as we labor for your kingdom. In the name of the King of Kings we humbly pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Almighty God, we celebrate your kingship over our lives with hope and thanksgiving.

P: With joy and expectation we pay you homage, for through our triumph over the world, we may be triumphant in the world.

L: We acknowledge the gifts and talents you have given us and dedicate them to your glory.

Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise."

- Phillips Brooks

But Palm Sunday tells us that ... it is the cross that is the true tree of life.

- Pope Benedict XVI

Palm Sunday's thought; Life is full of ups and downs. Glorify God during the ups and fully trust in Him during the downs.

- Source Unknown

Alleluia, how the people cheer and palm leaves rustle as the king draws near.

- John Beavis

No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.

- William Penn

Lord, we lift up your name. With hearts full of praise; Be exalted, O Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!

- Carl Tuttle

L The disciples went and did as Jesus directed them. They brought the colt and put their cloaks on it and Jesus sat on it. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

P 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."

L When Jesus entered Jerusalem the whole city was in a turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

P The crowds were saying, This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

PASSION LITANY**

L Let us consider in silence the welcome that we give to Jesus.

P We think, now O Christ, of how we receive you into our lives day by day.

L We have sung of the welcome given to Jesus in Jerusalem. Yet Jesus knew from the first that he was going up to the city to die for his people.

P From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

L Hear the prophet Isaiah speak for the one who would suffer and die for us.

P From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 50:4-9a

PASSION LITANY**

L The heart of a person cannot be trusted. All are sinful. All are weak. Those who welcomed Jesus turned on him. One who believed in He was the Son of God, denied him three times. One who followed him day by day betrayed him. Yet he came to us, knowing this - he came to us knowing who we are.

P From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

L Hear the record of his betrayal as he prayed in the garden.

P From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

A READING FROM MATTHEW 26:45-54

HYMN "What Wondrous Love Is This" vs.1 #177

PASSION LITANY**

L The record is clear - the wood of the manger in which the Christ child was laid was but a prelude for the wood upon which he would die. The humble stable in which he was born because there was no room for him in the inn, but a foreshadowing of the strangers tomb in which he would be buried.

P From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

L Let us hear the record of how he became one of us - but we received him not; the story of how the innocent one was tried and condemned and killed - so that the guilty might live.

P From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

A READING FROM MATTHEW 27:11-54

HYMN "Were You There?" #181

MEDITATION

Denise Ann Todero, CP

Affirmation of Faith *(from Philippians 2:5-11)*

L Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

P Who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant being made in human likeness.

L And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

P Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

L That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

P And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Hear our prayers, O Lord. **P: And let our cry come unto Thee.**

L: Let us bless the Lord! **P: Thanks be to God.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION/SENDING

L: Go now in peace and long no more for the coming of the kingdom, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

P: We confess that we are loyal subjects of the King of Kings and we praise him with loud Hosanna's for the mighty works he has done.

L: With adoration for our triumphant Lord, let us steadfastly turn our faces toward our Jerusalem to do the work of God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" 1st verse #183

**** Rev. Richard Fairchild**

ORGANIST'S: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar

P: Through you may we see the way of peace, and find grace sufficient to follow it.

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

GLORIA PATRI

#623

CHURCH NEWS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor by saying, "The Peace of Christ be With You.")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

#625

Praise to our God, wave high the palm

Praise to Christ Jesus God's own Son,

Praise to the Spirit we now sing

For in our hearts hosannas ring.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L We thank you Father for Jesus Christ,

P Who for our sake became poor that we might be rich.

We thank you that he gave himself up to death so that we might rise to life.

L Accept our gifts of thanksgiving now O Lord.

P Use both them and us so that they might bring blessings unto your name. We ask it in the name of Jesus Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING - THE PALMS (Matthew 21:1-11)

L As they approached Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tied there which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone says anything to you say, 'The Lord needs it.', and he will send it immediately."

P This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet when he said; "Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

He Is the King of Kings

(Palm Sunday)

Palm Sunday climaxes the agony of Jesus' movement from Galilee to Jerusalem. During this period, Jesus' ministry took on a new intensity as he realized his time was short. Many of his followers turned away because his message required too much of them. Others followed him seeking miracles and missing the truths behind Jesus' works. Even his disciples doubted him, wavering under the pressures of public opinion.

But, Palm Sunday marked a moment of public triumph for Jesus. The crowds thronged to greet him—men, women, and children singing his praises. Waving palm branches, they came. They threw their garments before him in homage. Hosanna, they sang in adoration.

But, even this public triumph was brief. The people wanted a savior, but they wanted one who would be an earthly king. They sought a savior who would build them a kingdom rather than one who expected them to be kingdom builders. And, knowing this, Jesus wept over the city.

There is much for which Jesus could weep over our cities today. We hail him King of Kings, then pay him lip service. We long for the coming of the kingdom, but are reluctant to pay the cost of building it. Perhaps there is no better time than this Lenten season for turning our faces steadfastly toward Jerusalem to do the work of God.

he is the king of kings



Offering: 03/26
Attendance: 30
Local 2056.00
Benev. 142.40
Improv. 120.60
Mem Fund 50.00
Total 2369.00

Sunday April 2nd
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday

Sunday April 9th
 Easter Service 10:30 a.m.
Light Breakfast Before Service

Maundy Thursday Service will be held this Thursday at Grace Lutheran Church. This joint service begins at 7 p.m. and all are invited to attend.

Join Us April 9th as we celebrate Easter Sunday. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. with a light breakfast being served prior to the service. All are welcome.

One Great Hour Of Sharing collection fish and envelopes are available on the back table and will be collected next Sunday during the Easter Service.

The Upper Room subscriptions are now due. The cost is \$8 per year and payment can be given to Ray Sheets.

Camp Harmony will hold a Women's Retreat May 12-13. See the flyer on the back bulletin board for more information or visit www.campharmony.org.

Weekly Flower and Bulletins for 2023 are still available for most weeks. The cost is \$25 per week for flowers and \$10 per week for bulletins. If you purchase flowers and bulletins for the same week the cost is \$30. To reserve a week, sign up on- the back bulletin board or fill out the form on the church website.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Pastor Denise	David Hayduk
Lois Henry	Susie Keefer
Ray & Dawna Sheets	Chloe Kern
Buzz & Jeanne Lehman	Tyler & Julie Kalp
Marie Whorl	Linda Hayes
Bev Holbay	David Varner
Wendy Manges	Loretta Davidson
Mark Todero	Nancy Thomas
Shirley Gavazoni	Elaine Bilger
Linda & Richard Oaks	Randy Maurer
Bill Faust	All Shut- Ins
Beverly Rager	All in Nursing Homes
Mikey Ferante	All First Responders
Shawna Kinsey	All Service Men & Women
Jim Kuntz	All Healthcare Professionals
Joel Marple	

To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names in the bulletin contact Ed Sheets at 539-3495 or email at bethanyjtown@hotmail.com or contact Pastor Denise at 814-248-8174 or email her at datodero55@gmail.com.

Please do not leave them on the church answering machine.

In Case of Emergency, please call Pastor Denise at 479-2382 or cell 248-8174. Do not depend on the hospital contacting the church or the pastor.

Visit Our Website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!