

TCC Takeout

An Order of Service for Worship at Home

*God's Extravagant Welcome:
"No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey, YOU are
welcome here!"*



April 5, 2020

Announcements

From Ted Thornton

TCC Takeout is a liturgy for these times when we find ourselves without a settled pastor and apart from one another physically. Links will take you to materials appointed for this Sunday in the Lectionary. TCC uses the Revised Common Lectionary as archived at Vanderbilt.edu.

The UCC has created a website of resources during our struggle with coronavirus:
[Click here](#)

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week in the Christian calendar. In addition to an online service for Easter, you'll be receiving copies of liturgies for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Please send your suggestions, ideas, links to music and inspiring texts, and, of course, your joys and concerns to me no later than Tuesday noon for inclusion in our Easter Order of Service.

We are discussing a possible Zoom meeting on Easter Sunday for those who are online. Thanks for your prayers and support.

You will continue to receive announcements in the weekly Trumpet Blast. Printed copies of both this service and the Blast will be mailed or delivered to the doorsteps of members who do not use computers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE TRUMPET BLAST

Until further notice, please send announcements for the Trumpet Blast to Ted: tedthorn@gmail.com or leave a voicemail at 413-522-0418 by noon Tuesday of each week.

Finally, thanks to Chris, Heather, Joanne, and Patter for assembling and editing the music and music notes for this service!

From Chris Harris

“Music for Holy Week

This week at my piano I am revisiting the most moving music of the Christian calendar, that of Holy Week, the days between Palm Sunday and Easter. In contrast to the celebratory spirit of Jesus’s entrance into Jerusalem and the resounding alleluias of His resurrection, the somber hymns of Holy Week speak to the agonies of betrayal and torture. “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” composed by Hans Leo Hassler in the late 16th century and famously harmonized by J.S. Bach, begs our inward reflection: “What thou, my Lord, has suffered, Was all for sinners’ gain; Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! ’Tis I deserve thy place; Look on me with thy favor, Vouch-safe to me thy grace.” — Chris”

Prelude: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

[Hosanna, Loud Hosanna - John Hong Hymn Improvisation](#)

Call to Worship

One: Lent began in the wilderness; it concludes in Jerusalem.

All: We now come near to the end of one story. Another will soon begin.

We have followed Jesus this far;
today we remember how he faced betrayal, falseness,
rejection, and torment.

And we witness, once more, that he taught and walked in love
through every step of the journey.

Opening Hymn: “All Glory Laud and Honor”

[All Glory Laud and Honor | With Lyrics](#)

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, we praise you for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was welcomed by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory over the powers of nihilism and despair, and grant that we who bear them in his name may follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Gloria Patri

[Gloria Patri \(Glory Be to the Father\)](#)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end,
Amen, Amen.

Poem

What Have We Learned?

They shouted with praises, reaching the sky,
Pushing and shoving to see Jesus pass by.
Crying, 'Hosanna, hosanna, glory to the King!
He comes to us today, great joy He doth bring.'
They threw down palm leaves, covering the way,
Clearing the way for His entrance that day.
Raising joyful voices, as praises filled the air,
The day had come, God answered their prayer!
But, in a short time they changed their chant,
From joyful noise, to a mob's hate-filled rant.
From Hosanna, hosanna, as when He was praised;
To crucify Him! Crucify Him, as their anger blazed!
In disbelief we might question why they turned?
But maybe the question is, 'What have we learned? '
Written by Loyd C. Taylor, SR
March 29, 2015

Anthem: "Ride On King Jesus", The Moses Hogan Singers (with thanks to Heather Tower)

[The Moses Hogan Singers - Ride On, King Jesus](#)

Readings from Scripture - Psalm 118:1-2 and 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

[Click for Online Copies of Readings for Palm Sunday](#)

“For the word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God Among Us, For the Word of God Within Us, Thanks Be to God”

Reflection: Ted

The Lent we just completed was possibly the most difficult many of us have ever been through. Lent is familiarly that forty-day period when we give up things. I don't know of a time when we've given up so much so terrifyingly quickly, not the least of it giving up being physically present with one another and others we love. We've also given up worship in our beautiful church building, given up the coffee and goodies we shared after each service, given up the beautiful music Chris plays, and the music the choir and all of us sing. The list goes on.

Palm Sunday marks the point where Jesus begins giving up things, too, most notably his ministry and his life. It all starts today as he begins the process of surrendering himself to the cruel fate that awaits him at the hands of his enemies in Jerusalem. Near the bottom of the steep path he descends from the Mount of Olives is the Garden of Gethsemane, where he will spend the final night of his life. Ahead of him he can see the temple compound, where his religious and commercial enemies await him. West of the temple stand the ramparts of Herod's palace, where Pontius Pilate will sentence him to the cross after a show trial. Outside the walls is Golgotha, and nearby his tomb.

Easter seems a long way off today. We're sad to be looking ahead to a "holy week" sure to be dominated by more terrifying news about the spread of disease and the ineptitude, greed, and corruption of some of our leaders: our own Gethsemanes and Golgothas rolled into one.

But, there are glimpses of Easter to be seen, too. When the news gets you down, think about all the people who are helping others, some of them at great personal risk, the kind of risk Jesus models as he walks quite literally into the jaws of his death. And, pray for our caregivers. They've begun to show signs of battle fatigue.

At a time like this, I take comfort in the words of Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." All the Golgothas in our lives are all too easy to see, to fear, and become overwhelmed by. The cure for this kind of disease is hope in the unseen things of God, things that inhabit realms beyond sight and understanding. Bless you! Amen!

Hymn of Reflection: “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising,” Bradford Gray Webster (sing the following words to this tune)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOfbBDSvuWY>

O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising
 in every city for your love and care,
 inspire our worship, grant the glad surprising
 that your blest Spirit rouses everywhere.

Grant us new courage, sacrificial, humble,
 strong in your strength to venture and to dare;
 to lift the fallen, guide the feet that stumble,
 seek out the lonely and God's mercy share.

Show us your Spirit, brooding o'er each city,
 as you once wept above Jerusalem,
 seeking to gather all in love and pity,
 and healing those who touch your garment's hem

Joys and Concerns

Heather reports that Margot Parker's cancer has returned and asks that we keep Margot in our prayers. Margot wants to hear from her friends at church, but asks that all requests to be in touch go through Heather.

Ted asks your prayers for Lee Dresser and his family. I officiated at the graveside service for Evie this past Tuesday morning. No one was happy with the “social distancing” we had to observe and the limits on who could attend at the Warwick Center Cemetery. The good news is that the family wants to schedule a memorial service in the church once the current health emergency has passed.

Prayer (based on a prayer by Matt Rawle)

O God, who gave his only son so that we might find life and live it abundantly, awaken in us the humility to serve wherever creation is broken and in need. By your Spirit, call us into the world as a holy people, dying to the things which separate us from your love, and being raised with the abundance and joy of hope and peace. Through humility let us crucify our pride. Through simple living let us crucify poverty. Through solidarity let us crucify suffering. Through faith let us crucify despair.

Sovereign Lord, God of all by the power of the Holy Spirit, you alone can bring into order our wills and affections: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Prayer for a Time of Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer>

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers, police, and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.

Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease’s spread.

<https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayers-people-affected-new-coronavirus>

Bless and protect all those who work in grocery stores, pharmacies, and other businesses that sustain us while we shelter in place.

Hear O Lord, we pray, our petitions of intercession for those whom we love. We pray for the lonely, for the bereaved, for the sick, for the aged, for those who feel overwhelmed by personal problems. We ask, on their behalf, for the comfort of your presence.

We pray especially for those in need who are on our hearts and minds and lips this morning.

We pray for all who are ill or who suffer from any affliction: physical, mental, or spiritual. Bring healing and comfort to them, their families, and to those who care for them and to others who love them.

We ask these things in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Now praying together as Jesus taught us, we say,

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Prayer Response

NCH 769 - *Hear Our Prayer, O God* -- [Audio version](#)

Hear Our Prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God,
Incline Thine ear to us, And Grant us your peace.

Closing Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (with thanks to Joanne McGee)

(Sing the following words)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4EoLm3_luM&feature=youtu.be

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing
Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He
The Lord of hosts His name, from age to age the same
And He must win the battle

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever

Choral Benediction - "It is Well With My Soul," Spafford and Bliss (with thanks to Joanne McGee)

https://www.wsmv.com/news/a-group-of-nashville-studio-singers-perform-an-epic-cell/article_2245fbf8-6eb2-11ea-9be3-db6cec04c8f3.html

Pastoral Benediction

My brothers and sisters,
as we enter into this holy week,
let us keep our eyes on Jesus.
He will show us where we need to go.

Go from here
singing hosannas
all the way home.
Do not be afraid,
Jesus is walking with you.

<https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/prayers-benediction/>

Postlude: "Ride On Ride On in Majesty"
[Ride on, Ride on in Majesty \(New Winchester\) - Martin Gaskell](#)

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