



Sunset United Church

April 5, 2020 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Nancy Edwards

Pianist: Shirley Hill



WE GATHER

Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11

Music: Hosanna

Call To Worship

As to a stable
Eager to glimpse the light
That made princes of shepherds
And servant of kings,
We come

As on a hillside
Craving crumbs of comfort
Stomach empty
Hearts fit to burst,
We come

Caught in the clamour
Of a chaotic palm parade
Heralding the entrance

Of a prophet's promise,
We come.

Lured by the paradox of the Messiah
Upon a common beast,
Amid the fanfare of a fickle few,
We come.

Unable to resist
The call of the carpenter
Creating commotion as carefully
As he did tables and chairs,
We come.

Because our place
Is by your side, Holy Presence
When the cheering turns ugly,
When the welcome turns sour,
When words turn in our throats
And condemn,
Job done for another year.

Opening Hymn: VU 124 He Came Riding

Hold on to the Hosannas:

Let's stay with the Hosannas for a while.
Let's let them keep ringing in our ears.

Hosanna!

**Blessed is He who comes
In the name of God.**

Instead of rushing on to hear the cries
That came later in the week
Let's stay with the Hosannas.
Maybe once we've heard those in a new way
Will we be ready
To make the rest of the journey:
A journey that was hastened
And give new purpose by
Those Hosannas.

Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes
In the name of God.

For those Hosannas were not
Simply the innocent cries
Of palm branch waving children,
Those hosannas were the
War cries of adults,
Tired of the oppression
Of occupying forces.

Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes
In the name of God.

Those Hosannas were the hopeful cries
Of a nation seeking liberation.

Those hosannas were an investment of hope
In one they thought would deliver.

Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes
In the name of God.

Those Hosannas
That we have sanitized over the years
Rang out in clear insurrection
Sealing the fate
Of one who rode in on a donkey.

Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes
In the name of God.

So, let's stay with the Hosannas.
Let's not only have children cry the words,
And allow them to ring in our ears,
And shout from all lips
As a call to action,
A call to justice,
A call to love.

Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes
In the name of God.

Let's stay with the Hosannas
Even as we journey
With the Christ
Who carried those Hosannas
All the way to the cross
And ensured their fulfillment
As the justice and love of God.

Let's stay with the Hosannas.

Anthem:

Seeking Reconciliation

**When all is said and done,
When there is nothing left to say,
When all the words have been used up:**

Young: Hold On!

Voice 1: the word still has something to say!

**When we've run out of excuses
When all the words have been spoken,
When we're tired of speaking them.**

Young: Hold On!

Voice 2: The word still has something to say!

**When the story has been told,
When the betrayal is complete,
When the words of denial have been spoken:**

Young: Hold on!

Voice 3: The word still has something to say!

**When love is broken
When Jesus is alone,
When all we've got left is silence:**

Young: Hold on!

Voice 4: The word still has something to say!

Voice 1: But this word speaks silently

Voice 2: This word talks in actions

Voice 3: This word will speak

Voice 4: but without words

Minister: Now is for doing, and this word
Has a lot to say.
Let's not say much more.

Let's us do something instead
That speaks silently
Of what the words has done for us.

There are crosses you received
As you came in,
And if you feel comfortable
You are invited to bring a cross
That speaks so fully about Jesus,
The word,
And stick it to the sheet here,
Making one big cross.
So many little words that make
One big word called love.

People come forward silently and stick the cross to the white sheet. No music, just silence.

Hymn: VU128 Sanna, Sannanina

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11

Reflection

Hymn: VU122 All Glory Laud and Honour (1 & 4)

Offering Collection and Dedication

Hymn: VU#538 For the Gift of Creation

Offering Prayer

Litany of the Palms

(hold the palms up and gently wave them)

The palms, the palms,
They hold a story of love
For a world that has broken love.
Hear their story,
Hear their story.

VU125 Ride On, Ride On (Verse 1 only)

(Curl the palm leaves around each other and bring apart)

O These palms tell a story
Of a God who loved creation
And a creation
Who fell out of love with God.

(Take one palm and point it like a sword)

Of a God who showed the way
Through prophets
Who were silenced by the people
Who turned their backs.

(take the other palm and lay it on your arms)

Of a God who chose the vulnerability of humanity
To show us how to love and live in this world.

VU125 Ride On, Ride On (Verse 2 only)

(Cross the palms in front of you in an x)

These palms tell a story
Of Jesus who was the word of life
But the people did not listen

(Stay in the cross)

Jesus spoke of justice for the poor
And food for the hungry
But the people did not listen.

(Again cross the palms)

Jesus spoke of freedom
To all those oppressed
But still the people did not believe.

VU125 Ride On, Ride On (Verse 3 only)

(Slowly wave the palms in the air)

These palms tell a story
Of a man who rode into Jerusalem,
And the crowd cheered
Of David and his family tree,
Of the king of the Jews,
The king on a donkey
Riding into the city of David
And the people recognized him:
“Hosanna in the highest”

VU125 Ride On, Ride On (Verse 4 only)

(Hold palms upright together, pull apart on word 'Broken')

These palms tell a story
For this is the journey to a table
Of bread and wine
And friends gathered:
Bread broken,
Wine poured ,
For all.

(With each 'remember' bring palms back together)

And he said:
Re member me,
Remember me,
Remember me.

VU125 Ride On, Ride On (Verse 5 only)

(On the word "table" lay the palms flat,
On the word "garden", stand them tall)

These palms tell a story
Of the one taken from the table
To the garden.

(On the word "garden" stand palms tall.
On word "council" bring together like a roof)

And from the garden
To the council.

(ON word 'council' make a roof,

On word 'soldiers' thrash like whip)

And from the council
To the soldiers.

(on the word 'soldiers' - whip
On the word 'cross' - make a cross)

And from the soldiers
To the way of the cross.

VU125 Ride On, Ride On (Verse 6 only)

These palms tell a story
Of a life whose time
Does not finish here.

(On word "breaks" snap the palms in half)

May we be ready for that moment of life
When death breaks
And love rises in the morning.

Leaving into Holy Week

(Hand out crosses)

There is no blessing or benediction here
As the tradition is that holy week
Is one long worship that moves
From one day to the next.

So, with our palms and our crosses,

The beginning of the journey starts.
The palms reminding us of how it starts,
And the cross of how it ends.

The time is not yet
But the darkness is gathering.

The time is not yet
But the main players are taking their positions.

Dither not,
But come back
And wait with Jesus
For his friends are few
In the hard and harsh world.

The time is not yet,
But our time is now;
To be here,
And trust a love
That will see this thing through.

Go,
But be back,
For Jesus needs his friends.