



Sunset United Church

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)

Reader: Dave Warden (he/him)

Special Music: Sunset Covid Choir



Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory, is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements.

Opening Video

Palm Parade Hymn: VU128 Sanna, Sannanina



*Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.*

Call to Worship*

The story of faith is a story of courage.

It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am, use me."

It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

It took courage for the paralyzed man's friend to lower him through the roof.

It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

Again and again, God, show us the way.

Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

Hymn: VU122 All Glory, Laud and Honour **

*All glory, laud and honour,
to you, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

1. *You are the King of Israel,
And David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and blessed one.*

*All glory, laud and honour,
to you, Redeemer King,*

*to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

2. The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

*All glory, laud and honour,
to you, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

3. To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise!

*All glory, laud and honour,
to you, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

4. Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king.

*All glory, laud and honour,
to you, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Call to Confession*

Glennon Doyle, a famous author and writer,
.....Let us pray...

God of palm branches and hallelujahs:

We confess –

we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.

We love the sound of a joyful parade.

We love shouting, “Hallelujah!”

We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.

We love good news.

However, if we slow down and pay attention,

We know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for Jesus, for you.

There was risk. There was fear.

There was the threat of violence.

You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire, and the whole world knew it.

Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.

Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage, and even we can do hard things.

With hope we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*:

Family of faith,

Even when we gloss over the truth,

Even when our courage fails us,
Even when we doubt that we can do hard things,
God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us.
Hear and believe this truth:

**We are known,
We are loved.
We are forgiven.
Again and again and again. Amen**

Sung Refrain: VU#278 In the Quiet Curve of Evening
(verse 3 only) ***

*In the mystery of my hungers,
in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving,
in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.*

Sharing the Story – “Sheila Rae the Brave”

Hymn: VU#124 He Came Riding On a Donkey

1. *He came riding on a donkey,
he came riding into town;
slow and easy kind of lowly
he came riding with the dawn.
His disciples walked beside him,
Staying close, a little shy;*

*Not too sure when he would guide them,
On to live or on to die.
But all the morning sang his praises;
Waking birds and dancing wind;
Here he is, the Son of David;
Riding on to take his throne.*

2. *Then the children gathered, singing
Shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;
In the streets their song was ringing,
“Hosannas” filled the morning air.
Timid adult strained to see him,
Caught the Spirit, joined the song;
Spread their cloaks along before him,
Branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises;
Waking streets and dancing crowd;
Here he is, the Son of David;
Our Messiah, Son of God.*

3. *In our fasting, and our feasting,
Called to follow in his way;
Called to walk his road to Easter,
Called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David,
Hosanna in the heavens above;
Blessed is he who comes to save us,
Blessed is he who brings his love.*

*Let us join to sing his praises;
Open hearts and souls to God;
He is with us, Son of David;
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.*

WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination*:

Scripture: John 12: 1- 16

Hymn: VU#126 Ride On, Ride On

**^^

1. *Ride on, ride on, the time is right:
the roadside crowds scream with delight;
palm branches mark the pilgrim way
where beggars squat and children play.*
2. *Ride on, ride on, your critics wait,
intrigue and rumour circulate;
new lies abound in word and jest,
and truth becomes a suspect guest.*
3. *Ride on, ride on, while well aware
that those who shout and wave and stare
are mortals who, with common breath,
can crave for life and lust for death.*

4. *Ride on, ride on, though blind with tears,
though voiceless now and deaf to jeers.
Your path is clear, though few can tell
their garments pave the road to hell.*

5. *Ride on, ride on, God's love demands.
Justice and peace lie in your hands.
Evil and angel voices rhyme:
you are the man and this the time.*

Reflection

Special Music: Come and Find the Quiet Center
(sung by the Sunset Covid Choir)

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer*

Benediction into Holy Week

Postlude



* Prayers by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

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