

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, March 25, 2018
Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday
Me & You & an Alternative View

Focus Statement: The crowds, as informed by Scriptural teaching, have certain expectations of the coming Messiah that come between their understanding and Jesus' lived experience, which defies their expectations. What does our reading of Scripture lead us to believe, and how might our encounters with Jesus challenge our expectations?

Gathering

Hymn: HWB (blue) #238 Hosanna, loud hosanna

Palm Branches Processional [during hymn]

Hymn: STS (purple) #73 Jesus is coming (v.1) Jesus is coming;
(v.2) Children welcome Jesus; (v.3) Hope for all people; (v.4) Jesus is coming.

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming to Worship and Silent preparation

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, people of God, this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day Jesus enters Jerusalem.

People: **Open the gates of righteousness so that we can enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

Leader: The gates are open, come on in. Give thanks, for God is good!

Invocation

Children's time

Theme Song: "Between Me & You" (by Bryan Moyer Suderman) (see insert)

Confession

Jesus, Messiah. The crowds around you can be thrilling, or frightening.

One moment they are clay in your hands, ready to be shaped. The next they are squeezing you, like putty in a clenched fist, demanding that you conform.

Is that what we do?

**When we count the cost of your words for us, it hurts.
We get it, why the masses turned and your disciples faded away.
Do you?**

**The time is ripe for change, then and now. Why can't you lead that
change in a way we understand?**

**How is it that you define success so differently? It scares us to
question you.**

It's worse if we don't.

**Forgive us for holding in questions so long that we can't bear the
answers.**

Forgive us for fearing the crowds, and the consequences.

Open our eyes and hearts to receive your teaching.

Show us again this new way of living. Help us to love like you.

Words of Assurance

Leader: Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me."

Offering

Hymn: HWB (blue) #237 All glory, laud and honor

Congregational Prayer

Scripture Reading Mark 11:1-11

(see insert)

Hymn: HWB (blue) #239 Ride on, ride on in majesty

Sermon *"Precious Cargo"*

Hymn: HWB (blue) #252 O sacred Head, now wounded

Entrance of the cross

Benediction

We are people of God.

We go in God's love

to extend God's love

and live God's promise.

Lenten theme: Our theme is "Between Me & You." This is about relationships, including covenants, between God, creation and each other.

Headsets for hearing assistance are available from the ushers.

Childcare (infants to age 4): Staffed childcare is available in the nursery during the 10:45 Service. The nursery is located next to the sanctuary. Ushers can direct you.

Offering: Thank you to those who contribute electronically. Offering cards are available (or use loose change/cash) so that you can participate in the giving of offering worship experience.

Information Sheets with church news and activities are available in the foyer for those who do not receive them electronically.

Welcome Visitors: We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If you would like to learn more about our church and our ministries, including our care groups, education opportunities, seniors group or youth groups, and if you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact the church office or one of the ministers.

At Waterloo North Mennonite Church we welcome all people to participate fully in our Christian community of faith with all its expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities regardless of personal characteristics such as race, ethnic background, age, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, income, or education.