



Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, April 5, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Lent 6: Show us how to balance celebration and grief

Focus statement: We praise Jesus along with the crowds for all we know of his miracles and goodness, but it so quickly turns this week to events that led to his death. Longing to understand Jesus more deeply, we say, "Show us how to both celebrate your life and honor your death."

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming to Worship and Silent Reflection

Psalm Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

(see last page)

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my song and has given me victory.
Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly.
The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!
I will live to tell what the Lord has done!

All: HWB (blue) #71 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (v.1)

Leader: Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,
and I will go in and thank the Lord.
These gates lead to the presence of the Lord,
and the godly enter there.
I thank you for answering my prayer!

All: HWB (blue) #71 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (v.2)

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
You are my God, and I will praise you!
Give thanks to the Lord, whose faithful love endures forever!

All: HWB (blue) #71 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (v. 4)

Introducing the Branches

Hymn: HWB (blue) #238 Hosanna, loud hosanna (vs 1&3)

Children's Time

Offering

Confession

Leader: O God, we come to you as the people who greeted Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, full of joy and praise and thanksgiving.
Forgive us for the times we forget to show you our gratitude.
Lord, have mercy.

All: HWB (blue) #144 Kyrie eleison

Leader: We come as the people who were baffled when they realized how quickly their joy was turned to sorrow for you.
Lord, have mercy.

All: HWB (blue) #144 Kyrie eleison

Leader: We come, wanting to be with you as you enter the time and place of your death, knowing we cannot face this week alone.
Lord, have mercy.

All: HWB (blue) #144 Kyrie eleison

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Know that Jesus does offer mercy and understands that hard road between joy and devastation, between belief and disbelief. Know that Jesus will never leave you and will love you on whatever part of the road you find yourself on. Amen.

Hymn: STS (purple) #80 Jesus walked this lonesome valley

Congregational Prayer

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

(see last page)

Sermon *"On the Palm Sunday Roller Coaster"*

Hymn of Response: HWB (blue) #252 O sacred Head... (vs 1,2&5)

Ritual of Response - The Cross

Benediction

Leader: May you find the balance you need in the ups and downs of your life, and may you have the courage to keep walking with Jesus. Go in peace to continue your walk with Jesus.

With gratitude and respect, we recognize that we are worshipping on the traditional land that once belonged to the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples. We regret the lack of respect given to the Indigenous people in the past, and pledge to work for justice and reconciliation.

Our Lenten theme is "Show Us". May our hearts and minds be open when we engage these texts and declare, "Show us." We seek to better understand God, and Jesus lived and taught to show everyone the will and passion of God. As we petition the passages to "Show Us", may we also be receptive to the surprising love and grace of God. The visuals for Lent present the bleak, lonely aspect of Lent. Extinguished candles will mark our journey to the cross.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 (NRSV)

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
- ² Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
- ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."