

Service for April 5: Palm Sunday

Opening Hymn – “The Palms”

Verse 1

O'er all the way
Green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day
In festal preparation
Where Jesus comes
To wipe our tears away
E'en now the throng
To welcome Him prepare

Chorus

Join all and sing
His name declare
Let every voice
Resound with acclamation
Hosanna praise to the Lord
Bless Him who cometh
To bring us salvation

Verse 2

Sing and rejoice
Oh blest Jerusalem
Of all thy sons sing
The emancipation
Thro' boundless love
The Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope
To thee forevermore

CCLI Song # 51838

Greetings

No matter who you are or where you are on Life's journey you are welcome here!

Joys of the church

- People helping others: food pantry 130
- Staying in touch

Call to Worship:

Everlasting God we come to you today with hearts filled with anxiety and with wonder and faith. Anxiety at the growing menace of the virus that is among us, spreading every day. Wonder at the amazing self-sacrifice of those in the medical professions, food producers and sellers, truckers, emergency workers, police and so many others who are facing such danger to themselves in taking care of us. Faith in your steadfast love for us.

As I look out on the empty pews of this church, those who have been here in the past through wars and epidemics and disasters before us come to mind. Help us to be as steadfast in our own faith and service as they were before us, Lord. Help us to be your hands and heart and love in our world in this hour. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Each of us believes that God already knows our sins and that He will forgive them if we come to Him and confess and repent of our sins. Let us now take silent time to review our week and see where we have done wrong or not done good that we could have done and confess to our Lord.

Pause

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive Our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is God's gift to us and the world so that we can know abundant life.

Children's Sermon The donkey and the King

Children's challenge for the week: name as many animals as you can think of in the bible and tell what story they came from. Email you answers to our office at sjucc17961@gmail.com for stickers when we come back to worship together.

Scripture Psalm 31: 9-16 Matthew 27: 11-54 Jamie Barton

Anthem

Sermon Our Journey through Holy Week Kay Jones

Prayers of the People

Lockdown by Brother Richard Hendrick 3.13.20

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

*Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.*

*Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing*

Dear Lord, may turn to you in our time of trial in the words our Savior taught us to pray. 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Commission and Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; Be of good courage, hold fast that which is good, Render to no one evil for evil, Strengthen the fainthearted, Support the weak, Help the afflicted, Honor all persons. Love and serve the Lord, Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

And may God bless you and keep you, may God make his face to shine upon you, may God lift up His countenance and give you peace.

Blessings on you and your family from our family at St. John's United Church of Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.

I invite you to join us on Thursday evening for the Service of Tenebrae which you will find on our website. And also for our Easter service next Sunday morning when we will share in the joy of the greatest holy day of Christianity..