

First congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Palm Sunday
March 25, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #267

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Here, we prepare ourselves for the week that is holy, yet filled with unholy acts, words, thoughts.

Many: In this week of journey, people lose their way; in this week of betrayal, others find hope hidden in their hearts.

One: We will try to follow Jesus in the days to come, sustained by the Word of grace and life.

Many: Joining the children, we wave palm branches with joy, while keeping nails ready if we need them.

One: The One who set aside glory, comes in humility; the One who offers life, will challenge death itself.

Many: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who opens the heart of God to us.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

This is your day, Holy God. Every day belongs to you. We empty ourselves before you this morning so there will be room for your entrance into our minds and hearts. Our times are in your hands. This precious gift of life is ours, in trust, from you. We thank you for your steadfast love, which endures forever, the love that was shown to us in the life of Jesus, who dared to challenge those centers of power that lived by other standards. We come to declare that love today. Reign among us, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We admit, God, that we are so much like the people of Jerusalem so long ago. We are hungry for a hero. We crave some glimpse of greatness. We are starving for the spectacular. We are gathered here like those who watched the Passion-Parade in Jerusalem, craning our necks to catch a glimpse of our Messiah. As we wait here for the Savior to come, let us not be disappointed when the special one appears, even though we are certain to be surprised. Give us courage to follow where the one on the donkey might lead us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: At his birth, Jesus comes bringing us hope. Entering Jerusalem, he brings us assurance. Walking to Calvary, he leads us to new life. All this was for us - so we could bend our knees before God in humility and praise. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Many: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the realm of God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 2:5-11

MIDDLE SONG: “O Love, How Deep, How Broad” #244

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in the God who is the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud. We trust in our Holy Parent who judges and shows mercy. We hope in our Creator who is faithful to all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in the Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem. We trust in the Messiah who was crucified, died, and was buried. We hope in the living Christ who walked out of the tomb.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and formation. We trust in the Breath of Life who stirs, sustains, and sanctifies. We hope in our Advocate who brings to us, and through, us the gift of God’s peace. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Mark 11:1-11 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “A Not-So-Triumphant Entry” Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

#268

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman*. Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year B*, by Lavon Bayler. The Prayer of Confession is by John W. Howell from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Wovrship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by *Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage AK.*

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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March Radio Sponsor: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 3- 26- Gene Vaske, 3-29- Alicia Remy

Today - 9:00 am. Seekers

10:00 am. Worship – Palm Sunday

10:15 am. Children’s Sunday School

Brunch following Worship Service

Monday- 11:00am Exceptional Opportunities

Tuesday – Pastor at Perky Parrott in the morning

Wednesday – Deadline for Newsletter Articles

Thursday – Maundy Thursday Service at 1st Presbyterian Church 5:30 pm. Meal, Worship at 7pm

Friday – 7pm Community Good Friday Service at 1st Presbyterian Church

Next Sunday- 10:00 am. Easter Sunday Worship with Communion, Food Pantry

No Seekers or Sunday School

Pastor Chris will be on vacation April 2 - 9. Any pastoral needs, please call Karen Dearchs.

Our Daily Bread Easter Devotional is available on the shelf in the west entryway.

Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale will be held April 20th and 21st. If you have any treasures you would like to donate, you may bring them anytime.

Julie is now out of ICU and can receive cards, etc. Her address is Younker 826, 698 12th St, Des Moines, IA 50309.