

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparation for Worship

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

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Welcome

It is my joy and privilege to welcome you to worship today. When we think of the story of the Triumphal Entry, we naturally think of victory or triumph. It means that the war has been won. That's important to remember as we hear this gospel story from Mark. In Winston Churchill's words: "This isn't the beginning and it isn't the end, but is the beginning of the end." The people in Jerusalem who celebrated Jesus' coming as King might not have understood all of what was going on that day, but they knew it was worth celebrating. Today, at the beginning of the penitential season of Lent, we too have something to celebrate. Looking back at Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem we are given a glimpse of what is to come—our Lord's triumph over death. -Pastor Karl

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration

GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #64

"O God Beyond All Praising"

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end;
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

*Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

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Prayer of Confession—Based on Psalm 103:12

O God, our sins are too close to us. Our pride blinds us to the wrongs we have done. Centered on ourselves, our world is too small. We run even from your grace, fearing you know us too well. We have strayed from the path you would have us follow, and we don't dare to ask for help. Hear our prayer, O God. Grant us the promise that you will indeed remove our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west. You alone can free us from our idolatry and our sin. Grant us your mercy, we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #72

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

...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.

Prayer Response

**Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm; still me, Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease, enfold me, Lord, in your peace.**

**Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm; still me, Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease, enfold me, Lord, in your peace.**

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Mark 11:1-11

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" 4 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5 some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. 7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" 10 "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" 11 Jesus entered

Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve. (NIV)

Sermon

“A Glimpse of Jesus’ Triumph”

A Litany for Lent

One: This is a glimpse of the way it can be, the way it should be—shouts of welcome, a joyful procession, a community celebrating together the coming King.

All: The same vision is offered to us today: We can welcome Christ our King into our lives; we too can celebrate his triumph and his transforming power.

One: How swiftly things changed back then, and how swiftly we are distracted now.

All: May we hold fast to Christ’s triumphal vision of peace, justice, equality and respect.

One: As the Lenten season unfolds, may we let ourselves be overtaken by God’s love.

All: And then may we pour out God’s love into the world that Jesus died for. Amen.

GO IN GOD’S NAME

Hymn

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

*How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss – the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One, bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice, call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart – His wounds have paid my ransom.*

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Benediction

Thank you for worshipping with us!

