



“And So It Begins”

April 5, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday

Faith United Methodist Church

1530 Oakdale Avenue

West St. Paul, Minnesota 55118

651-457-5686

Website: www.faithumcmn.com



We hope in this time you will experience God's love and grace.

Gathering and Praise

Prelude

Choral Call to Worship

“Be Still and Know”

FWS #2057 (sing twice)

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks! God’s love is constant and devoted to us.

Many: Let us say over and over: God’s hope is unfailing in caring for us, through health care workers and researchers, through teachers offering online lessons, and therapists available around the clock.

One: Give thanks, O give thanks! Justice is the gate God opens to all.

Many: Let us say over and over: God hears the cries of those who are forgotten: those who sleep rough in emptied streets, those who are most vulnerable around us, those who have no family to care for them.

One: Give thanks, O give thanks, people of God! God comes to bring us new life.

Many: Let us say this over and over: God takes the stone tossed aside by us to build the foundation of salvation, a foundation made out of grace’s gravel, the sand of hope shaken out of Jesus’ shoes, and mixed with the waters of life.

*Hymn of Praise

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

UMH #278

Call to Reconciliation

One: Wearied by our poor choices, worn down by our foolish words, we struggle to be faithful followers of Jesus. Yet, it is precisely in such moments that God comes, with that love which never gives up, that grace which is always offered freely to us. So, let us come with our prayers, to the gate of God’s heart, so we may enter forgiveness and life anew. Let us pray together, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Many: We are so busy thinking about ourselves, God of constant love, that we cannot begin to ponder what was in Jesus’ mind. We shout for joy on a day like this, smiling as we remember waving our palms, yet quickly toss them aside as we go back to worrying about ourselves and our world. We harden our faces, not in discipleship, but to turn away those who come looking for help from us.

Yet, because he was fully human like us, God of unfailing compassion, we too can be more like Jesus. So, as we begin our journey through Holy Week and beyond, may we choose humility over pride, weakness over strength, compassion over bully, and seek to do whatever we are called to do, without any promise of reward. We pray this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

One: God dares us to think like Jesus, knowing that if we do, we will discover the gifts we can offer, the words of hope we can share, the grace we can use to bless those around us.

Many: God hears our prayers, listens to our hearts, fills us with forgiveness, and walks with us in these moments and in all the ones to come. Thanks be to God for such incredible mercy! Amen.

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Epistle Witness

Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Witness

Matthew 21:1-11

Contemporary Witness

“And So It Begins”

Rev. Gail Alexander

Responding to the Word

Prayer Hymn

“Jesus, Remember Me”

UMH #488 (*sing twice*)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Many: 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.

Hymn of Discipleship *Sing or listen to a song of your choice*

Benediction

— Worship is over. The service begins. —



Sermon Notes

“And So It Begins”

Philippians 2:5-11 & Matthew 21:1-11

Spend time reading the Scriptures and then think about the following comments and questions.

What is the best parade you have seen? Have you ever participated in a parade? What did you do?

How does the city respond to Jesus coming in?

Where are you? Are you part of the parade or are you on the sidelines afraid to take part?

Have you ever participated in a protest? If you have over what?

In Philippians Paul is sharing a hymn. Where does the hymn begin and end?

In the hymn what is the action of Christ? What are the verbs used?

In the hymn what is the action of God? What is the difference?

This week to prepare for next Sunday read Matthew 21:12-27:66. You may want to read a portion each day. Reflect on the events and teachings of this week.

• For Bible study options with multiple version choices, visit www.biblegateway.com or www.biblehub.com

Question for this time

How are you creating and maintaining community when we physically cannot be together?

