



Order of Worship Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28, 2021

Welcome Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Introit Hosanna, Loud Hosanna ELLACOMBE

Chancel Choir

Greeting Amanda Koenig

The story of faith is a story of courage.

It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am. Use me."

It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

It took courage for the paralyzed man's friends to lower him through the roof.

It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

Again and again, God, show us the way.

Let us worship a brave and courageous God!

Opening Hymn All Glory, Laud and Honor UMH 280

Confession and Pardon Amber Vincent

Palm Sunday evokes images of sweet children waving palms and people cheering. We conveniently forget that on this day, a humble leader rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. It was Jesus—defying the establishment, knowing that

he would soon die at their hands. What courage that must have taken! Will you join me in the prayer of confession today as we remember:

God of palm branches and hallelujahs:

We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.

We love the sound of a joyful parade.

We love shouting, "hallelujah!"

We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.

We love good news.

However, if we slow down and pay attention,

We know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.

There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence.

You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire,

And the whole world knew it.

Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.

Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage,

And even we can do hard things.

With hope we pray. Amen.

Family of faith,

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Even when we gloss over the truth,

Even when our courage fails us,

Even when we doubt that we can do hard things,

God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us.

Hear and believe this truth:

We are known.

We are loved.

We are forgiven.

Again and again and again. Amen.

Anthem

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Darst

Chancel Choir

Scripture

John 12:1-19

Pam and Paul Gibert

READER 1: Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served,

and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii^[b] and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, 11 since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

READER 2: The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord the King of Israel!"

Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. [4] 18 It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹ The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

Sermon

Again & Again: **We Draw on Courage** Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

O Lord, our God, your faithful goodness is beyond our understanding! You fulfill your promises at the right time. You sent the crowd of angels to sing of your glory when Jesus was born. At the height of Jesus' ministry, people honored him and shouted your praises. Like them, we want to contribute to your kingdom coming on earth. It is a privilege to share in your mission in the world through this congregation. Accept our offerings as a sign of our love and gratitude. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Anthem

In Silent Pain the Eternal Son

arr. James Biery

Chancel Ringers

Closing Prayer Lisa Labella

Gracious and loving God,

In the journey of life, you are our guide and our companion.

From our beginning to our end, you are there.

You run this race alongside us, at times encouraging us,

at times comforting us,

at times tending to our wounds,

at times carrying us when we don't think we can take another step.

For six weeks we have been on a Lenten journey,

and you have been right here with us—

with us in our discipline and devotion,

with us in our weakness and failure,

with us in our fear,

with us in our hope.

As we enter this final week with Jesus in Jerusalem,

we are amazed once again by his gentle spirit and fierce determination.

As he confronts those who challenge him,

we confront our own stubbornness and defiant wills.

As he cares even for those who hate him.

we are challenged to love as he loves.

As he bears witness to the emergence of your kingdom,

our eyes are opened to your presence all around us.

As he moves with resolve toward his dark destiny,

we find ourselves struggling to understand why it has to be this way.

God, the journey is not just about the destination;

it is about each step along the way.

The journey itself is a blessing,

with all of its joys and sorrows.

As we run this race you are shaping us into new people.

As we move with you, we are continually born anew.

Help us to be attentive to each step,

in the darkness and in the light.

Help us to fully experience all that we encounter,

the good and the bad,

for in it all we discover you.

Though the race of life goes on,

our Lenten journey is nearing its conclusion.

Bind us ever closer to Christ,

so that we may turn our hearts and minds

to all that he experienced in the crucible of this holy week,

a week both terrible and wonderful.

Hear us even now as we join our voices to his, saying together the prayer he taught us.

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn Lead Me To the Cross

Lisa Gibbs-Smith, Mike Bannach

Benediction Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Postlude Go to Dark Gethsemane REDHEAD

Fran Underwood, handbells; Mark Frazier, piano

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Bulletin Production: Tanya Sabin Video Production: Sean Gilliam

Offering prayer: umcdiscipleship.org Closing prayer written by John W. Vest

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



WORDS: Theodulph of Orleans, 8-9th cent.; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851 (Mt. 21:8-9; Mk. 11:8-10; Lk. 19:36-38; Jn. 12:12-13)

MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

Lead Me To The Cross

Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood



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