

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833
April 05, 2020

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling
Music Director: Dr. Harry Dunstan
Internet Technician: Brandon Savage

Welcome to worship!
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
—you are welcome here.

The Mission of the People of Salem United Methodist Church
is to grow in Christian faith and express God's love to all.

Glorifying God

Prelude—Music Before Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship (L: Leader; P: People)

(Based on Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11)

L: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

P: Open the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to God. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Song—"I Will Enter His Gates" (#2270 in the Black Book)

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made."
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad.
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

L: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.

L: The crowds that went ahead of Jesus and that followed him were shouting:

P: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

L: With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever! You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God and I will exalt you.

A Palm Sunday Song—"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (#278 in the Red Book)

Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.

To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.

The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of Heaven, our King.

O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

Giving God Thanks for Blessings and Joys

A Palm Sunday Prayer (In Unison)

Suffering Christ, we confess that we love to celebrate with parades. Today we would be glad if we could gather to parade our palms and shout our Hosannas together. But this year, we are sad because we need to remain apart. Some suffer from being isolated. Some suffer from fevers and have difficulty breathing. While others grieve the loss of their loved ones to this virus. But as you ride into Jerusalem, this year we recognize the sadness on your face. You are aware of the suffering you must endure this holiest of weeks. Forgive us for all the times we have ignored your suffering and have gone from shouting our Hosannas on Palm Sunday to singing our Alleluias on Easter, completely ignoring your suffering and death on the cross. Perhaps the pain is too much for us to bear. This year is different. This year as we suffer, we recognize just how much you suffered. Forgive our lack of empathy for all you have done for us. Make us aware of your presence among us this Holy Week. Give us courage to face the days ahead. Amen.

Special Music—"The Palms" (Dr. Harry Dunstan)

The Palms" by Jean-Baptiste Fauré

Verse One

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festive 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 ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!

Verse Two

His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more their freedom gain from degradation,
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness find restored the light.

Verse Three

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore.

Praying Our Concerns

Prayer Response: Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Offerings

Please set aside your offering and bring it when we are able to gather again. Or mail it to Salem United Methodist Church, 12 High St., Brookeville, MD 20833.

Psalter—Psalm 31:9-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. 10 For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Epistle Lesson—Philippians 2:5-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Growing in Faith and Knowledge

Lenten Worship Series: Christ Acts For Us

Sermon Title: “In Life And In Death”

Time of Reflection

The Passion of Christ Scriptures

Scripture Song—“Go To Dark Gethsemane” (v. 1) (#290 in the Red Book)

Go to dark Gethsemane,
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

First Reading—Matthew 26:36-5 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Scripture Song—"Go To Dark Gethsemane" (v. 2) (#290 in the Red Book)

Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall!
O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

Second Reading—Matthew 26:57-68 (New Revised Standard Version)

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Scripture Song—"Go To Dark Gethsemane" (v. 3) (#290 in the Red Book)

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb
There' adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" Hear the cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Third Reading—Matthew 27:27:54 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in

two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Extinguish Candle

End in Silence—Reflect on Christ Acts For Us