

WORSHIP GUIDE FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 5

the Sixth Sunday in Lent / Palm Sunday

Setting Your Space

This is a ritual-laden week in our liturgical calendar; today is both Palm Sunday and Communion Sunday. We'd invite you to make this work at home however you can – grab the palm from your Holy Week bag if you had one delivered yesterday (if you're in our church directory, check your porch – you should have!) or grab another wave-able, celebratory object. And set out some snack – it can be bread and juice, or whatever you have on hand (Oreos and milk? Fruit and yogurt? Veggie sticks and ranch? Have fun with it. The point is never really about the food anyway, it's about the sharing...) and we'll all partake together during this service.

And this week's theme is “holy protest.” So you might consider what you could add to your at-home worship space that reminds you of protest – a sign you carried at an immigrants rights rally; the red ribbon you wear on World Aids Day; your Black Lives Matter t-shirt; the re-usable bags you bring to the grocery store... anything that speaks against an unjust system belongs on your altar this week.

Prelude: *Prepare Ye*

Prepare ye the way of the Lord; prepare ye the way of the Lord. (repeat)

Lenten Song

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Gathering Song: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

“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 amid a cheering crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours,
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers;
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!”

Communal Prayer *by FBC Children*

Our Creator, your name is great and holy. You dwell in a place of celebration, love, and peace. You are near to us and in our hearts. Let earth be a place of kindness, hope, respect, and love, just like it is in heaven. Give us all that we need for life. Please forgive us for our mistakes and help us forgive others. And help us make good choices so that we can do what is right. God, please lead us to be our very best. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-16

As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, “Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, ‘The Rabbi needs them.’ Then they will let them go at once.” This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet: “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Your Sovereign comes to you without display, riding on a donkey, on a colt – the foal of a beast of burden.’” So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered. They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from trees and lay them along the path. The crowds – those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed – were all shouting, “Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Most High! Hosanna in the highest!” As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up to its depths, demanding, “Who is this?” And the crowd kept answering, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!”

When Jesus entered the Temple, he drove out all those who were selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of money changes and the seats of those selling doves. He said to them, “Scripture says, ‘My house is called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of thieves!” Those who were blind or couldn’t walk came to him in the Temple, and he healed them.

When the chief priests and teachers of the Law saw the wonderful things Jesus did, and heard the children shouting, “Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David!” throughout the Temple area, they became indignant. “Do you hear what the children are shouting?” they asked him.

“Yes,” Jesus replied. “Have you never read, ‘From the mouth of children and nursing babies, you have brought forth praise?’”

Communion Litany

One: And the table will be wide. And the welcome will be wide.
And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

All: And our hearts will open wide to receive.
And we will come as children who trust there is enough.
And we will come unhindered and free.

One: And our aching will be met with bread.
And our sorrow will be met with wine.

All: And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.
And we will turn toward each other without fear.
And we will give up our appetite for despair.
And we will taste and know of delight.

One: And we will become bread for a hungry world.
And we will become drink for those who thirst.

All: And the blessed will become the blessing.
And everywhere will be the feast.

Going Forth Song: *Day By Day*

Day by day, day by day
Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray
To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day
(repeat)

Day by day by day by day

Benediction

....and may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.