

WORSHIP GUIDE for APRIL 10, 2022

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Friends, you'll need two props for this service if you're joining in from home: (1) a palm, or a branch, or a ribbon, or anything you can wave in the air, really, and (2) just a tiny bit of oil (essential, olive, sunflower, perfume, that sort of thing). Because now we are entering Holy Week – the last week of Jesus' life – and Holy Week is a spectacle; it is ritual theater. Ritual is what we do – what people have always done – when what we are trying to express is too deep for words. If you're coming to church in person, we'll have those props for you; if you've joining in from home, gather those at the beginning of our time together so you can participate fully throughout. We pray that you'll find it meaningful; we're thankful for your part in this community of faith, remembrance, and hope.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Geoff Clayton, Pianist

Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *Blessed Be Your Name (Blue Book)*

– Dave King, Heidi Toth, Geoff Clayton

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name.”

Blessed be Your name when the sun’s shining down on me,
when the world’s “all as it should be,” blessed be your name.

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,
though there’s pain in the offering, blessed be Your name.

Ev’ry blessing You pour out I’ll turn back to praise.

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

“Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name.”

You give and take away, You give and take away.

My heart will choose to say, “Lord, Blessed be Your name.”

You give and take away, You give and take away.

My heart will choose to say, “Lord, Blessed be Your name.”

“Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.”

Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer

from Central Congregational United Church of Christ, Atlanta, Georgia

Our Mother and Father, our Beloved Parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being, the hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children. May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven. Grant that all might have their daily needs met – that all might find gainful employment without discrimination; that all might have access to medical care without fear; that all might have their rights and lives protected, and find a loving community to belong to and call their own. Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed each other. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged others’ unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken,

asked too much, or failed to hear – as we forgive those who might have failed us. Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time – Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister

Scripture: Mark 4:1-11

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to be observed in two days' time. The chief priests and religious Scholars were looking for some excuse to arrest Jesus and kill him. But they said, "Not during the festival, or the people may riot."

While Jesus was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon, who was afflicted with leprosy, a woman entered carrying an alabaster jar made of expensive aromatic nard. After breaking the jar, she began to pour the perfume on his head. Some said to themselves indignantly, "What is the point of this extravagant waste of perfume? It could have been sold for over three hundred silver pieces, and the money given to those in need!" They were infuriated with her.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you criticize her? She has done me a kindness. You will always have poor people among you, and you can do them good whenever you want, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She has anointed my body and is preparing it for burial. The truth is, wherever the good news is proclaimed throughout the world, what she has done will be told in her memory."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests to hand Jesus over to them. Hearing what he had to say, they were jubilant and promised to give him money. Then Judas started looking for an opportune moment to betray Jesus.

Sermon: “Oil” – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Response Song: *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?* (Hymnal #539)

– Dave King, Heidi Toth, Geoff Clayton

Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Closing Words – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Going Forth Song: *I Will Enter the Gates* (Blue Book)

– Dave King, Heidi Toth, Geoff Clayton))

I will enter the gates with thanksgiving in my heart;

I will enter the courts with praise.

I will say, “This is the day that the Lord has made!”

I will rejoice for You have made me glad.

You have made me glad, You have made me glad,

I will rejoice for You have made me glad.

You have made me glad, You have made me glad,

I will rejoice for You have made me glad.

Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury

One: Friends... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude – Geoff Clayton

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