

A hand is shown holding a Palm Sundae dessert. The dessert is a round, light-colored base, possibly vanilla ice cream or cake, topped with a swirl of white whipped cream. A single bright red cherry with a dark stem sits atop the cream. Several golden-brown wafer sticks are inserted into the sides of the dessert, fanning out like fingers. The hand is positioned palm-up, supporting the dessert. The background is a plain, light grey color.

Love is not canceled

Palm Sundae

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

April 4 and 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (please light a candle(s) at home in preparation of worship)

WELCOME

During Lent we have taken six weeks to move through one week—the last week of Jesus’ human life. This has allowed us to expand time—to “freeze frame” important moments and dig deeper into our faith story, and our own stories. Today marks the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week, so let us speed up time a bit as we remember the first entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Call to Worship (from Chalice Worship; Disciples of Christ)

Leader: Hosanna!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Hosanna in the highest heaven! Praise be to God!

Hymn of Praise *All Glory Laud and Honor*

(This is the hymn the children would typically enter our sanctuary, waving palm branches. Please wave your homemade palm branches along with the music).

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Refrain B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat E \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ B \flat sus B \flat F Gm $\frac{Cm7}{E\flat}$ F B \flat

All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to you, Re-deem - er, King,

B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat E \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ B \flat sus B \flat F Gm $\frac{Cm7}{E\flat}$ F B \flat

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

B \flat Gm $\frac{C}{E}$ C7 F C7 F Dm Gm $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat 6 C7 F

1 You are the King of Is - rael, and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high,
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore you went;
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 5 As you re - ceived their prais - es, ac - cept the prayers we bring,

$\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ F7 B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat B \flat Fsus F7 *to Refrain* B \flat

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and bless - ed One!
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply:
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent:
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we pre - sent:
 for you de - light in good - ness, O good and gra - cious King!

SETTING THE SCENE: We found our place in the parade and consider OUR place in the picture—our role as supporters of Jesus’ mission in the world. Then we found ourselves in the midst of the chaos and throngs of people in Jerusalem for the Passover. We suspended action for a moment, wondering how we could join Jesus in clearing out our own lives and hearts, our own places of worship, to make them more welcoming for the love of God to reside fully. We followed Jesus as he continued to teach in the city and among people in the temple. His teachings filled our hearts as they filled those long ago, and we remembered the call to proclaim justice in the midst of injustice wherever we find it. We joined the disciples at two different meals where our assumptions about the way the world works were turned upside down.

This week we join Jesus in the Garden. Gethsemane is the moment when a chain of events begins that cannot be stopped. Once Jesus is taken into custody, there is no going back. So we pause a moment with him in the garden just before his arrest and we feel with him the temptations that arise when facing difficult circumstances—to run, hide, use whatever power we have to change things, fight it, and perhaps even bargain with God. We walk among the sleepy disciples who just cannot grasp what is about to happen.

RESPONSIVE SONG
***Enter. Enter the story.
Enter the place you belong.
Not just looking on:
For this is your passion.
Enter the story.***

E all voices
En - ter. ___ En - ter the pas - sion. ___ En - ter the place we be - long,
54 not just look - ing on. For this is our pas - sion. ___
58 En - ter the pas - sion. ___

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: As we enter Holy Week, we confess that we have not followed Jesus well. We confess that we live with sin and brokenness. Let us confess together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

We are here, Jesus. We find ourselves alongside you in a garden of grief for the violence of so many of this world endure. We are tired. We don't know what to do next. And so we sleep sometimes, hoping to awake from a bad dream. Forgive us, O God. Help us face this hour knowing you are always with us. You only ask the same of us: to be present, to be awake. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kingdom on earth as it in heaven.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Know this: we can open ourselves to let the story remind us that no matter what we face, or how we fail to meet the demand of the moment, second chances are possible. You are forgiven and freed by God who wants you to live fully.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE SONG

Enter. Enter the passion.

Enter the place we belong.

Not just looking on:

For this is our passion.

Enter the passion.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Today's story is about prayer AND it also involves a lot of action. Listen very carefully then pantomime (act out) the different actions you hear in the story. Let's enter the story.

Jesus and his disciples WALKED to a place called Gethsemane—a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives. He told his disciples, “SIT here while I go PRAY.”

Peter and two others WALKED with Jesus a little way. Then Jesus told them, “Stay here and KEEP WATCH.” Then Jesus went to a spot, LAID DOWN FACE-FIRST and said to God, “My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not what I want, but what you want.”

Jesus STOOD UP and WALKED over to the disciples. He found them SLEEPING. “Couldn’t you STAY AWAKE with me for one hour?” he asked.

Two more times he WALKED over by himself. Two more times he LAID DOWN FACE-FIRST to PRAY. Two more times he STOOD UP and WALKED back to find the disciples SLEEPING.

One of Jesus’ closest friends, Judas Iscariot led soldiers to the garden. As they MARCHED in, Jesus could have tried to RUN. But Jesus STOOD and said, “Friend, do what you have come to do.”

Thank you for helping me tell the story. Jesus could have done things the easy way and tried to run when he had a chance. But he did not give in to temptation. Instead, he chose to do things God’s way, and because he did, it would change the world.

Discussion Question: Where is a place that you feel especially close to God, a place where you can not only talk to God, but hear what God might be trying to say to you?

Children’s Moment Prayer: Loving God, help us know we can always talk to you. Give us the faith to do things your way. Amen.

ANTHEM “Bare to the Bone” by Carrie Newcomer. (YouTube.com; Search Carrie Newcomer Bare to the Bone)

*Here I am without a message, here I stand with empty hands
Just a spirit tired of wandering, like a stranger in this land.
Walking wide-eyed through this world is the only way I’ve known
Wrapped in hope and good intentions and bare to the bone.*

*There's nothing I won't show you, there is nothing I can hide.
I've risked it all and dreamed it all and seldom questioned why.
You took me in when I was hungry, when my spirit ached and
groaned,
Laid wide open and defenseless and bare to the bone.*

Chorus:

*When I rise I rise in glory. If I do I do by grace:
Time will wash away our footprints and we'll leave without a trace.
Between here and now and forever is such precious little time.
What we do in love and kindness, is all we'll ever leave behind.*

*When my eyes are slowly fading the light is softly waning,
When the evening sun is setting and the world is barely breathing:
Then your voice will call me and your hands will lead me home
Like a newborn awed and naked and bare to the bone. (Chorus)*

*Here I am without a message, here I stand with empty hands
Just a spirit tired of wandering, like a stranger in this land.
Walking wide-eyed through this world is the only way I've known
Wrapped in hope and good intentions and bare to the bone.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 14:32-42

(from Eugene Peterson's The Message)

They came to an area called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him. He plunged into a sinkhole of dreadful agony. He told them, "I feel bad enough right now to die. Stay here and keep vigil with me."

³⁵⁻³⁶ Going a little ahead, he fell to the ground and prayed for a way out: "Papa, Father, you can—can't you?—get me out of this. Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want—what do *you* want?"

³⁷⁻³⁸ He came back and found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, you went to sleep on me? Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don't enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naive. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ He then went back and prayed the same prayer. Returning, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open, and they didn't have a plausible excuse.

⁴¹⁻⁴² He came back a third time and said, "Are you going to sleep all night? No—you've slept long enough. Time's up. The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's get going. My betrayer has arrived."

RESPONSE:

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

QUESTIONS FOR THE GOSPEL READING:

- 1. What words or phrases caught your attention in this text?**
- 2. What might God be saying to you in this passage?**
- 3. What is the good news of this story?**

SERMON

Pastor Dee Schroer

Six weeks ago we began a series of scripture lessons that walked us through the stories of Holy Week. Some we are very familiar with and some maybe not so much.

As I mention the lessons I want you to not only to think on the messages of each of these stories but be aware of the fact that Jesus knew where things were heading, he knew he would be betrayed by those closest to him, Jesus knew his time had come.

We began six weeks ago with the event we celebrate today, Jesus riding into Jerusalem, triumphantly, peacefully, on a donkey while those around him praised him and celebrated the coming of something they did not fully understand. (Mark 11:1-11)

Our second week we see a different side of Jesus, first he curses the fig tree when he is on his way to the temple, then he is passionately moved by righteous anger as drives out the money changers and those who sold the animals for sacrifice. All the while he was teaching and saying "my house shall be called a house of prayer for **ALL** the nations - but you have made it a den of robbers". (Mark 11: 12-19)

Week three -Jesus is back at the temple teaching the parable of the wicked tenants to the religious leaders who questioned his authority, and when they asked him about paying taxes he didn't miss a beat- he called them out about their questioning and said "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperors, and to God the things that are God's". (Mark 12: 1-17)

On week four we were at the house of Simon the Leper as "the woman" anointed Jesus with expensive nard. The disciples were discussing the cost of the ointment and Jesus flat out told them to leave her alone, (she gets it!) "She has anointed my body beforehand for its burial" (Mark 14:3-9)

Week five we were at the table as Jesus humbled himself and set the example for us by washing the disciple's feet at his last Passover meal. Among many other things from this lesson, Jesus tells us – "I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:3-16) then we heard, as our sermon, how our Splash and Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups feel they can serve Jesus by serving others.

Today – on this day we are usually confirming, praying over and laying hands on our confirmation class, I feel many of us are entering Palm Sunday and Holy Week as Jesus entered the garden of Gethsemane- with heavy hearts that are anxious about what is going to come.

Today it feels to me that we really are entering the garden with Jesus. Just what was it that Jesus brought the disciples to the garden to do? He brought them to pray and keep watch!

And I can't help but notice who it was that Jesus brought with him as he moved deeper into the Garden. Jesus brought Peter, James and John in closer explaining to them how deeply grieved he was, "even to death".

Why does this strike me?

Because it was Peter, James and John that were with Jesus on the mountain top at the transfiguration (they were tired on the mountaintop too!) Yes- living spiritually can be exhausting! They were right there with Jesus as Moses and Elisha appeared to them and Jesus was enlightened and transfigured.

Why is it that we can be witnesses to so many miracles and examples that Jesus set for us and we still do not recognize when he is calling us to watch and be aware?

Why are we surprised and drawn into lonely and negative places when our burdens seem heavy, when we are betrayed - when we have difficulties, trials and tribulations? Is that the example Jesus set for us?

No!

Jesus rode into his tribulation with confidence and peace, he stood up for those who were being taken advantage of in the Temple and preserved their place of prayer. He spoke wisdom and truth, continued to associate with known lepers and validated the woman who anointed him. He certainly humbled himself, washing the feet of even the one he knew was about to commit the ultimate betrayal.

Jesus never ceased in praying, he had the full understanding wisdom and knowledge as he prayed that all things are possible for God! But it is not what he (Jesus) wanted but as God wants.

This is what leads us to peace and victory!

Jesus surrounded himself at all times with those, whom God gave him, even those who would betray him. Those who, in their own way, would carry on the work, ministry and truth that Jesus lived and taught.

Jesus was paraded into Jerusalem as people waved Palm branches- which were a symbol of victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world. ... A palm branch was awarded to victorious athletes in ancient Greece.

So why would Jesus choose the Garden of Gethsemane a garden of olive trees as the last place he takes his disciples to spend time in prayer?

When I typed Olive branch into my iPad this is what it said--

What do olive branches symbolize? The **olive branch** is a symbol of peace or victory from the customs of ancient Greece, particularly regarding supplication to both the gods and persons in power, and is found in most cultures of the Mediterranean basin.

What does the olive branch signify in the Bible? It is first mentioned in Scripture when the dove returned to Noah's ark carrying an olive branch in its beak (Gen. 8:11). Since that time, the olive branch has been a symbol of "peace" to the world, and we often hear the expression, "extending an olive branch" to another person as a desire for peace.

Why are olive trees important? Their wood is strong and resists both rot and sickness. Olive trees are important to people and other animals. They supply people with lamp oil, with a moisturizer to keep their skin healthy, and with food. Birds and other animals eat olives and scatter the seeds.

When we are at our most vulnerable it is important that we surround ourselves with God and those God puts into our lives! It is important that we follow Jesus, stay awake and aware and find those places that give us strength, have meaning, that bring us to a place of peace. Places that help us pray effectively.

Whether we are gathered or scattered we are to worship God, honor Jesus, and believe the good news of the gospel. As followers of Christ we are to Pray, Listen, Stay Awake and Aware so we can effectively Love and Serve one another as Jesus has called us to do. Amen.

PRAYER INTROIT *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full on his wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his wonder and grace.***

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus 472

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system covers the first two lines of the lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. Chord symbols are placed above the notes in the vocal line.

Chord symbols for the first system: F, C, C7, Dm, E7/C, F7, Bb, Gm/Bb, Bm7(b5), C, C#, C, F.

Chord symbols for the second system: F, C7/G, F/A, F C#dim7, Dm, E7/C, Bb, Dm, Gm/Bb, E/C, C, E/C, C7, Am/C, C7, F.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

We remember today all those who grieve, who feel that they have no way out of their circumstances. We mourn all who have no choice but to live with violence that threatens their lives. SILENCE

We remember today those who work for less violence in the world, creating protection and possibilities for safer lives and peace for all people on earth. SILENCE

Now let us call to our minds eye those people in our lives that need our advocacy, our presence and our prayers. SILENCE

We pray today for all who are troubled by isolation, who struggle with mental health issues, who need the warmth of community as our communities must find new expressions in the midst of this pandemic. SILENCE

We pray for all who are infected with this virus world-wide. We pray for our neighbors. We pray for those whose names we do not know. We pray for health-care workers who risk their lives each day. We pray today for healing and restoration. SILENCE

We lift up in prayer those who are sick, those who are recuperating, those in need of your healing love: SILENCE

Today we pray for Christians throughout the world who are entering Holy Week, knowing that the places and spaces for worship will be different this year. Yet, we affirm this: you are our God who conquers sin and death. In the midst of death and darkness, resurrection and light will have the final word. SILENCE

We remember our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, speaking out against injustice, seeking your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. SILENCE

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*
Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full on his wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his wonder and grace.

A TIME OF OFFERING OURSELVES

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: I want you to think back to a time when you were a child and as all children do, you got into a race. Maybe it was during recess. Maybe it was in your backyard with friends or siblings. Do you remember running as fast you could with somebody gaining on you? Your breath was coming hard, but you kept on running. The sheer exhilaration of the race kept you going. At the finish line, you collapsed onto the grass filled with joy: this was the race you won. Giving is like that: the strange combination of effort, a painful stretching of yourself, leading to joy. Friends, give until you feel that joy. Run the race set before you. Make a difference! You are invited to send your offering to the church office in the envelope provided in this packet.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

O God, we are made glad by the good news of your love for us and for all. We thank you for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for life. We thank you for your action in Christ by which our lives are measured, found wanting, and renewed. Help us to remember your gifts that we may praise you with lives of joy and service. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

When we “break bread” together as a church in our worship, we remember that Jesus invited folks to his table as part of his ministry, not just at the Last Supper. We so wanted to create a way for all of us to

break bread together with whatever we have in our homes. Indeed, what we've asked you to do is to prepare your favorite "comfort food."

Pastor Dee and I have the table set with bread, wine, cookies and milk. Set your table as you see fit. And this you need to know: today after worship from 11:00-Noon, we will be on the sidewalks on the Herman Street side of our building to distribute communion elements.

Jesus used the parable of a great banquet to which all people are invited in order to talk about what the kingdom of God, the family of God, looks like. He said, "Go to the highways and back alleys and *urge* people to come in so that my house will be filled." He often invited the most unlikely guests to his meal-times, confounding his disciples. In this way, he was encouraging a deep love and connection beyond the social norms of the day. He knew that we humans need connection and inclusion. Jesus comforts us, saying "you have a place at the table" and Jesus challenges us to make sure we are doing the same—that all people know they are welcome in our hearts, in our homes, and in our churches—even if we cannot physically be with each other right now.

It is difficult in this moment not to be near some of the people we love and might be worried about. ***Take a moment to say out loud the names of people you wish were right there next to you at your table today.***

Jesus is no longer physically on earth, yet every time we gather around a table and we call him to mind, he is present with us in Spirit. And so too, our loved ones are with us. Let this be a comfort to us as we pray:

Holy and Loving God, we call to our minds those who are unable to be with us this day. We remember our family, our friends, our neighbors, our fellow Christians. SILENCE

We also call to our minds, O God, the people whose names we do not know: those who are alone in quarantine, those who are grieving, those who are not safe within the confines of their own homes. SILENCE

We pray for those who have lost loved ones. We pray for those who are sick and recovering. SILENCE

We pray for those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home. We pray for those who are caring for people in hospitals, nursing homes, and in care facilities. SILENCE

We pray for those who are separated from loved ones. We pray for those who are feeling alone and isolated. SILENCE

We pray for those who are helping in this crisis and who are so very tired. We pray for those who are struggling to find friends, food and comfort. We pray for those who are afraid. SILENCE. Amen.

Blessings at the table are part of our Judeo-Christian heritage. Indeed, Jesus adapted his Jewish ritual blessing spoken before and after meals. He asked us to remember him whenever we break bread and raise the cup in thanksgiving. In this feast of love and comfort, we call to mind things for which we are deeply grateful. ***Take a moment in your own home to name aloud the people and things for which you are deeply grateful.***

And so I invite you to raise a plate of that food at your table or raise a glass of whatever you are drinking. PAUSE. Let us bless it in this way, praying together:

Holy Comforter, we gather in your name, invited by Jesus. We are bound together with your Spirit in union with each other. Feed our bodies and our spirits with your comforting presence so that we offer your comfort to others. Bless this food and break open our hearts. Bless this drink and pour out your love. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(Holding the bread): Take and eat. The body of Christ given for you!

(Holding the cup): Take and drink. The blood of Christ poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison): **Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

HYMN OF SENDING

God of Grace and God of Glory

569 God of Grace and God of Glory

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. Chords are indicated above the vocal line.

System 1:
 Chords: G, C, G/B, G/A, G, D/A, G/B, C6, G/D, D, G, C/E, C, Am7
 Lyrics:
 1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
 3 Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

System 2:
 Chords: G/D, D7, G, C, G/B, G/A, G, D/A, G/B, C6, G/D, D, G, C/E
 Lyrics:
 pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us—free our
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

System 3:
 Chords: G/B, C, G/D, D, G, D, G/D, D7, D/F#, G, D7, G, G/B
 Lyrics:
 bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

System 4:
 Chords: G/B, D7/A, G, D/F#, Em7, D, G/B, D7/A, G, C, G/D, D7, G
 Lyrics:
 for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry E. Fosdick (1878-1969), alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes (1873-1932)

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

BENEDICTION: So we have begun. This season we will put a frame around a bit of life; we'll section off a scene, we'll look long in to a face, to see what we can see and to know what we can know. Just as we have done in worship today, zoom in your focus on the art and story of life all through the week. The Divine Artist offers us such poignant beauty each day in our own stories, in the stories around us, in the heartbreak and pain and joy and awe of a simple moment turned significant. May you be blessed by the sacred frames that surround the moments of your life that you dare not miss.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

***Love our God, ev'ry day, praise with joy going on your way.
 Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev'ry day in ev'ry way.
 Love our Holy God. Pray with hope each day.
 Bless the Holy Name. Praise our God.
 Love our Holy God. Pray with hope each day.
 Bless the Holy Name. Praise our God.***

Pass the Love

The musical score for "Pass the Love" is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 95. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Staff 1: *Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.*
 Chords: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7

Staff 2: *Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in ev - 'ry way.*
 Chords: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C

Staff 3: *Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.*
 Chords: Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C

Staff 4: *Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our God.*
 Chords: Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST: If you are worshiping at home with family or friends, you are invited to wave, elbow bump or foot bump to pass the peace of Christ.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Communion- scheduled for worship April 4, April 5 and April 12 will still happen. Pastors Becky and Dee will lead communion during the Facebook Live on April 5 and 12. Then, on those Sundays, from 11am to Noon, you can drive to the sidewalk on Herman Street and pick up your communion elements while staying in your car. If you are unable to get out, but would still like communion, please contact the church office (419-629-2502) and we'll do our best to arrange delivery to your home.

This week's Altar Flowers were to be given-In Memory of Neil Wiedeman by Karla, Brianna & Zach Wiedeman.

Blessing Pantry-is open 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm Monday-Friday and 5:30pm-7:30pm Tuesday's. All Donations Welcome-Thank you!

Building Entrance-St. Paul is accessible by the East Educational Building door, Monday-Friday 10:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please ring the doorbell, wait outside the doors so staff may assist you. We are currently taking everyone's temperature asking you to sanitize hands and remove shoes. Thank you!

Agape Needs-During this crisis time Agape is working hard to keep seniors and children fed. St Paul is helping with local mission. The Agape donation barrel will be located at the office entrance. Your donations will be picked up by Agape. Food needed: prepared soups, pastas, oranges & apples are good as well as egg cartons. Monetary donations are also good as they can get food when needed. Thanks 🙏 for all your help to our local friends and neighbors who are helped by Agape. Blessings and good health to all. Ann Hudson, Agape Rep.

Daily Devotions-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will be airing on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Thank you-Dear St. Paul Family and Friends,
I would like to take this time to THANK you all for the cards, well wishes, and prayers. A solid family behind us at this time is greatly appreciated and very helpful.

I know God has a plan for me and I will certainly follow this plan.

Yours in Faith,

Cindy and Jerry Newman

April Beacon-due to the Covid-19 “stay at home” order, we will not be publishing an April Beacon. All programming, services and building use (except the Blessing Pantry) are suspended until the order is lifted. We will keep the bulletin announcements up to date as best as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Financial Information as of March 30, 2020

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance (\$2,974.14)

Giving Income \$2,379.69 (weekly)

Endowment Transfers \$9,485.73 (YTD)

Income \$63,468.84 (YTD)

Expenses \$66,490.39 (YTD)

Balance **(\$5,995.69)**

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$83,428.04

Income \$3,778.00 (YTD)

Endowment Income **(\$2,011.85)** (YTD)

Expenses \$4,115.71 (YTD)

Balance \$81,078.48

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$9,934.05

Income \$5,124.00 (YTD)

Expenses \$4,140.99 (YTD)

Balance \$10,914.06

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$30,000.00

Income \$51.00 (weekly)

Income \$6,390.00 (YTD)

Project of the Year

Sanctuary Air Conditioning

Cost \$46,400

Income \$0.00(weekly)

Income \$45,642.00(YTD)

Balance to raise \$758.00

E-Giving @ St. Paul
3 Different Ways to Give

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Give+ App – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048
St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

**How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25
(minimum amount is \$5.00))**

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

- Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.

- Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring or refund to cancel this donation.

**APRIL 5, 2020
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY**



God shows divine love through humiliation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Matthew 26:14–27:66	Jesus' trial and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	The servant's humiliation
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	Jesus suffers and dies
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for protection
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Christ's resurrection

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[B]ut [Jesus Christ] 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. **Philippians 2:7-8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, free us to trust that the humiliation Jesus experienced from the cross is the path to hope for the world and the source of true power, true faith, and true love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of each day and for this food. May we enjoy the day with courage, faith, and love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the face of God shine on you and save you through Christ's steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



APRIL 5, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Ride On, Ride On in
Majesty!*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you show others that you care for them?
- How have others shown care for you?
- Jesus died on a cross. How is this act of God a sign of love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 26:14–27:66.

Many theories have been put forward in the history of the church to state why Jesus had to die to be our Savior. However, one point is clear in the Bible: Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love, a love that is willing to experience a form of slavery, humiliation, and excruciating death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). Crosses have become forms of jewelry and part of other art forms that point to Jesus' death. However, neither the jewelry nor other art come close to the pain and humiliation that God in Christ endured to indicate the character of who God is for us. Jesus is not only Emmanuel, God with us, in humiliation and death. Jesus also joins our human existence by making our deepest prayer his prayer: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). God in Christ Jesus joins our life experience and from the cross stretches out his arms to say, "I love you this much." When you see someone wearing a cross, what does it mean to you?

Pray: Loving God, you stop at nothing to show us your divine character and the depths of your love. Help us to know and to trust the power of your love for us through Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). To have a mind like Jesus means to be humble and not selfish but selfless. Such humility opens our lives to care for others. In what ways are you a servant to others?

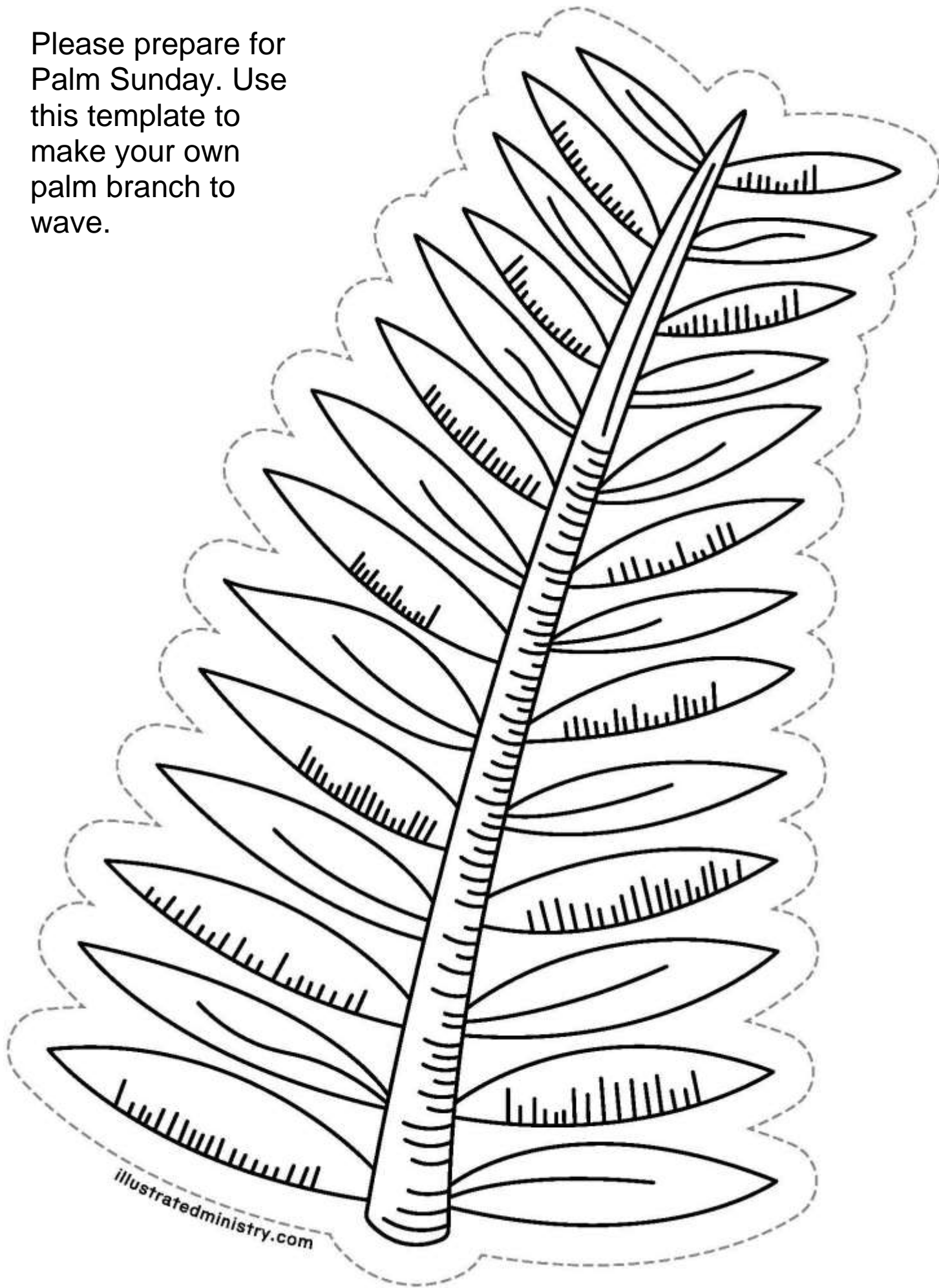
RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If you received palms during worship, take them home. As we begin Holy Week, say the ACTS prayer of giving praise to God (Adoration), asking God's forgiveness (Confession), giving thanks to God (Thanksgiving), and asking God's help for those in need (Supplication) as you light all six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross. After lighting the candles, hold a palm and wave it in your hand as you say, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9b)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Please prepare for Palm Sunday. Use this template to make your own palm branch to wave.





Mural by Preschool & Kindergarten
Teachers: Kristen Nelson, Haley Dicke, Aston Ritter