

PALM SUNDAY
PASSION SUNDAY
Worship From Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
April 5, 2020

GATHERING OF THE CHURCH

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

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. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

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."

CALL TO WORSHIP (Zechariah 9:9)

L. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

P. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

L. Behold, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious.

P. humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you redeemed the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Today he entered into the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along the way. Grant that we who welcome him this day may follow

him in the way of suffering and the cross, that by dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, we pray, Amen.

GATHERED AT THE TABLE - A TIME OF SHARING & COMMUNION

“Handed Over” – Meditation & Sharing of Where We Are in the Present Moment
Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Prayers

Communion with God & One Another

THE PASSION OF JESUS FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 26

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, “you will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

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 Jesus 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 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. ... Then all the disciples deserted him, and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest ... 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. ... 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! What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death!"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them ... When he went out to the porch, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" at that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priest and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

THE CROSS (From The Iona Community Worship Book)

The cross ...

We shall take it.

The bread ...

We shall break it.

The pain ...

We shall bear it.

The joy ...

We shall share it.

The gospel ...

We shall live it.

The love ...

We shall give it.

The light ...

We shall cherish it.

The darkness ...

God shall perish it. Amen.

BENEDICTION: