

# **SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

## **PALM SUNDAY**

**APRIL 5, 2020**

### **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **A PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

*Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well being. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time. We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future. We pray: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good. Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, You, the God who does not abandon. Amen.*

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

#### **SENTENCES OF ADORATION**

**OPENING HYMN: *HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA* (text online)**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor We invite and welcome the spirit of Christ into our varied places. God is not limited by space, time, or locations. God finds us where we are. With celebration and hope, we are reminded that Christ is always welcome among and within us.

**Unison: Hosanna, Immanuel! Welcome, Jesus of Nazareth!**

#### **REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

#### **CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**Unison: Loving God, we confess that we yearn for comfort and companionship. We confess we feel weak with fear when we imagine the challenges that lie ahead of us. We do not know what humility looks like, we do not know how to speak truthfully about who we are or who you are, but we also confess that we trust you will strengthen our resolve and lead us in new paths as you prepare us to greet death as part of abundant life.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **LEARNING ABOUT GOD**

## **THE CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **EXPERIENCE THE WAYS OF GOD:**

### ***A WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK***

Matthew 21:1 – 11

Luke 19:45 – 46

Luke 22:1 – 16

John 13:1 – 17

**Hymn: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*** (text is printed online)

Luke 22:7 – 20

Matthew 26:36 – 50

**Hymn: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*** (text is printed online)

Luke 22:66 – 23:25

**Hymn: *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*** (text is printed online)

Luke 23: 26 – 47

### **DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL**

## **AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT:**

**I believe in God the Creator,  
who made me and all things,  
who set me on my path in this world.**

**I believe in God the Savior,  
who is one with the Creator,  
who rescued me and all creation  
from the depredations of our violations  
against God and creation.**

**This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ,  
walked a path through this world,  
taking on human form having been born of a woman  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
He lived and worked in this world among people just like me.  
He walked God's path to death on a cross,  
and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide,  
who is one with the Creator and the Christ,  
who through the body and blood of Jesus  
brings me into communion with all people, past, present and  
future;  
who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world,  
caring for creation and the people I meet on the way,  
loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice,  
being God's hands and feet in the world.**

## **A LENTEN PRAYER FOR A SEASON OF PANDEMIC UNISON:**

**O Lenten Love,  
A cloud has swept across  
The expanse of our lives.  
It tempts us to trust our fear  
More than your desire for healing.  
  
It dares us to deny your promise;  
It tries to hold us hostage,  
By covering up  
That which we have known**

**And so easily taken for granted.**

**But this cloud is not stronger  
Than the light of your Love.**

**It is not more powerful  
Than your resurrection promise.**

**But we are not there yet.**

**So grant us the grace of Lent  
Let the days grow longer in love;  
Longer in love of You and each other,  
Longer in light that breaks the clouds  
Of unknowing and despair.**

**Longer in hope  
That does not disappoint,  
But delights that nothing  
Can finally separate us from You.  
And let this be more than enough  
For today and every day.**

*(The names of specific people, places, and circumstances may be lifted up at  
this time)*

**Pastor:** Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.  
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

**Unison:** **Eternal Spirit,  
Earth – maker, Pain – bearer, Life – giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the  
World!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom**

**Sustains our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptations and testing, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For your reign is the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen**

***- The Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book***

## **GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

### **THE SENDING FORTH**

**Pastor:** Even in our separate places, we maintain the community  
as the people of God.

**People:** **We belong to one another.**

**Pastor:** We move together in spirit so we will remember none of  
us goes alone.

**People:** **We belong to one another. Amen.**

**HYMN: ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR** *(text is online)*

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

***Special thanks to Matthew Wehr and Kevin Long  
for sharing their musical offerings with us, Autumn and Noah Kandt  
for reading scriptures, and also Autumn for recording the service.***