



Palm Sunday

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

Sixth Sunday in Lent

March 28, 2021

"I...will draw all people..." -Jesus

John 12.32

Welcome

Keith M. Haithcock

Palm Sunday Festive Song

Steve Milloy, vocalist & piano

"Mantos y Ramos" (Filled with Excitement)

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.
There in the distance they begin to see,
there on a donkey, comes the Savior, Christ.

Chorus:

*From every corner a thousand voices sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise, our triumphant song of joy:
Hosanna, hosanna to Christ! Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!*

As in that entrance to Jerusalem,
hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,
To our Redeemer who still calls today,
asks us to follow with our love and faith. *(Chorus)*

Prayer of Confession

Keith M. Haithcock

Holy One, we acknowledge that we often fail to see the ways you reveal yourself to us each day. We have not pursued you or listened for your voice. We are preoccupied with ourselves. We long for a new beginning and to draw closer to you and others. With your grace we turn to come home to you.

Assurance of God's Grace

Be assured children of God, that God's grace overflows for you and the whole world!
Amen.

Mission Moment

Let Love Flow

Mission Offering Video

One Great Hour of Sharing

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

StJohnChurch.net

An Offering of Music and our Gifts

The St John Ensemble and Handbell Choir
Steve Phillips, piano, & Theo Baldwin, hand drum

"Hosanna, Ride On in Majesty!" -15th Century English Melody,
arr. Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman

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Thank you for your financial support to the mission and ministry of the Church!

US mail: 520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073; Online: StJohnChurch.net

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Prayer of Illumination

Keith M. Haithcock

God of love, grace, peace, and joy, thank you for the ancient words of these sacred writings. As we open our Bibles, hearts, and minds, we ask for your Spirit to bring forth understanding and meaning. Illumine our path as we seek your way. Amen.

John 12.1-19

Bobby Moreland

Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they gave a banquet in Jesus' honor, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at the table. Mary brought a pound of costly ointment, pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment.

Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples – the one who was to betray Jesus – protested, "Why wasn't this ointment sold? It could have brought nearly a year's wages, and the money been given to poor people!" Judas didn't say this because he was concerned for poor people, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the common fund and would help himself to it.

So Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You have poor people with you always. But you won't always have me."

Meanwhile a large crowd heard that Jesus was there and came to see not only Jesus, but also Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead. So the chief priest planned to kill Lazarus as well, since it was because of him that many of the people were leaving them and believing Jesus.

The next day, the great crowd that had come for the Passover feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and went out to meet him.

They shouted joyfully,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of Our God—
the ruler of Israel!”

Jesus rode in sitting upon a donkey, in accord with scripture:

“Fear not, O people of Zion!
Your ruler comes to you
sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

At the time, the disciples didn’t understand all this, but after Jesus was glorified they recalled that the people had done to him precisely what had been written about him. Those who had been present when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. A crowd gathered, and they went out to meet Jesus because they had heard he had performed this miraculous sign. Then the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look—the whole world is running after him.”

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Amen.

Children’s Couch Church

Sarah, Anthony, Adeline and Eliza Palm

Sermon

“Running After Jesus”

Keith M. Haithcock

Song of Response

“Yes, Lord Yes!”

Steve Milloy, vocalist

Instrumental backing by Charlie Beale

Yes, Lord yes, to your will and to your way.

I’ll say yes, Lord, yes. I will trust you and obey.

When your Spirit speaks to me, with my whole heart I’ll agree.

And my answer will be yes, Lord, yes!

Praying Together

Keith M. Haithcock

Closing Song

“Dream God’s Dream”

Steve Milloy, vocalist

Chorus:

Dream God’s dream! Holy Spirit help us dream
of a world where there is justice and where everyone is free
to build and grow and love, and to simply have enough.
The world will change, when we dream God’s dream.

I’m dreaming of a world where the color of one’s skin
will mean less than what’s within the person’s heart.
A world where water’s clean and where air is safe to breathe.
And every child born has enough to eat. (*Chorus*)

I’m dreaming of the call God is offering to me,
how to use my energy and my best gifts;
to do the work of Christ to say God, please use my life
to spread your healing love and to live your truth. (*Chorus*)

I’m dreaming of the way that I want my life to go.
I’ve got hope and I’ve got goals I’d like to meet.
I’m reaching for the stars, but I won’t forget the scars
of Christ who died to show that the dream’s for all. (*Chorus*)

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music

Mark Behnken, organ

Improvisation on “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Today’s worship leaders: those listed above St. John Ensemble: Theo Baldwin, Stephanie Dalsfoist, Lonnie Fields, Mitch Leigh, Jennie Malone, Steve Milloy, Charmaine Moore-Kitsinis, Melissa Stephens; St. John Handbell Choir: Sue Jelinek, Jan Hoeweler, Stephanie Dalsfoist, Sarah Palm; Edward Goode, editing and production; Eric Knechtges, ensemble editing; Linda Schuster, administrative support.

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