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Palm Sunday • April 2, 2023 at 10:30am in Person & on Zoom

Welcome to CAPC Oakland!

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus. Together we seek to vigorously live our faith in our words, actions, and relationships in the East Bay.

In this time of disruption and new normal we gather hybrid-ly (both in person and via Zoom).

This allows us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments.

We ask that you wear a mask during worship as some of our community (our children in particular) have high health risks.

CHILDREN

We've reconfigured out how to do our Godly Play program for children via Zoom. We meet 9:30-10am on Sundays via Zoom. Info in the announcements on the back.

HYBRID WORSHIP

We do our Sunday Gatherings hybrid style – both in person and online for those that prefer that option. We're seeking to do that, using Zoom, to affirm our value of participation and collaboration in our gatherings.

PRAYER CARDS

To operationalize participation in our Prayers of the People we invite you to fill out a prayer card and share it with the liturgist or to share you requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

WIFI

Capc1 | PW 5106583666

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD BOTH IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

PRELUDE "Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love"

GATHERING SONG "All Glory Laud And Honor" - Blue Hymnal #88

CALL TO WORSHIP – Elaine Price

SONG OF PRAISE "Ride On! Ride On In Majesty!" - Blue Hymnal #90

Children are invited to depart for Godly Play upstairs with today's Story-Teller

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:1-11 – Elaine Price

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD ""

- Rev. Monte McClain

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "There Is A Redeemer" - Glory to God #443

COMING TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER - Myrna Shadley we use a call and response liturgically prayed at the conclusion of sharing a prayer.

Leader: God, in your mercy. **People: Hear our prayer.**

COMMUNION - BEING NOURISHED IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

AS WE CELEBRATE THE COMMUNION MEAL YOU ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE BREAD AND A CUP FROM OUR SERVERS IN THE CENTER SPACE. WE WELCOME ALL WHO HUNGER FOR THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TABLE SONG "An Upper Room" - Blue Hymnal #94

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

OFFERING SONG

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Sanna Sannanina" - Glory to God #597

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good! Leader: And all the time! **People: God is good!**

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Udo diri gi" (Udo, spoken in Nigeria)

POSTLUDE "Amen"

Reflections on Today's Readings Matthew 21:1-11

In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From

the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: "Jesus' procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate's proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus' crucifixion."



This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and

the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (*See John 18 & 19*). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo.

Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In Jesus' processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around this waist to wash his friends' feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love.

Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus' parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in this text?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you or to us, as a church to act, speak, be, or change, through this word of scripture?

*Artwork & Reflection by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | @ A Sanctified Art LLC | Citation from Marcus J.Borg & John Dominic Crossan. The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Day I Jerusalem. (New York: Harper San Francisco 2006). p.2..

April Birthdays

12 Chuck Marut 20 Kelechi Okereke 13 Toni Proulx

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect after our service.

Letters of Love: *Everyone loves getting mail!* Pick up an addressed envelope in the back and write a note of encouragement and love to someone who could use a good word. Recipients and their situations are explained on the magnetic board.

Godly Play: we're beginning in person Godly Play today! Our Godly Players will stay with us in worship through the second song then head up to do their work and fun together in the Godly Play room.

This Week at & around CAPC Oakland Community Bible Study (Wrestling with Scripture) - Tues 7pm on Zoom | We're wrestling with Matthew 21:1-11

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM. Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up – this -or *any* Friday!

Women's Group: Saturday 9:30-10:30am on Zoom.

Maundy Thursday Table Service - April 6th **6:30pm** - potluck dinner service in the sanctuary. Bring a dish to share as we read of the last supper. Sign up online or on the sign-up sheet this morning.

Good Friday, April 7th @ 7:15_{pm} – Reading and entering into the story of the crucifixion.

Easter Sunday, April 9^{th} @ $10:30_{am}$ – including an Egg Hunt for children.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Godly Play: Beth Beatty, Cameron Beatty

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz,

Roger Kim

Prayer Liturgist: Myrna Shaldey Reader-Liturgist: Elaine Price

Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, Dann Wilkens, Albert Hussian



'Lyrics & Responses for Today's Celebration

We affirm that God is neither male nor female – but wholly and holy other. In doing so, we seek to empower each person to participate fully in worship; able to identify with the lyrics of songs and the words of our communal prayers through our use of gender inclusive language

All Glory Laud And Honor

tune: Valet Will Ich Dir Geben | text: Theodulph of Orleans Blue Hymnal #88

Refrain:

All glory laud and honor to Thee redeemer king To whom the lips of children made sweet hosanna's ring

- 1. Thou art the king of Israel Thou David's royal son Who in the Lord's name comest the King and blessed one
- 2. The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went Our praise and prayers and anthems before Thee we present
- 3. To Thee, before Thy passion they sang their hymns of praise To Thee now high exalted our melody we raise
- 4. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring Who in all good delightest Thou good and gracious king

Call to Worship Opening litany ~ Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Reader 1: Where is he going?

Reader 2: Isn't he from Nazareth?

ALL: Can anything good come from Nazareth?

Reader 3: Is he headed to Jerusalem?

Reader 1: Do you think Jerusalem is safe?

Reader 2: Does he know that Pilate is here?

ALL: Where is he going?

Reader 3: Does he know the city is dangerous?

Reader 1: Does he see the Pharisees watching?

Reader 2: Is this the one we've been waiting for?

ALL: Could this be the Messiah?

Reader 3: Where is he going?

Reader 1: The crowds are singing, "Hosanna!"

Reader 2: Should I lay down my cloak?

ALL: Is this the beginning of the end?

Reader 3: Should we follow?

Reader 1: Should we watch?

Reader 2: Should we sing, "Hosanna""?

ALL: Stay awake!

Reader 1: He's on the move.

Reader 2: Where is he going?

ALL: Listen.

Reader 3: Where is he going?

Reader 1: Watch.

Reader 2: Where is he going?

ALL: Stay close.

Reader 3: Where is he going?

Reader 1: Sing, "Hosanna."

Everyone: Hosanna! Amen.

Ride On! Ride On In Majesty!

Author: Henry Hart Milman (1827) Glory to God#198 | Blue Hymnal #90

1 Ride on! ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry; thy humble beast pursues its road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on! ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3 Ride on! ride on in majesty! The hosts of angels in the sky look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on! ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to mortal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

There Is A Redeemer

Melody Green | Glory to God #443 | © 1982 Birdwing Music

- 1. There is a redeemer Jesus God's own Son Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One
- 2. Jesus my redeemer Name above all names Precious Lamb of God, Messiah Oh for sinners slain

(chorus)
Thank you Oh my Father
For giving us your Son
and leaving your spirit till
The work on earth is done

3. When I stand in glory I will see His face There I'll serve my King forever In that Holy place

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

Author: Edwin Hatch (1878) Glory to God Hymnal #286

- 1 An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he loved until the end: and his disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.
- 2 A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his bread, his loving cup. Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.
- 3 And after supper he washed their feet, for service, too, is sacrament. In Christ our joy shall be made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.
- 4 No end there is! We depart in peace. He loves beyond our uttermost: in every room in our Father's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Sanna Sannanina

Swahili text: trad. South African | Glory to God #597 English paraphrase: "Holy, most holy Lord, Lord God of power and might" by Greg Scheer

Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna. Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna. Sanna, sanna, sanna sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna sannanina,

Affirmation of Faith

~ Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world's suffering, who lights a candle in the darkest night, who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.

We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth, who is bold in seeking justice, and humble in taking power. We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it, cocooning us in hope, tethering us to one another. We believe in a God who is always carrying us from the pain of the world into the hope of a new day. That is where God is headed. That is where we follow. May it be so. Amen.