



*“A Lighthouse Guiding
People to Christ”*



Letting Go: The Courageous King

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

WELCOMING OF GUESTS

Pastor

PASSING THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Liturgist: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast

Congregation: but he was a threat to people with power.

Liturgist: Jesus stood against the Temple,

Congregation: so he was a threat to the Sadducees.

Liturgist: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,

Congregation: so he was a threat to the Pharisees.

Liturgist: Jesus took the titles of "Lord," "Son of God," and "King."

Congregation: those were the Caesar's titles: he was a threat to the government.

Liturgist: Jesus came without violence

Congregation: yet he disturbed the peace.

Liturgist: Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God

Congregation: and the kingdoms of this world were frightened.

Liturgist: Lord, help us to love your Kingdom more than the kingdoms of this world.

Congregation: For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.

All: Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

All Glory, Laud and Honor (v. 1-5)

UMH #280

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Lenten

Creed

Liturgist

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.

Please stand as you are able

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.

*GLORIA PATRI
screen

See

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Zachariah 9:9-10 (NKJV) liturgist

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion *shall be* 'from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.'

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear Jesus, our voices join with the voices of the people in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SERMON ANTHEM

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Choir

MISSION MOMENT

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 21:1-11 (NKJV) Liturgist

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. ³ "And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'" ⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. ⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Pastor

Prayer cards are located in the bulletin. If you have a prayer need or praise that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out the card and pass it toward the center isle of the congregation as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect the cards during the song and pray over the cards at the chancel rail.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION
UMH #64

Holy, Holy, Holy (v. 1-4)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor

SERMON Pastor

Title: Letting Go

Theme: The Courageous King (Palm Sunday)

Main Idea: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey knowing full well he would trigger the religious and political authorities.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating Our Gifts)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, sovereign over power and pain, glorious triumph and deep disappointment, we enter this Holy Week bringing our tithes and offerings to your altar and leaving them here in the hope you will use them to make the world a more loving and compassionate place. We are reminded through the scripture that you sent two of your disciples out to make the world ready for your coming: "Go into the village . . . find the donkey . . . tell them the lord has need." Remind us that your kingdom breaks into the world not as a spectacle for us to witness but as a parade where we are called to make a working contribution. We pray in the name of the one who comes not just for the parade, but for the cross at the end of it. Amen.

PASSING THE PLATE

OFFERTORY SONG

Sheila Novak

Scars in Heaven

*DOXOLOGY
Blessings

Praise God, From Whom All
See screen

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION
1-4) UMH#213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (v.

*COMMISION / BENEDICTION (Inspired by John 11: 1-45)

Pastor

Pastor: This is a vision of the way it can be, the way it should be—Shouts of welcome, a joyful procession, a community celebrating together.

Congregation: The same vision is offered to us today: We can welcome Christ into our lives; We can celebrate his transforming power.

Pastor: How swiftly things changed back then, How swiftly we, too, can be distracted.

Congregation: May we hold fast to his vision of goodness—Peace from the practice of justice, equality from the practice of respect.

Pastor: As this week unfolds,

Congregation: We will let ourselves be overtaken by God's love We will pour it back out into the world.

All: Amen

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE
Love and Fellowship

See screen

POSTLUDE