



APRIL 5 2020

Dear Friends of Sherwood and Mt. Home United Methodist Churches

“Hosanna! Loud Hosanna” we march into Holy Week and for some weeks to come still in quarantine. Unable to gather in crowds or wave palms, we nevertheless have an obligation to return to the center of our sacred narrative. To remember the story of Jesus of Nazareth who knew they were plotting violence against him, but still went down to Jerusa-

lem, still ascended the hill to the temple with crowds gathering around him, still preached, and healed, and cast out the money changers. He did this knowing it would bring the retribution of Rome and the Sanhedrin down upon him. And as the hour of his persecution grew closer he drew his disciples close and showed them how to love one another.

Let us read this passage from the gospel according to Matthew 21:1-11:

21 When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. ²He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away. ⁴Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, ⁵Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.”⁶ ⁶The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

⁸Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Lord!⁹ Hosanna in the highest!”¹⁰ And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked. “The crowds answered, “It’s the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Hymn - “[Dry Bones](#)” by Gungor

As I’m accustomed to telling the Palm Sunday story it is usually about the overturning of expectations. Jesus uses his triumphal entry parade to mock the triumphal entry parades of Caesar. Jesus is telling the crowd he is not the kind of king they think he is. His army is made of beggars and lepers and carries no swords. His warhorse is a donkey colt. He is not a conquering general, he is a peasant prophet.

But Matthew is equally clear that Jesus is fulfilling certain expectations. He is intentionally treating his entry into Jerusalem as a fulfillment of prophecy. He wants the crowd to make mes-

sianic comparisons. The crowd isn’t wrong to chant Hosanna. This is about salvation. They’re even correct that part of what they need saved from are the armies of Rome. It’s just that Jesus doesn’t intend to defeat those armies with another army. Jesus knows that we can’t war our way out of war. We can’t greed our way out of poverty. We can’t hate our way out of persecution.

Jesus ascends to the temple mount and he hears the crowds pleading for salvation and he doesn’t ignore them. Salvation we will get, but it will look different than we expect. He beckons us to follow him down a hard path. Do we go?

Submission by Reverend Aric Clark





Contact Info

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 Check out the updated website:



Lay Leader: Laura Hartley
 Administrative Council Chair: Lynelle Eck
 Pastor Parish Relations Committer Chair: Georga Dorsey
 Deacon: Ben Hartley
 Trustees Chair: Thomas Ettelson
 Worship Committee Chair: Diane Peters
 Do you know someone who is unable to come to church or
 a shut-in?
 Contact our congregational care team:
 Chair Cheryl Barry

Newsletter Editor: Tom Ettelson t.ettelson@comcast.net

Event Calendar

Sunday Service suspended until further notice

Every Thursday, Shared Table Sherwood UMC suspended until further notice

UM Men's Breakfast suspended until further notice

Trustees Meeting online

Choir Practice suspended until further notice

UMW Elizabeth Circle meets suspended until further notice

UMW Lydia Circle meets suspended until further notice

Church Council suspended until further notice

Additional messages and information from the Bishop, Conference and District:

The Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church:
<https://greaternw.org/>

Cascadia District News Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church:
<https://umoi-email.brtapp.com/viewemail/2546866>

Send prayer requests to Cheryl for inclusion in our weekly dispatch:

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