

Worship at Home Guide
April 5, 2020

PALM SUNDAY

Prepare:

Find a spot that is comfortable in your living area. A place that can be a designated area for prayer and worship. I like to sit at our dining table I modify it for prayer and worship by lighting a candle and placing my bible and writing materials in the center of the table with the candle. Please use whatever space is most comfortable for you.

Needs:

1. Candle
2. A Palm leaf or something to wave
3. Bible
4. Writing materials
5. Computer or phone
6. Communion - Bread and juice. For bread you can use a cracker, a roll, a bagel, a slice of bread, cereal or any other food that you may have available. For juice you can use water, any type of juice, soda, coffee, tea or any other beverage available to you. The point is not that we use a specific type, but that we use what is available to be a symbol of our unity with Christ and with one another. One of my most memorable communion experiences was Mountain Dew and Spree's at church camp years ago.

Worship

Light the candle. Sit in silence. Listen. Breathe. Meditate with Psalm 95 as we prepare to open our hearts most fully to God's presence.

Mark 11:1-11

Mark 11:1 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?' just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " 4 They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5 some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest

heaven!" 11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**HOLY LORD
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth of Your glory are full
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest (2x)**

It is a glorious day for the crowds and followers. A day filled with hope and expectation. We are familiar with this expectation and anticipation. It was only 3 short months ago we were gathered on Christmas Eve with reverence, expectation and anticipation of the birth of the Christ child. Jesus grand entrance into our world...our lives.

Now we stand with the crowds at the humble entrance into the city of Jerusalem waving our palms celebrating that the child has become an adult and has finally arrived at the heart of our oppression ready to conquer all that is wrong with our world...with our lives. Our messiah. Our redeemer, our salvation, our triumph! Now things will really change. The world will be put right. Justice....God's justice will prevail. The weak shall be strong, the poor shall be rich, the widow and the orphan shall thrive. Justice. Finally. Hope. We wave and sing and laugh and experience a depth of joy and hope that we could not imagine 3 months ago.

**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

Listen....I know that now more than ever we need and want to skip to resurrection. To jump from Palm waving and singing Hosanna to singing Alleluia, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. But, now more than ever we need to take the deep long and difficult dive into the passion. Into Holy week. Jesus enters the city with a sense of triumph and joy. Our expectations and our hearts are with him. Our hope is in him. But....It's not all on him. Something is required of us. Just as he sent the 2 disciples ahead to make preparations for his entrance. We must prepare ourselves as well.

O COME O COME EMMANUEL
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's deep shadows put to flight

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Not unlike the Christmas experience, Lent invites us to prepare. Prepare ourselves for what comes next by entering into the wilderness to be tested. What tests have you encountered this Lenten season? What have you learned? What gifts have you exited the wilderness with?

O COME O COME EMMANUEL
O come thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

For all the noise and celebration, all the Hosannas! It is easy to over look the very quiet and private moment...or it feels like a private moment in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus passes through the gate and enters Jerusalem. He walks to the Temple. He stands in the Temple and looks around. What do you suppose he sees? What is he thinking? Is he mournful for the state of things? Is he contemplating the difficulty of what he must do? Is he sad that the only way forward is through the cross? Is he angry at humanity for our inability to make life giving changes before things become dire and dark? What ever he is thinking we are left to imagine. He quietly turns and walks back out of the city and goes back to Bethany to the home of Mary and Martha. He leave it all for another day. A day that will come sooner than later.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Scripture reading:

Matthew 27:11-54

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. 15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. 17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" 23 Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" 24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." 25 Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. 32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; 36 then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37 Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." 38 Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" 44 The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. 45 From noon on, darkness

came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46 And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 47 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." 48 At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." 50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53 After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54 Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

This is Jesus final temptation. The final wilderness. It is ours too. This one feels so much darker than the scene of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested and then the Spirit leading him out again after he has stood up beautifully to the tempter. Here in Pilot's court and on the cross he is tempted again. The same temptation. Tempted with sour wine to quench his thirst, tempted to save himself and prove that he is the son of God, Tempted to give Pilot the power. He stands in the face of temptation again, only this time the Spirit leads him through a difficult and painful exit from the wilderness.

Lent is over, but temptation remains for us as well...everyone of the disciples faces temptation on the day Jesus is arrested and the day he is hung on the cross. Peter denies knowing him, Judas betrays him, the others run and hide in fear. Where are you? Who will you be?

Are you willing to stand against oppression? To call out inequities? To be the prophet as Joan Chittister describes, "The prophet is the person who says no to everything that is not of God. No to the abuse of women, no to the rejection of the stranger. No to crimes against immigrants. No to the rape of the trees. No to the pollution of the skies. No to the poisoning of the oceans. No to the despicable destruction of humankind for the sake of more wealth, more power, more control for a few. No to death." (Joan Chittister, *The Time is Now*, 118)

HOSANNA

**I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith (2x)**

**I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek.
The people sing (2x)**

Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest. (2x) (Repeat)

Offering - Sharing our abundance is important. Now more than ever it is important to tithe in order to continue to sustain the many ministries of First Christian Church. Please consider what you are able to financial give, and give as you are able.

You can mail your tithe to the church FCC Olympia, P.O. Box 2850, Olympia, WA 98507

Or you can give online on our website www.firstchristianolympia.org and click on the online giving button

You can download Vanco Give Plus App on your smart phone and add First Christian Church, Olympia, WA

There are many different ways to tithe. I trust and pray that you will prayerfully consider what you are able to give.

If you are not able to tithe financially at this time do not let that stop you from tithing from the abundance of your gifts. Tithes also include sharing your spiritual gifts, your talents, your time. Consider the ways in which you can share.

Communion -

There is no better way to experience and remember the abundance of God than through the beauty of the common table. Communion reminds us that God through Jesus who is the Christ we are bound together in love. We each bring something unique and beautiful to the table. We share of ourselves as Christ shared. We carry the best of ourselves and others back out into a broken world. Now more than ever the world needs peace. The world needs joy. The world needs hope. The world needs love. The world needs you to live in abundance rather than fear and scarcity. Accept the gift of this table and carry the gift back out to share with the world.

Song

SING HOSANNA
Sing Hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the Servant King
Sing Hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

(it is more than fine to substitute Mother, Creator, God if it helps connect you more fully)

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

And now my friends, may the love of God made known to us most fully through Jesus who is the Christ:

Go before you to lead the way

Go above you to watch over you

Walk beside you to remind you that you are never alone and

Go behind you to push you into places that you might not necessarily go, and

May the fire of God's Spirit burn now and forever, and may you know that you are loved

Beyond your wildest imagination!!

Go with joy,

Go with hope,

Go with peace

Go with love

Go and send it all back into the world.

Amen

Song

WERE YOU THERE

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?