

## WORSHIP GUIDE FOR MARCH 28, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

- Dana Moody

THE MORNING WELCOME

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in hand, gathered to greet your Son when he came into the City of David, grant that we may hail him as our King and walk with him in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

**“I Walked Where Jesus Walked”**

- Don Moody

A PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY (responsively)

- Don Moody

**L:** God, on this Holy day of Palm Sunday and Passion, we have so many mixed feelings in side of us. We remember your son’s triumphant entrance into Jerusalem with the people shouting praises and waving Palm Branches.

**P:** **And we join them with our own praises.**

**L:** And yet... we remember too that this wonderful parade for your son, becomes another kind of parade before officials and the booing crowds.

**P:** **And instead of the crowds singing his praises they are shouting to crucify him.**

**L:** And our hearts are broken by those very shouts, and the pain and suffering he bore that day.

**P:** **And yet we know that it is because of his choosing to enter Jerusalem and taking the path he knew he was taking, there is hope, grace, love and salvation for all.**

**L:** There are, however, still many in need of hope in our world.

**P:** **There are still many in need of your grace in our world.**

**L:** There are still many in need of your love in our world.

**P:** **And there are still many in need of salvation in our world.**

**L:** Lord, this is why we invite you to enter our lives and our churches once again today. Heal us, Lord.

**P:** **Transform us.**

**L:** Renew us.

**P:** **Draw us closer to you in this journey of Holy Week, empower us with strength and courage and with the assurance that you are with us. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

**Matthew 21:1-11**

<sup>1-3</sup> When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: “Go over to the village across from you. You’ll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you’re doing, say, ‘The Master needs them!’ He will send them with you.”

<sup>4-5</sup> This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: Tell Zion’s daughter, “Look, your king’s on his way, poised and ready, mounted on a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal.”

<sup>6-9</sup> The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, “Hosanna to David’s son!” “Blessed is he who comes in God’s name!” “Hosanna in highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup> As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, “What’s going on here? Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup> The parade crowd answered, “This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee.”

## **SERMON SERIES: PLACES OF THE PASSION “Bethphage”**

**- Dr. Tim Hazlett**

### **MEDITATIVE HYMN**

### **“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”**

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,  
the victory palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
3. "Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

### **CLOSING INVITATION (responsively)**

**L:** Jesus invites us to walk with him to the Bethphage and then into Jerusalem, places of great suffering and places of great love! We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb — and resurrection victory!

**P:** Let us ever walk with Jesus!

### **POSTLUDE**

**- Dana Moody**