

April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday: Hebron Presbyterian Church

Opening Prayer

Humble and riding on a donkey, we greet you; Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children, we cheer you; Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power, we salute you: Christ our Lord. You are giving the beast of burden A new dignity; You are giving majesty A new face; You are giving those who long for redemption A new song to sing. With them, with heart and voice, we shout: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hymn of Adoration: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

<https://youtu.be/h3a8fTTrAdE>

Call to Confession

One day, we are crying to God, “Hosanna, save us;” the next day, we are turning our backs on God. Yet despite our unfaithfulness, God is steadfast in loving us, and constant in forgiving us. Let us confess our sinful nature and deeds to God.

Prayer of Confession

With joy and longing in our hearts, we welcome your Son, O God, only to turn from him when he takes up a cross instead of a crown. We want salvation without the cost of new life. We want others and the world to change, but resist changing our lives. We want your will to be done on earth as in heaven, but don't want to submit to it ourselves. We want your peace and blessings for our lives, but not your judgment and call to discipleship. On Sunday, our loud “hosannas” meet your ears; but too often during the week, our attitudes and actions cry out “Crucify him.” Forgive us when we turn from you, deny you, betray you, and mock you. Grant us faith and strength to follow your son in the cross-bearing life of humble, self-giving love. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises and to receive us as your own.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Tell the daughters of despair, proclaim it to the sons of sadness: Christ has come to save us and set us free. We will give our thanks to God, who comes to bring us grace, hope, life. Hosanna in the highest. Amen!

Anthem: “Our Great God”

<https://youtu.be/eKQHqUo6qOw>

Prayer for Illumination

Merciful God, as we enter Holy week turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross.

I offer this Sermon you Hebron. I am not preaching on a regular basis right now, so I do not have a “new” message for this day. However, this sermon is near and dear to my heart. I pray it blesses you. To God be the Glory.

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:28-40 or Matthew 27:11-54

Sermon: “Lessons from a Donkey”

... Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle

<http://bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org/Sermons/lessons-from-a-donkey/>

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (written by Rev. Bill Klein)

O God, on this Palm Sunday we acknowledge you are light of the hearts that see you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you. We understand from experience that to turn from you is to fall, that to turn to you is to rise, and that to abide in you is to stand fast forever. This morning we set before you our thanks and praise...as well as those concerns that weigh heavily upon us. And we pray...Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

We give thanks for one another...for the joy of recognition that takes place each Sunday morning when we greet one another...for the histories we share – the good times as well as the sad. We rejoice in the quiet ways in which the members of this congregation minister to one another, their neighbors, and to complete strangers. And we pray...Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

We know your dream for us is far grander. And so we ask that you would show us how to be the church you want us to be. Disturb us where we have settled for less than you want from and for us. Enable us as a congregation to do all things as unto you – that small things may be filled with greatness, and great things may be filled with humility. And we pray...Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

Gracious God, be with our young people in this troubling and uncertain time. Bless and keep them. Be with those among us who are elderly. Bless and keep them. Be with those who are in between...those who tend the young and the old. Bless and keep them. And we pray...Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

We are deeply troubled that the numbers of people out of work continues to rise. We pray for them and for all those people who are profoundly affected by the loss of work. Lord, in your mercy...hear out prayer.

We pray for that those people who are ill...and we pray they may perceive the varied ways you are bringing wholeness and health. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer.

We pray for the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed...and for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer.

We pray for those people for whom pain or distress is overwhelming...and for those people for whom the healing process goes slower than hoped. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer.

Help us all, O God, we give up the burdens of this day, trusting in your love and mercy. Help us surrender ourselves, trusting your risen Son to lead us always in the way of peace, today, tomorrow, and forever. These things we pray in the name of the Master, Jesus, our Christ, who taught us saying, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

So that we could live a life worthy of God's calling. May our response be generous, so that our monetary gifts may be transformed into inspired ministries.

Sending Hymn: #198 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

<https://youtu.be/Zo5pfl6z6lA>

I would encourage you to gather greens today and display them on your front door in remembrance of the typical Palm Sunday processional/recessional. While you are doing this, shout, say, whisper, " Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed He who comes in the name of the Lord"

Grace and Peace to you! Be well, stay safe!

Pastor Kelly-Ann