**March 24, 2024 Palm/Passion Sunday**

 **Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Solemn Declaration**

**Call to Worship**Pastor: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,
**All: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.**Pastor: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.
**All: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!**Pastor: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.
**All: Hosanna, come and save us!**

**\*Invocation (Pastor)**Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world. You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing! We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, “Hosanna in the highest!” Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.

**\*Hymn: The Palms**

*1 O’er all the way green palms and blossoms gay*

*Are strewn this day in festive preparation,*

*Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,*

*E’en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.*

*Refrain:*

*Join all and sing His name declare,*

*Let ev’ry voice resound with acclamation,*

*Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!*

*Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!*

*2 His word goes forth, and people by its might.*

*Once more their freedom gain from degradation,*

*Humanity doth give to each his right,*

*While those in darkness find restored the light. [Refrain]*

*3 Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,*

*Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,*

*Thro’ boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem*

*Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore. [Refrain]*

**Prayer of Transformation and New Life (Unison)
God of our hosannas, it would be all too easy to embrace a vision of you as entering Jerusalem with all the pomp and circumstance and violence that power provides. And yet, that is not your way and we confess that we often whisper with the ways of fear rather than shout of your liberation for all people. Help us to lay our lives at your feet and welcome you with shouts of joy. Amen.**

**Words of Grace (Pastor)**Dear ones, embrace this word with courage. Leave your fear behind, for it does not have the last word and does not have to be the donkey you ride in on. God offers you the way of hope, humility, and hosannas. Rest in the assurance that you are forgiven and embraced in God’s tender arms of love. Amen.

**\*Gloria #759**

 *Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*

*world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*Peace of Christ**

**Youth Message**

**Scripture:  Isaiah 50: 4-9a (Dusty Rhoads);**

 **Philippians 2: 5-11 (Dusty);**

 **Mark 11: 1-11**

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

 *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

**Sermon:   “What A Week!”**

**\*Hymn #216** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

**\*Statement of Faith #885**

**Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord’s Prayer (Unison)**

**“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.  And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen”**

**Prayer Response #769**

*Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;*

 *Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

**Invitation to Generosity (Pastor)**The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God’s act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

**Offertory**

**\*Offering Response #780**         *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host:*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)
God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.**

**\*Hymn #213** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

**Postlude**

Acknowledgments - Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 24, 2024**

**Altar flowers** arepresented by Audry Leister-Stengel in memory of loved ones.

**Prayer List:** The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, The victims of the tornadoes and natural disasters, Richard Adinolfi, Alvin Behm, Marsha Biehl, Joe Brogley, Ed Brous, Irene Burkhardt, Joan Clouser, Jane Detwiler, Laurie and Peter Eaton, Linda Egolf, Jana Eschbach, Doris Evenstad, Ruth Hardaker, Betty Hawthorne, Adam Hayden, Chip Hoover, Kathy Hughes, Dorcas Kieffer, Jim Kirkhoff, Charles Kulp, Betty Leister, Robert Mackie, Eleanor Mauger, Daryll McCormick, Calvin Miller, Dan and Lois Oister, Phyllis, Holly Rhoads, Dave Richards, Bill Ross, Christian Ross, Kenneth Shellenberger II, Karen, Paul, and Scott Steffey, Lee Steiner, Bob Stengel, Dave and Pat Stout, Sandy Strunk, Dottie Taylor, Dotty Washburn, Patti Whisler, Barbara Ziegler

**Wednesday, March 27 –** Wednesday Crew

 Quilters

 Pizza and Ping Pong, 5:30 p.m.

 Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 28 –** Joint Maundy Thursday Communion at Zion’s, Soup and Salad dinner at 6:00 p.m. Service at 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Events**

**10:15 a.m. -** Pottstown Communities of Faith Good Friday Cross-walk

Gather on the green between Zion’s United Church of Christ and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, on Hanover Street. (See insert)

**12:00 noon** **-** Seven Last Words service at Bethel Community Church (Keim Street) Pastor Austin preaching on one of the “Words.”

**7:00 p.m. - Joint Good Friday Worship at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.**

**\*\*Potato Filling – There are several frozen pans of Potato Filling available for your Easter dinner. Large pans are $ 15.00 and small pans $ 10.00. Payment can be given to Joan Miller or placed in the offering plate, marked as potato filling.**

**Save your Redner’s Receipts!** Please, place your Redner’s Save-A-Tape receipts in the box in the lobby of the Sunday School building. We need the entire register tape in order to get credit. Redner’s will donate 1% of sales to our church.

**Get on Board with Market Cards! Support Your Church!**

Members and friends may purchase a Giant and/or Redner’s Gift card to use for groceries or gas. Denominations of cards come in $25, $50, or $100. There is no charge to you but our church receives 5% of the grocery card purchased. Gift cards to Redner’s or Giant are available Sundays in the Sunday School building or during the week through the church office.

***CareBag List for Pottstown Infusion Center***

Here is a suggested list of donations:

—Knit hat

---Neck Noodle

—Hand lotion/chap stick

—mouth wash

—Prayer shawl/ lap blanket

—diamond painted angel keychain

—a CareNote (or similar) booklet

—word puzzle book

—notepad and pencil