



Worship Celebration

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 5, 2020 + 11 AM

Palm/Passion Sunday begins Holy Week by embodying its sharp contrasts. In the palm celebration, we experience the joyous inaugural parade of Jesus entering Jerusalem. In the concluding reading from the Gospel, we are confronted by the story of Jesus' passion, or suffering. By the sharp contrast of this day, we are reminded of our various seasons of faithfulness: that our lives are filled both with suffering and with joy, times of following Jesus closely and times of falling away. Yet in every season, God's love for us remains steadfast and true.

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, Sunday mornings at 11 am, on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA) or by phone, via Zoom (dial **888-788-0099** and enter meeting ID **706 933 792**).

Or, watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at www.umcb.org/sermons.

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

Words of Welcome

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: Our ears and hearts are open.

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 21.1-11 (CEB)

¹ When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. ² He 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them." He sent them off right away. ⁴ Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, ⁵ *Say 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 The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

⁸ Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The 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 Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*" ¹⁰ And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. "Who is this?" they asked. ¹¹ The crowds answered, "It's the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Leader: Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

***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.***

***From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, the 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.***

***“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!***

Hosanna Loud Hosanna / Jeanette Threlfall / Public Domain / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Psalter Lesson—Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29 (NRSV)

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let all God's people say together, “God's steadfast love endures forever!”

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord is God and has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches up to the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (vv. 6, 8-5)

UMH 280

***All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.***

***All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.***

***All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.***

***All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

*All Glory Laud and Honor / John Mason Neal, Melchior Teschner, Theodulph of Orleans / Public Domain
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Children's Message

Epistle Lesson—Philippians 2.5-11 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God,

did not deem equality with God something to be clung to—

but instead became completely empty

and took on the image of oppressed humankind:

born into the human condition, found in the likeness of a human being.

Jesus was thus humbled—obediently accepting death, even death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted Christ

and gave to Jesus the name that is above every other name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend

in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth,

and every tongue proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God!

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Moment for Mission

Giving our Tithes and Offerings

Many of us already give financially to support the mission and ministries of our congregation through online giving (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the office. Thank you! If you do not already do so, during this time when we will not be worshiping together in person, please consider giving through one of these other methods. Your continued generosity plays a crucial role in your own discipleship journey and in ensuring that our congregation can maintain our financial commitments to mission and ministry throughout this uncertain season.

The Passion—Matthew 27.11-54 (*CEB*)

¹¹ Jesus was brought before the governor. The governor said, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” ¹² But he didn’t answer when the chief priests and elders accused him.

¹³ Then Pilate said, “Don’t you hear the testimony they bring against you?” ¹⁴ But he didn’t answer, not even a single word. So the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ It was customary during the festival for the governor to release to the crowd one prisoner, whomever they might choose. ¹⁶ At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ When the crowd had come together, Pilate asked them, “Whom would you like me to release to you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸ He knew that the leaders of the people had handed him over because of jealousy.

¹⁹ While he was serving as judge, his wife sent this message to him, “Leave that righteous man alone. I’ve suffered much today in a dream because of him.”

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and kill Jesus. ²¹ The governor said, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

“Barabbas,” they replied.

²² Pilate said, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all said, “Crucify him!”

²³ But he said, “Why? What wrong has he done?”

They shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

²⁴ Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was starting. So he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I’m innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It’s your problem.”

²⁵ All the people replied, “Let his blood be on us and on our children.” ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the governor’s house, and they gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a red military coat on him. ²⁹ They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they bowed down in front of him and mocked him, saying, “Hey! King of the Jews!” ³⁰ After they spit on him, they took the stick and struck

his head again and again. ³¹ When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the military coat and put his own clothes back on him. They led him away to crucify him.

³² As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They forced him to carry his cross. ³³ When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place, ³⁴ they gave Jesus wine mixed with vinegar to drink. But after tasting it, he didn't want to drink it. ³⁵ After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots. ³⁶ They sat there, guarding him. ³⁷ They placed above his head the charge against him. It read, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." ³⁸ They crucified with him two outlaws, one on his right side and one on his left.

³⁹ Those who were walking by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? Save yourself! If you are God's Son, come down from the cross."

⁴¹ In the same way, the chief priests, along with the legal experts and the elders, were making fun of him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others, but he can't save himself. He's the king of Israel, so let him come down from the cross now. Then we'll believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God, so let God deliver him now if he wants to. He said, 'I'm God's Son.'" ⁴⁴ The outlaws who were crucified with him insulted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. ⁴⁶ At about three Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani,*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?"

⁴⁷ After hearing him, some standing there said, "He's calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ One of them ran over, took a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink.

⁴⁹ But the rest of them said, "Let's see if Elijah will come and save him."

⁵⁰ Again Jesus cried out with a loud shout. Then he died.

⁵¹ Look, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, ⁵² and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised. ⁵³ After Jesus' resurrection they came out of their graves and went into the holy city where they appeared to many people. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and what had just happened, they were filled with awe and said, "This was certainly God's Son."

Hymn

We Sang Our Glad Hosannas (vv. 5-4)

TFWS 2111

***We sang our glad hosannas and waved our branches high,
but some were silent, frowning, as Jesus rode on by.
They sought a royal Savior, but did not understand
a king could rule by loving instead of by command.***

***We heard an angry Jesus in Temple courts declare,
"Be gone you money changers! This is a house of prayer."
Though many came for healing and stayed to hear his word,
still others, hostile, plotted and thus his death assured.***

***We served him at the table with wine, unleavened bread.
"The one who will betray me now eats with me," he said.
His friends would not believe him, but one by one that night,
as soldiers came to take him, they scurried out of sight.***

***We saw a suffering Jesus alone, without a friend,
and heard the voices shouting abuse until the end.
We wept as we stood watching Love's light grow dim and die,
and cried, "Why did this happen? God, tell us, tell us why!"***

We Sang Our Glad Hosannas / John D. Horman, Mary Nelson Keithahn / 1998 Abingdon Press

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Benediction

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Holy Week Online/Audio Worship Services

You are invited to join us for live broadcasts of worship services on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA). These worship services also will be accessible live with an audio-only connection by calling **888-788-0099** and entering meeting ID **706 933 792**.



Thursday, April 9 at 7 PM



Saturday, April 11 at 7 PM



Friday, April 10 at 7 PM



Sunday, April 12 at 11 AM

Bulletins to guide your participation may be found at www.umcb.org/sermons.

Ecopalms for Palm Sunday

Why are our palms ordered from Ecopalms? The Eco-Palms project allows for the care of creation through sustainable harvesting practices and provides livelihoods for the harvesters in the Mayan Biosphere. We believe in the empowering work of Eco-Palms and see the Eco-Palms as an opportunity to live out Christ-like values, supporting the harvesting communities in Guatemala.

Care Leaders

While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**.

Easter Flower Pick-up

Sunday, April 12, Beginning after Noon, Front Porch (facing Seminary Street)

Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter flowers. They will be a lovely addition to our Facebook Live online worship on Easter Sunday morning. (Join us at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA at 11 AM on Easter Sunday.)

If you would like to pick up your flowers, they will be available on the Front Porch after Noon on Sunday, April 12. If you would like your flowers but are unable to pick them up yourself, please contact the church office at 440-234-3525 x100 (leave a message) or info@umcb.org. We will attempt to arrange delivery.

Online and Call-in Resources for Worship and Small-Group Community

Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays at 11 AM

Please join us Sunday mornings at 11 AM on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA for a live broadcast of our worship service. Bulletins to guide your participation can be found at www.umcb.org/sermons no later than Saturday morning.

No Internet Access? Join us by phone. On Sunday mornings at 11 AM, listen to the worship service by calling **888-788-0099** and using meeting ID **706 933 792** at 11 AM.

Each week's service will be available to view later through our Facebook page and on the sermons page of our website. Service videos, sermons, and bulletins from previous Sundays are also available on the sermon page of the website (www.umcb.org/sermons).

Small Groups

Wednesdays at 7 PM, Sundays at 10 AM

Stay connected in small group community on Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings. Three questions will guide our conversations and prayer:

- * What are you grateful for?
- * What are you anxious about?
- * What are you learning?

Wednesdays:

Online (audio and video): <https://zoom.us/j/390566723>

By phone (audio only): Dial **888-788-0099** and enter Meeting ID **390 566 723**

Sundays:

Online (audio and video): <https://zoom.us/j/487816871>

By phone (audio only): Dial **888-788-0099** and enter Meeting ID **487 816 871**

Morning Prayer

Monday – Friday, 9 AM

You are invited to join Pastor Nathan for 15 minutes of praise, prayer, and scripture, Monday – Friday mornings at 9 AM.

Online (audio and video): <https://zoom.us/j/518014483>

By phone (audio only): Dial **888-788-0099** and enter Meeting ID **518 014 483**