



Worship Celebration

March 28, 2021 + 11 AM

Palm
SUNDAY

***Palm/Passion Sunday** begins Holy Week by embodying its sharp contrasts. In the opening 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 our betrayal and 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, with times of following Jesus closely and with times of falling away. Yet in every season, God's love for us remains faithful 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, this week and every week:

Sunday at 11AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos) and in the Sanctuary
(See Page 6 for Easter Sunday's worship schedule)

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483)

Wednesday at 7PM (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 848 4741 1964; passcode: 195510)

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

We Gather as God's Children and Grow in God's Word

Prelude

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

arr. J. Linker

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—Mark 11.1-11 (CEB)

¹When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, ²saying to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.'"

⁴They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. ⁵Some people standing around said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. ⁷They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. ⁹Those in front of him and those following were shouting, "*Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*" ¹⁰Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹¹Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

Hymn

Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble

***Did you feel the mountains tremble? Did you hear the oceans roar
when the people rose to sing of Jesus Christ, the risen One?***

***Did you feel the people tremble? Did you hear the singers roar
when the lost began to sing of Jesus Christ, the saving One?***

***And we can see that, God, you're moving, a mighty river through the nations;
and young and old will turn to Jesus.***

Fling wide, you heavenly gates; prepare the way of the risen Lord.

***Open up the doors and let the music play. Let the streets resound with singing:
songs that bring your hope, songs that bring your joy, dancers who dance upon injustice.***

Do you feel the darkness tremble when all the saints join in one song?

And all the streams flow as one river to wash away our brokenness?

***And we can see that, God, you're moving, a time of jubilee is coming
when young and old return to Jesus.***

Fling wide, you heavenly gates; prepare the way of the risen Lord.

***Open up the doors and let the music play. Let the streets resound with singing:
songs that bring your hope, songs that bring your joy, dancers who dance upon injustice.***

*Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble / Martin Smith / 1994 Curious Music UK (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
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 the people say, "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 have 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! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God and has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of 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

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

UMH 278

*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!*

Public Domain

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

The Lord's Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Hymn

To Be Like You

***Humble King, holy one. Friend of sinners, God's own Son.
God in flesh among men, you walked my road, you understand.
Servant King, friend to me. You saved my soul, washed my feet.***

Here I'll bow, give all to you. Lord, I want to be like you.

All I want, all I need, more of you, less of me.

Take this life, Lord, it's yours. Have my heart, have it all.

I will walk in your ways, love your word, seek your face.

My reward, my sole pursuit to know you more, to be like you.

All I want, all I need, more of you, less of me.

Take this life, Lord, it's yours. Have my heart, have it all.

Jesus, Jesus, all I want is to be like you. Jesus, Jesus, all I want is to be like you.

All I want, all I need, more of you, less of me.

Take this life, Lord, it's yours. Have my heart, have it all.

*To Be Like You / Matt Crocker, Brooke Ligertwood / 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

The Passion—Mark 15.1-39 (CEB)

¹ At daybreak, the chief priests—with the elders, legal experts, and the whole Sanhedrin—formed a plan. They bound Jesus, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. ² Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” ³ The chief priests were accusing him of many things.

⁴ Pilate asked him again, “Aren’t you going to answer? What about all these accusations?” ⁵ But Jesus gave no more answers, so that Pilate marveled.

⁶ During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. ⁷ A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. ⁸ The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did. ⁹ Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” ¹⁰ He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. ¹² Pilate replied, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?”

¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

¹⁴ Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done?"

They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵ Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor's headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. ¹⁸ They saluted him, "Hey! King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. ²⁰ When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus' father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross.

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place. ²³ They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he didn't take it. ²⁴ They crucified him. They divided up his clothes, drawing lots for them to determine who would take what. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The notice of the formal charge against him was written, "The king of the Jews." ²⁷ They crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹ People walking by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? ³⁰ Save yourself and come down from that cross!"

³¹ In the same way, the chief priests were making fun of him among themselves, together with the legal experts. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross. Then we'll see and believe." Even those who had been crucified with Jesus insulted him.

³³ From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. ³⁴ At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani,*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?"

³⁵ After hearing him, some standing there said, "Look! He's calling Elijah!" ³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ But Jesus let out a loud cry and died.

³⁸ The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "This man was certainly God's Son."

Hymn

We Sang Our Glad Hosannas (vv. 1-4)

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 none 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
Used by permission. One License, A-737772*

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Music

Dr. Barbara MacGregor, *Organ*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Jeffrey Jaskolka, *Piano*
Jeremy Piper, *Praise Band Leader*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

Jesus, in your passion and resurrection,
you show me there is no place you have not been
and no place you will not go.

Morning by morning, you awaken me more
deeply to this truth.

Send me into the world this day
with the courage and wisdom I need
to be a faithful witness to your beloved
community of justice, mercy, and peace.
Amen.

Evening Prayer

Although I have sought to serve you this day,
I have failed to keep your love completely.
You know my strengths and weaknesses
better than I do;
reveal them to me that I may be healed this night
and begin afresh tomorrow.
Amen.

*Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.
Copyright 2013.*

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Worshipping together and walking with Jesus through Holy Week and into Easter is an essential part of the rhythm of our Christian life. Beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we remain with him through the final week of his life: sharing Communion in the upper room on Maundy Thursday, standing at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, waiting and praying at the tomb on Holy Saturday, and finally opening ourselves to being surprised again at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. These events and rituals are at the very heart of who we are and what we do.

Although we are still restricted in our ability to gather all together in one place as we would like, we remain connected to one another and to God through our worship and through these rhythms. Please join us in whatever ways you are able and comfortable, and invite others to join us, also:



Maundy Thursday (April 1): 7PM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)



Good Friday (April 2): two pre-recorded worship services will be available online, any time at or after Noon—

Berea Community Crosswalk and Worship
(www.facebook.com/BereaAreaChurches/live)
East Ohio Black Pastors' Fellowship—Seven Last Words of Jesus
(www.cotsumc.org/live)



Holy Saturday (April 3): 6PM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)

Easter Vigil (April 3 – April 4): wait and pray in the Sanctuary from 7PM on Saturday until 7AM on Sunday—sign up for a half-hour time slot at <http://www.umcb.org/worshipresources/>.



Easter Sunday (April 4):

7AM Sunrise Service on the north lawn (masks and physical distancing required; bring a lawn chair and join us at the north end of the building as we welcome the Risen Christ along with the rising sun)

11AM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required; pre-registration required—sign up by March 31 at <http://www.umcb.org/worshipresources/>).



Additional Worship Opportunities:

Morning Prayer

Mondays through Fridays

9:00AM

via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/518014483>

Evening Prayer via Zoom

Wednesdays

7:00PM

via Zoom

Meeting ID: 848 4741 1964

Passcode: 195510

All are welcome to join us for a brief worship service to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at
nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



A Disciple's Path: Reconnecting with your Faith Journey

Have you been connecting with our church over the course of this unique time and are wondering, what's next? How can I become more involved with this congregation - or what is my next step in discipleship?

Members who would like to "begin again" or recommit to their discipleship, as well as new and old friends, are invited to consider joining us for an upcoming faith formation group that will help us all reconnect to our discipleship. The main goal is to encourage you to continue in your discipleship "path" wherever that may lead.

This group will meet virtually for the comfort and safety of everyone. If you are interested, please let us know and we'll add you to our list of friends who would like to do this together. We'll then send out a survey asking for your availability in terms of time and days. We hope to begin in late spring.

If there's any other way we can be of support to your faith journey, please share your ideas and needs. We're here to listen and support you!

For more information, contact Pastor Carrie at
cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00PM, In Front of the Red Doors on Seminary Street

Collections of food for local food banks will continue with some changes. When you drop off your donation pull up to the red doors, flash your lights and beep your horn. A masked church member will come out to accept your donation.

If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at www.umcb.org/donate. Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



Loose Change Offering

As a congregation committed to mission, our loose change offering gave a “boost” to the missions and programs that are strengthening our church and communities near and far. March’s selected mission is Hanson House. See page 7 of the March Caller at www.umcb.org/the-caller for more information.

Each month, you can support by either mailing in an offering, or doing so electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the “other” box to donate the mission or simply “loose change offering”.

Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations

As an expression of love for our neighbors and for the well-being of our entire community, each of us is encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when we are eligible to do so.

Beginning Friday, March 19, all Ohioans age 40 and over are eligible to receive one of the vaccines. Visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> or call 2-1-1 (United Way's 211 HelpLink) on weekdays between 8AM and 4PM to find information about where you can receive the vaccine once you are eligible.

If you have additional questions or can use assistance navigating this process, please do not hesitate to contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**.

Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you. 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,” please contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.

Staff & Office Hours

For the protection of all, our staff continues to work from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.

You can reach the church office by email (ebarner@umcb.org), by leaving a voicemail on the church office phone (**440-234-3525 x100**) or by calling **440-710-4498** (Beth’s home office phone). All messages will be answered during office hours (9AM-3PM weekdays).