



Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

Sunday, April 2nd 2023 10am
Communion & Palm Sunday



“Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven” - Pope Pius X

PRELUDE

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: In the Garden (Green Hymnal-300)

*I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.*

Refrain:

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

*He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]*

*I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]*

Our Church's Mission:

Welcome all into a loving, inclusive faith community,
Seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus,
Building on our own rich history, actively exploring beliefs and assumptions, and
Promoting justice, peace and spiritual growth.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: Let us say, "His love endures forever!" and all who fear God say, "His love endures forever!"

Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: With the Lord on our side, what can we fear? What can humankind do?

Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: We shall triumph over those who surround us and stand in confidence in the Lord, our God!

Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

One: The Lord is our strength and our might. The Lord has become our salvation!

Many: Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

Hebrew Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9

The Lord God has given me

a trained tongue,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens,

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ *The Lord God has opened my ear,*

and I was not rebellious;

I did not turn backward.

⁶ *I gave my back to those who struck me*

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

⁷ *The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;*
⁸ *he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.*
⁹ *It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?*

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ *"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

⁶ *The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,*

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

¹⁰ *When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."*

Reader: This is the word of God, to the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

INVOCATION

Worship & Praise through Music

Passing the Peace of Christ

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (Singing) **(Green Hymnal-740)**

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 trespasses **(Debts)**, as we forgive those who trespass against us **(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

Announcements

Offering

Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above the heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost (*Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost*)

Sermonic Hymn: There's Not a Friend (Red Hymnal-221)

*There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus—
No, not one! no, not one!
None else could heal all our soul's diseases—
No, not one! no, not one!*

Refrain:

*Jesus knows all about our struggles,
He will guide till the day is done;
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus—
No, not one! no, not one!*

*No friend like Him is so high and holy—
No, not one! no, not one!
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly—
No, not one! no, not one! [Refrain]*

*3 There's not an hour that He is not near us —
No, not one! no, not one!
No night so dark but His love can cheer us—
No, not one! no, not one! [Refrain]*

MESSAGE: "Our Friend Named Betrayal"



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (Green Hymnal 267)

*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,*

*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.*

*"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!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn: Draw Me Nearer (**Green Hymnal- 408**)

*I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.*

Refrain:

*Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.*

*Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine. [Refrain]*

*Oh, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend! [Refrain]*

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Deacon: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Elder: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Elder: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Elder: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Elder: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

People: From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Pastor Mike:

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so, this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you. Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Remembrance:

Then, the time came for him to complete His purpose upon the cross, the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: **“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: **“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Sharing of the Lords Table

Benediction

POSTLUDE

The Three-Minute Suggestion:

Please spend the first three minutes with someone who is relatively new to our church family, or new to you. Get to know them like a friend might! THEN take some time with longtime friends. Thanks!

WORSHIP CONTINUES IN FELLOWSHIP: *Join for Coffee and Connections in the Connections Café hosted this week by the children and youth of Wentz’s UCC.*



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