

# LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

“At Home Worship”

## **Call to Worship** (from our Lay Leader, Sue White)

*Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.*

Hosanna!

*The people cheered and waved their palms.*

Hosanna in the highest!

*Jesus brought hope to the oppressed.*

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

*Jesus comes into our homes as we worship.*

Hosanna!

*We celebrate as in days of old.*

Hosanna in the highest!

*Jesus brings hope in this time of crisis.*

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

**Opening Prayer** Almighty God, author of all creation, as we stand with those who sang hosanna at the coming of the King into Jerusalem, open our ears to the sound of your voice and open your hearts to receive your steadfast love and mercy as we worship you on this holy day. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading** “The Lord God helps me...”

Read Isaiah 50.4-9a

**Prayer of Confession** Gracious God, it is easy this day to join with the people of Jerusalem in praising our Lord, Jesus Christ. When the merriment fades away, we confess, so, too, sometimes does our faith. Be present to us, Redeemer God, that you might strengthen us and sustain us. May we continue our shouts of “Hosanna” long after this day has past. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

**Time of Silent Confession** Offer the confessions of your heart to God in these quiet moments.

**Words of Assurance** The Lord is our strength and might. Jesus is our salvation and in him, our sins are forgiven and our hearts are cleansed. In Jesus, our salvation is at hand. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Scripture Reading** “...he humbled himself and became obedient...” Read Philipians 2.5-11

**Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer** Please spend a few moments remembering those who are on our prayer list and the joys and concerns you bring to God today.

**A Palm Sunday Prayer** Lord, we watch and wait for you to come. We confess that we still think of your Kingdom as grand and glorious when you have shown us time and time again that it comes to us in the humble and the obscure. Teach us your ways, O Lord. When we seek honor, show us how to humble ourselves. When we go ahead of you, remind us that we are to follow. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer that he taught us...

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Scripture Reading** “Hosanna to the Son of David.”

Read Mark 1.1-11

**Meditation** Palm Sunday! Few days in the Christian year bring to mind as much joy as this day does. I recall celebrating this day as a child in Sunday School, always looking forward to the palms we would receive and the special hymns we would share. As a member of the junior choir, we were sure to sing *Tell*

*Me the Stories of Jesus* on this holy day. This day also meant the arrival of spring and days to play outside in warmer weather; it also, of course, meant that Easter was a week away when we would celebrate the highest and holiest day of the Christian year.

Those are thoughts and feelings I've carried with me on my journey of faith for decades now; each year brings a new and deeper appreciation of this day when Jesus entered Jerusalem, knowing that he would soon share his last supper with his beloved disciples and then face the cross that he knew awaited him. We remember with awe and thanksgiving how, in the message Paul shared with Philipians, Jesus took on the form of a servant, emptying himself for our sake and to the glory of God - and all on his own terms. The crowd, we remember, expected a king's entry into the Holy City but Jesus came on a donkey; the crowd expected a military ruler of might and strength. Jesus came quietly and peacefully amid the cheers of the exultant crowd.

This is one of the things I love most about Jesus: he was his own person, never bowing to what others expected or to what society prescribed but doing what he knew was God's will for his life. He took on the ministry to which God called him with no hesitation. He educated the disciples and those who followed; he healed those who were physically, mentally, and spiritually ill; and, most important, he shared an example of what it means for us to be God's Kingdom people. Just imagine being a part of that exuberant crowd lining the road into Jerusalem. We experience their rejoicing in our feelings on this special day and join them in shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!" Thanks be to God.

**Closing Prayer** Holy God, give us the courage and grace to follow the example of obedient love we find in Jesus, our Savior. May we walk in the way of the cross in the Holy Week ahead that we may share in his glorious resurrection and live in the power of his Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



Lisbon United Methodist Church  
welcomes, nurtures, and serves  
all people  
with the love of Christ.