

**ORDER OF WORSHIP WITH TEXTS**  
**PALM SUNDAY - 4/5/2020**

✓ **SCENE 1**      Countdown Slide 5 minutes (for Facebook)  
                         Music in the background  
                         How to prepare for worship

✓ **SCENE 2**      Harris reading Zech 9:9  
                         (Image: Nancy Jo's Art)

*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*



- ✓ **SCENE 3** Prelude (Diane)  
Image: Front of Sanctuary  
Attribution: Prelude in Classic Style by Gordon Young  
CCLI Info/Date
- SCENE 4** Greeting (Rachael)  
Church logo/contact info  
*Last Sunday of Road Trip series (personality types and Jesus)*  
*Palm Sunday, Jesus takes a road trip into Jerusalem, Type 9*
- SCENE 5** Opening Prayer (Rachael)
- SCENE 6** Hymn Intro (Rachael)
- ✓ **SCENE 7** Palm Sunday Hymn #1  
*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

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 is 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!

- ✓ **SCENE 8** What it's like to be a 9 video (Priscilla)

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A NINE (from The Road Back to You)

- I'll do almost anything to avoid conflict.
- I'm not a self-starter.
- Sometimes I get lost in doing trivial tasks, while things that really need to get done get put off.
- I'm happy to go along with what others want to do.
- I tend to procrastinate.
- People seem to want me to be more decisive.

- When I get distracted and go off task I give my attention to whatever is happening right in front of me.
- I often choose the path of least resistance.
- I find routines at work and home comforting, and I feel unsettled when something throws them off.
- Others see me as more peaceful than I really am.
- I have a hard time getting started, but once I do I really get things done.
- I'm a "what you see is what you get" person.
- I don't think of myself as being very important.
- People think I'm a good listener even though I find it hard to pay attention in a long conversation.
- I don't like to take work home with me.
- Sometimes I tune out and think about the past.
- I don't enjoy big social gatherings as much as a quiet evening at home with the ones I love.
- Being outdoors is very soothing for me.
- I am often quietly stubborn when people put demands on me.
- It would feel selfish to spend a whole day doing whatever I want to do.

- ✓ **SCENE 9**            Road Trip Video, Type 9
- ✓ **SCENE 10**        Offering Intro (Laura)
- ✓ **SCENE 11**        Offertory  
*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*
- ✓ **SCENE 12**        Prayer of Dedication (Laura)
- ✓ **SCENE 13**        Doxology (He Has Made Me Glad)

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter his courts with praise.  
 I will say, this is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.  
 He has made me glad, he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad!  
 He has made me glad, he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad!

- ✓ **SCENE 14**        Scripture - Matthew 21:1-9 (Marna)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“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.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!”

## **SCENE 15**                      Sermon (Rachael)

Last month, just before COVID-19 forced us all into our own homes, my family set off on a road trip. We had big plans for all that we were going to see and do. But very few of those things happened. As we were heading west, the news about COVID-19 was rapidly changing. Every day, the concerns were growing. As soon as we hit the Pacific Ocean, we dipped our feet in, took a few pictures, and then turned around and drove back.

This means that my family spent seven days straight in the car together. All day, every day. We put 4200 miles on the car, which if you are counting means we were averaging 600 miles per day. Some a little more, some a little less.

It was not the trip we planned. We learned exactly what pushes each other's buttons. We reacted to stress and worry in a closed space, figured out how to meet one another's needs, and managed for the most part to keep the peace...with just a little yelling when someone was caught using someone else's markers, kicking the back of the driver's seat, or over-doing the whining. The kids had some rough moments, too.

All this to say, that our worship theme here at UMCA for the last two months, ROAD TRIP, became a lot more real for the Warner family. When Pastor Laura and I dreamed up this worship series almost a year ago, we never would have imagined that we'd be preaching half of it to our computer screens instead of in the sanctuary.

What we did expect, though, was that 2020 would be a year that would put our community and our relationships with one another to the test. We were expecting a General Conference to happen this year that would potentially bring about a split in our United Methodist denomination. We were expecting a presidential election that would likely escalate unkind rhetoric and negativity. We were expecting that our beloved congregation would find ourselves with plenty of reasons to argue, debate, and disagree.

Kind of like being in a car together for hours on end with the people you love most and who can absolutely infuriate you at the same time.

And so, over the last 9 weeks, we've been on a road trip of sorts. It has brought out the best and the worst in us! We've taken a hard look at our strengths and our weaknesses. We've been getting to know ourselves better so that we can show up well to whatever 2020 throws at us. We want to tackle stress, pressure, and uncertainty with the very best of who we are.

At the same time, we've been learning about others: how we show up differently to the same moments and how we might be wired to react or respond differently than one another when things get dicey.

To do this work better, we've explored a tool called the Enneagram, an ancient typology of personalities that groups people into nine primary categories, of course with almost infinite variations, based upon what motivates us, what we need most, and what we fear.

And finally, today, in our last week of the series, we have arrived at Type 9: the peacemakers. Don't worry, they don't mind going last. They really enjoyed seeing all of the rest of us explore what makes us tick. They are happy to wait until we're all satisfied before they take their turn.

One more thing. The most important aspect of this series has been looking to the gospels to discover that Jesus has something important to offer to all of us, whatever our personality types. Jesus challenges us to let go of what is holding us back from full relationship with God; Jesus fills in the gaps for us when we fall short; and Jesus meets our deepest needs and speaks love right into the heart of our fears.

Today is Palm Sunday, and so Marna read for us a very familiar text, the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem that kicks off this incredibly meaningful week in the Christian year. It begins just outside of Jerusalem, with Jesus instructing his disciples to secure for him a young donkey that he can ride into the city, a fulfillment of a well-known prophetic text. They do, and the march for peace begins.

A crowd forms around Jesus, and so when he makes his entry into the city, riding on this donkey's colt on the cloaks of his friends, the moment is something to behold. He makes an entrance: the cheering, the joy, the waving branches! Jesus has arrived at last! It's going to be okay! We are going to be okay! Hosanna! Blessed! Messiah! The one who comes in the name of the Lord has arrived!

What a perfect day for us to check in with our friends who identify as Type 9 on the Enneagram. The peacemakers. They live for harmony, for all to be right with the world. Nines are constantly in search of that perfect moment when the heavens and earth align and they feel deeply connected to God and to other people.

Like a moment when Jesus rides into town, and even though he's on a donkey instead of a war horse, and even though the road is dusty and the crowds are loud and the children are getting underfoot and the world is a cruel place for the poor, the sick, and the marginalized, and even though the people may be risking great harm by cheering for Jesus...

Even so, in this moment, Jesus is recognized as the one who saves and the people are crying out for salvation and this is the one person in all the world who can actually meet that need. Harmony.

The problem, dear Nines, is that harmony is fleeting. It doesn't last very long for Jesus in Jerusalem, does it? In fact, he may have never experienced it at all, knowing what he did about everything he would give for the sake of these people.

Nines, you can probably relate. As peacemakers, you are more than willing to give of yourselves to meet the needs of others. You end up reflecting the best of all the types: wisdom, strength, fun and adventure, dutifulness, intellectualism, creativity, attractiveness, generosity, and idealism.

In their book, *The Wisdom of the Enneagram*, Riso and Hudson explain that *what [Nines] generally do not have is a sense of really inhabiting themselves – a strong sense of their own identity. Ironically, therefore, the only type the Nine is not like is the Nine itself.*

Nines are motivated by a desire to blend in. They respond to pain and suffering by melting into peacefulness, even if that peace comes at the cost of denial. They often need to be reminded that one cannot avoid reality forever, and that in order to overcome conflict we often must face it head on and go through the middle of it. They'd rather change the subject, miss the meeting that day, or take a blissful nap and tune out whatever is agitating the world around them.

On the flip side, Nines are super easy to get along with. They don't ask much of the rest of us. They go with the flow.

When under great stress, nines tend to check out and find it difficult to get going in any direction. They're more likely to wait and see what direction others are going and join the momentum. Often, Nines will tell you that everything's fine, while inside they are stewing or stubbornly resistant to whatever you are suggesting.

That's because Nines fear conflict more than anything. Deep down, they worry that if they assert themselves or make an unpopular decision or tend to their own needs, we won't love them anymore.

Now, let's get back to that Palm Sunday moment. Jesus rides into Jerusalem, and he is seen and known by the crowds who usher him in. Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

It's only a few days later that the shouts of the crowd will dramatically change. When the powers that be get involved and the stakes are high and the oppressive empire does what oppressive empires do, and when people become fearful of all they have to lose and lose sight of what they have to gain, and when it is all too much to stand against,

Blessed is the One! becomes Give us Barabbas!

Hosanna, save us! becomes Crucify him!

This story may be a sort of cautionary tale for our Nines. There are times when your willingness to go with the flow keeps us all in balance. Your spiritual gift of seeing the importance of others is a blessing. But sometimes the crowd is wrong. Sometimes, peace can only come after injustice has been confronted and harm has been repaired. That's exhausting work for you, Nines, but Jesus invites you into it. Indeed, Jesus invites us all into this very hard work during Holy Week.

Nines, this is your moment to shine – and I mean both this Holy Week AND this time of sheltering in place and denying our own comforts and preferences for the sake of the common good. Lead the way! You are natural contemplatives, you are inclined to seek the presence of God and recognize grace in action all around you. You are open and receptive in a way that makes room for the Holy Spirit to work in and through you. You can uniquely show the rest of us how to take a deep breath, set ourselves and our egos aside, and really enter into the moments, the meaning, and the power of the holy days ahead.

So, please hear us clearly when we say to you that your own life is worth living. We love you when you stand up for yourselves and even when you disagree with us and especially when you challenge us or push us to find deeper peace, rooted in justice for all people.

We need your voice, especially in this time of collective anxiety and crisis. Tell us the truth. Hold us accountable. We will not abandon you. We love you.

Please join me in offering a word of blessing to our nines:

**SCENE 16**                      Blessing of the 9s

**May the Lord bless this grace-filled journey home to your true self.**

**May God the loving parent direct you with courage and insight  
as you consider your next steps.**

**May the heart of Jesus draw forth and encourage  
your heart's desire to make a difference.**

**May the Holy Spirit ground you and empower you  
with the initiative to activate all that is meant to be accomplished in you. Amen.**

✓ SCENE 17            The Lord's Prayer

SCENE 18            Rachael "live" to intro music  
*At the end, intro the reflective music and invite people to have food in front of them, pour a fresh cup of coffee or juice, etc. for the upcoming time of sharing the table together.*

✓ SCENE 19            Reflection w/ Music  
*The Holy City*  
vocal: Dale Brown; piano, Diane Gronewold  
images slide show (create on canva)

✓ SCENE 20            Comfort Food Liturgy (Rachael, Laura, Others)  
[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series)  
written by Dr. Marcia McFee

**LAURA:**

When we "break bread" together as a church in our worship, we remember that Jesus invited folks to his table as part of his ministry, not just at the Last Supper. So we wanted to create a way for all of us to break bread together with whatever we have at our homes. Indeed, what we've asked you to do is to prepare your favorite "comfort food!"

If you are joining us on Facebook this morning, I invite you to share in the comments with the group gathered online what food you are bringing to the table for our virtual feast.

✓ SCENE 21            **RACHAEL:**

Jesus used the parable of a great banquet to which all people are invited in order to talk about what the "kin-dom" of God, the family of God, looks like. He said, "Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled." He often invited the most unlikely guests to his meal-times, confounding the disciples. In this way, he was encouraging a deep love and connection beyond social norms. He knew that we humans need connection and inclusion. Jesus comforts us, saying "you have a place at the table" and Jesus challenges us to make sure we are doing the same—that all people know they are welcome in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches—even if we can't physically be with each other right now.



It is difficult in this moment not to be near some of the people we love and might be worried about. Take a moment and say out loud, or even type into the comments, the names of people you wish were right there next to you at your table today.

✓ **SCENE 22**

**LAURA:**

Jesus is no longer physically on earth, yet every time we gather around a table and we call him to mind, he is present with us in Spirit. And so too, our loved ones are with us. Let this be a comfort to us.

We also want to call to mind, the people we cannot name, whose names we do not know. But we know they need our prayers and God's comfort.

For those who have lost loved ones  
For those who are sick and recovering  
For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home  
For those who are providing essential services: medical care, law enforcement, childcare, providing supplies for our needs  
For those who are separated from loved ones  
For those who are feeling alone and isolated  
For those who are helping and are so very tired  
For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort  
For those who are afraid

I invite you to take a deep breath on behalf of all these beloveds of God. As we do so, we know that God knows who needs our prayers and the Spirit, Breath of God, is blowing from within us outward as a Spirit of Compassion and Presence.

✓ **SCENE 23:**

**RACHAEL:**

Blessings at the table are part of our Judeo-Christian heritage. Indeed, Jesus adapted his Jewish ritual blessing spoken before and after meals. He asked us to remember him whenever we break bread and raise a cup in thanksgiving.

*[Leader pulls close a plate of food and cup of coffee/tea]*

This is why we call our communion prayers the "Great Thanksgiving." In this feast of love and comfort, we can call to mind things for which we are deeply grateful. I invite you to speak aloud or share in the comments a couple of things that you are grateful for in this moment.

*[pause to allow this]*

And so I invite you to raise a plate of “something” on your table, or a glass of whatever you are drinking, and let us bless it in this way, repeating after me there at home:

✓ **SCENE 24:**      **Prayer (repeat after me):**  
Holy Comforter  
We gather in your name...  
invited by Jesus...  
bound together with your Spirit...  
in union with each other...

Feed our bodies and our spirits...  
with your comforting presence...  
so that we might be your comfort to others...

Bless this food...  
and break open our hearts...  
Bless this drink...  
and pour out your love...  
Amen...

✓ **SCENE 25:**      **LAURA:**  
As you pass and fill your plates, getting ready to continue to eat your comfort food once we have signed off, I invite you to imagine what extravagant love looks like as you reach across the social distance to loved ones, to friends, and even acquaintances or strangers.

We can all be peacemakers in this time. And we all are in need of the saving help of Jesus, the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

And now may you shelter not only in place, but in peace. May the peace and comfort of Christ be present with you now and forevermore. Amen.

**SCENE 26:**      Hymn Intro (Rachael)

✓ **SCENE 27:**      Palm Sunday Hymn #2  
*We are Marching*

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)  
We are marching, marching, we are marching, O, we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)  
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos', siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (repeat)  
Siyahamba, hamba, siyahamba, O, siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (repeat)

**SCENE 28:** Pastoral Benediction (Rachael)

*THANK: Pastor Laura, all of our church staff*

*Musicians: Diane, Erik, Dale, Michael,  
and Jake with recordings*

*May God bless you this Holy Week with the time and space to connect with Jesus, to connect with yourself, and to connect with one another. Now, receive these words of blessing from one another:*

✓ **SCENE 29:** Congregation's Benediction (Photos)  
and Postlude (Diane)  
and *Invite to Holy Week experiences*  
*Web info, FB, etc.*