



seeking:
*Where are
you headed?*



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

***Please stand as you are able.**

PRELUDE

Hail to the King! by David Paxton

WELCOME

Pastor Karen Evenson

PARADE OF PALMS

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus (UMH 277)

***OPENING LITANY** (Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

***HYMN**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna! (UMH 278, v. 1)

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

For today's prayer of confession we are going to read the Palm Sunday story together. As we read through the story, we will pause to admit the places where we so often and so easily could change the narrative. So read with me, trusting that no matter what we do or don't do, this story ends with love. Let us pray:

HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna! (UMH 278, v. 2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who can go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us. You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Creator God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, "Hosanna!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

With hope in our hearts we pray to you, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Nothing can separate us from God's love. We are loved, forgiven, and sent out to serve. Hosanna! Amen.

HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna! (UMH 278, v. 3)

SPECIAL MUSIC

God So Loved the World arranged by Tom Fettke
Mixed Quartet

A MOMENT TO SHARE THE STORY

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSVUE)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Have You Seen Jesus My Lord by John Fischer
Mixed Quartet

MESSAGE

"Seeking: Where are you headed?"
Pastor Karen Evenson

***COMMUNION HYMN**

O How He Loves You and Me (TFWS 2108. v 1 twice)

HOLY COMMUNION

Friends, let us join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

BLESSING OF THE BREAD & CUP

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup...

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & SHARING OF THE CUP

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

On Eagle's Wings arranged by Edwin Earle Ferguson
Mixed Quartet

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH 94)

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN**

What Wondrous Love is This (UMH 292, v 2-3)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Sing To The Lord! by Lani Smith

Worship Hospitality Team

Choir Director ~ Kelvin Paye

Coffee/Donut Steward ~ Carole Davidson

Communion Stewards - Michael and Julane Storm-Levia and Jim January

Deaconess ~ Kim Harris

Greeters ~ Laurie and Rosalie Huston

Jubilee Bells Director ~ Kathy Chojnacki

Organist ~ Diane Gronewold

Pastor ~ Rev. Karen Evenson

Scripture Reader ~ Rosalie Huston

Ushers ~ Babs Brown, David Blincow, Gail Sanstad, Larry Gronewold, and Mark Worst

Welcome Center ~ Chuck and Sandy Burnham

Worship Tech ~ Jake Berg

April 6, 2023

Holy (Maundy) Thursday @ 6:30pm

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

“Seeking: Will you wash my feet?” ~ Message by Pastor Karen Evenson

April 7, 2023

Good Friday

Open Sanctuary--a Time of Prayer and Reflection

It is finished. We remember that Jesus was put to death on a cross.

The building will be open from 7:00am - 7:00pm

Options: (one or more)

Come anytime for reflective prayer in the sanctuary on your own.

Spend time moving through a series of prayer stations

Sign up for a specific time of prayer and prayer focus, if you'd like.

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday @ 9:30am

Celebrate Resurrection and New Life this Easter!

John 20:1-18

“Seeking: Who are you looking for?” ~ Message by Pastor Karen Evenson

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

UMCA Office Hours: 10:00am - 2:00pm ~ Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Or by appointment, please contact us at:

Phone: 763-421-2378 | Email: umcanoka@gmail.com

Sunday, April 2, 2023	5:00pm TWINCITIES COMMUNITY Mass Choir at Brooklyn UMC
Tuesday, April 4, 2023	10:00am Knitters Gathering
Wednesday, April 5, 2023	9:00am Sewers & Quilters Gathering 10:00am Men's Breakfast at Bridge Street Coffee Box 4:30pm C.L.A.S.S. Christian love And Social Stuff 6:00pm Jubilee Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Youth Group and Confirmation Class 6:30pm Women of the Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 6, 2023	8:00am Thursday Book Group at Bakers Square 9:30am Bring Your Bible ~ In-Person & Zoom 6:30pm Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service
Friday, April 7, 2023	7am-7pm Open Sanctuary--a Time of Prayer and Reflection
Sunday, April 9, 2023	EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30am Worship (In-Person & Online) 10:00am Sunday School

Minnesota FoodShare ~ February 27 - April 9



THE ANOKA POLICE DEPARTMENT 4th Annual Anoka Safety Fair Fundraiser



**UMCA's goal is to be at the GOLD Sponsorship Level of (\$500-\$999).
We will be accepting donations through April 9th.**



“Power Play”

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Inspired by Matthew 21:1-11

In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Crossman assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: “Jesus’ procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate’s proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus’ crucifixion.” This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (read John 18 & 19). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo. Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. In Jesus’ processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around his waist to wash his friends’ feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love. Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus’ parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?