



Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday 3/25/2018

Liturgy of the Palms Blessing & Procession

*A celebration of First Presbyterian, First Reformed UCC,
St James Episcopal, & St John's UCC churches of Manitowoc*

Worship Leaders: Pastors Judine A Duerwaechter, Diane M Murray, and Matthew L Sauer

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Pastor Matt will welcome those gathered and introduce the worship leaders

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Diane **Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

All **Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!**

Pastor Diane Let us pray. Bless us with your strength and love, O Lord of our salvation, so this day of celebration will prepare us for the days of reflection that are coming. May we walk by your side from joy to death to life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All **AMEN!**

LITANY: TWENTY CENTURIES LATER

Pastor Judine Twenty centuries later, Christ Jesus, what city has not heard of your coming? From Beijing to Berlin, from Jerusalem to Johannesburg, from New York to New Delhi: surely the word has spread that you've come in peace, not violence, to enrich, renew, and transform our lives and to bring us shalom?

All **Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor Judine Twenty centuries later, Christ Jesus, what city has not heard of your church? From Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Reformed, Evangelical, Progressive, or Pentecostal believers: surely the message of acceptance, healing, and confidence in your royal advent has been passed on through faithful living?

All **Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor Judine

Twenty centuries later, Christ Jesus, what city has not rejected you? From penthouse to tenement, from work place to recreation space: surely the news is that this life is for taking, not giving, and what stands in the way of this lifestyle must now be removed?

All

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor Judine

Twenty centuries later, Christ Jesus, what city do you seek to enter? From north to south and east to west: surely the signs of your Church free from pride and united in deed, must be the welcome that you long for as you enter our city?

All

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest! AMEN!**

THE WORD OF GOD

Pastor Matt

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

(Matthew 21:1-11)

Pastor Matt

When Jesus and his disciples 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!”

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

Pastor Matt

The Gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

Pastor Diane

Let us pray. We have come to meet you today, Jesus. We don't know quite what to expect. We think we know what we need, how you can meet our needs. But we come humbly, laying our coats before you. It's your call. Reveal to us who you are, how you can be a Savior in our lives, a Savior in our world today. Come, Lord Jesus!

All

AMEN!

Pastor Diane will offer the following prayer of blessing over the people and palms, and sprinkle holy water

Pastor Diane

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All

AMEN!

PROCESSION

Pastor Diane

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

All

Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor Diane

Let us go forth in peace!

All

In the name of Christ, AMEN!

The worship leaders will lead the procession. The people follow, waving their palm branches and singing the following:

♩ **All Glory, Laud and Honor** *The recorded music begins and ends with a trumpet fanfare*

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud and hon - - or, To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,

To Whom the lips of child - - ren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

Verse

1. Thou art the King of Is - - rael, Thou Da - vid's ro - yal Son,
 2. The com - pa - ny of an - - gels Are prais - ing Thee on High,
 3. The peo - ple of the He - - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
 4. To Thee, be - fore Thy pa - - ssion, They sang their hymns of praise;
 5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Who in the Lord's Name com - - est, The King and Bless - ed One.
 And mor - tal men and all things Cre - at - ed make re - - ply.
 Our prayer and praise and an - - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - - sent.
 To Thee, now high ex - - alt - - ed, Our me - lo - dy we raise.
 Who in all good de - light - - est, Thou good and gra - cious King.

To Refrain

Words: Theodulph of Orleans, tr John Mason Neale. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner
 Accompaniment track arranged and produced by Tony Karl

The procession will return to the church steps.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor Judine

Let us pray. Surely you felt enormous pain when your friends betrayed you—the one that Scripture foretold, with his fatal kiss, and the one you called your rock, who swore that he didn't know you. What human couldn't feel hurt at that? We can identify, albeit feebly, with your anguish in the garden, asking that you not have to do what your father was asking that you do. And then, you seemed to demonstrate that you were mortal, dying at an executioner's hands. We wonder if you knew how the story would end, as we do. Our knowledge of Easter is what allows us to bear observing Holy Week year after year. Easter is, maybe, the time when Jesus the human is also most fully God, capable of resurrection from the dead and somehow, mysteriously redeeming us in the process. But to get to that point, we have to go through the trials and frailties of your flesh, just as we do our own every day. God, as we move through this week, give us the gifts of concentration, of focus, and of empathy, as we seek to determine where your astonishing story, which is at once so familiar and yet so incredible, fits with our own narratives. We believe wholeheartedly that your passion and death have significance beyond our comprehension. Allow us to be touched and awestruck by the holy events of this week and to claim them once again for our own lives.

All

AMEN!

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Pastor Judine

Blessed is the One who comes to us by the way of love poured out with abandon.

Pastor Diane

Blessed is the One who walks toward us by the way of grace that holds us fast.

Pastor Matt

Blessed is the One who calls us to follow in the way of blessing and the path of joy.

All

AMEN!

Pastor Matt will dismiss those gathered to their respective places of worship.



St James Episcopal Church and the Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry churches (First Presbyterian, First Reformed UCC, & St John's UCC) invite you and your loved ones to attend any of the following Holy Week events:

Wed 3/28 4:00 PM Worship & Healing Prayers at St James

Thu 3/29 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship at St James
6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Seder at First Presbyterian

Fri 3/30 6:30 AM Morning Prayer at St James
12:15 PM Good Friday Worship at St James
6:30 PM Good Friday Worship at First Reformed

Sat 3/31 8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter Worship at St James
Easter party follows worship

Sun 4/1 6:00 AM Sunrise Worship at Blue Rail Beach on Maritime Dr
8:00 AM Easter Breakfast at First Reformed
8:30 AM Easter Day Worship at St John's
9:00 AM Easter Day KinderChurch at St James
10:00 AM Easter Day Worship at First Presbyterian
10:00 AM Easter Day Worship at First Reformed
10:00 AM Easter Day Worship at St James

For more information, talk to Pastor Diane, Pastor Judine, or Pastor Matt