

Announcements...

- This week only – Facebook Live Bible Studies Mon-Fri for Holy Week (you should have gotten a devotional by mail or email)
- Several people willing to do porch deliveries
- Go to www.cedarvilleunited.org and look for “Stay-At-Home Bible Studies and Services” page...organized by date, bulletin there for today
- Thank you to Becky Gillaugh and Kurt Bublick for helping get music back into our services!

Congregational Care...

- Elders and deacons and I have been checking in to stay connected
- 24 Ways To Take Care Of Our Mental Health During Quarantine – also found under the stay-at-home tab. For today: *Lower expectations and practice radical self-acceptance*
 - We are doing a lot of things in this moment, under fear and stress
 - Lot of pressure to produce: “I will feel so bad if I waste this time”
 - Lot of pressure to downplay the significance of what is happening
 - “Radical self-acceptance” – accepting everything about yourself, your current situation, and your life without question, blame, or pushback
 - There is no precedent for this, and we are all truly doing the best we can in an impossible situation

Call to Worship

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

People: *Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem~*

Pastor: Lo, your king comes to you

People: *Triumphant and victorious is he*

Pastor: Humble and riding on a donkey

People: *O a colt, the foal of a donkey*

Video – Hosanna (featuring our choir and children and youth!)

Preparing our Hearts...

All together: *Prepare our hearts, Lord, to hear from you. Slow us down that we may wholly and solely focus on you. Let us fall silent that we may hear from your Holy Spirit. We praise you. We adore you. And we declare that you are holy, O God. Amen.*

Hymn – 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 in the highest!' that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
Oh may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon Notes – Palm Sunday

- Not how we expected to celebrate. Okay to grieve that this isn't the same.
- Psalm 118:25-28 reads: "*LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.*"
- As Jesus entered Jerusalem, those who lived there were confused to see this processional and asked, "Who is this?" Since Jesus had usually avoided the city, its inhabitants did not know Him.
- The crowds on Palm Sunday refused to see Jesus as he truly was, placing their personal desires on him instead.
- Who is Jesus for you?
 - Is he someone to satisfy our wants and goals?
 - Do we do things the way we want and expect Jesus to keep up?
 - Or is he not just Savior who died for our sins but also Lord who rules our lives?
- Pandemic has made a lot of people look at their faith differently...
 - We want assurance that we will be okay – when we say okay, we mean safe and healthy here. That's what the crowds in today's passage wanted – come overthrow this government and establish yourself as an earthly king and set everything right again...make us feel comfortable and safe

- Jesus came to share the gospel with us – that it is by faith in Christ we are saved, that his death on the cross broke the curse brought on by Adam – we do not have to pay for our sins, because he has, and that the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – will always be with us
- This week, we will go through the last week of Jesus' life here on earth. Here is my usual disclaimer: *Going from Palm Sunday "Hosanna!" to Easter Sunday "He Is Risen" without observing Holy Week deprives us of an important part of our faith. We move from celebration to celebration and miss the teaching, the gathering of the disciples, the betrayal, the arrest, the trial, the crucifixion, and the death of Jesus.*
- Let's continue to keep worship at the forefront of our lives

Time of Prayer...

- People sick around the world
- Front lines folks – expanding to family members of congregation
- Prayer list – feel free to text or email additions throughout the week

If you have prayer requests, please send them via Facebook Messenger or text me directly. Because we are live-streaming, please get permission before sending the request. Also, only first names will be mentioned and medical conditions will be kept deliberately vague. God knows who we are praying for and what's going on with the person. But since we don't know who all will be listening to this, we want to protect privacy.

Benediction