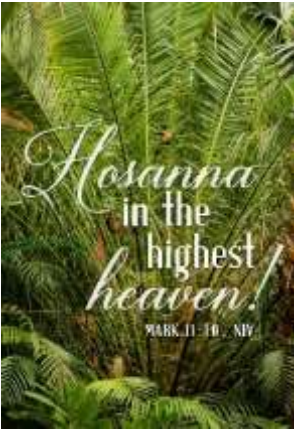


Worship Engagement and Reflection for week of April 5, 2020

During the season of Lent, we journey with Jesus through *The Last Week...*

Palm Sunday

Read Mark 11:1-11



Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most sacred week of the Christian year. On Palm Sunday, we remember the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate Passover with his disciples. As Jesus entered the town, a large crowd gathered to welcome him. People began to throw their coats on the road in front of Jesus. They cut branches from the trees and waved them and began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord." The word Hosanna means 'save now, we pray.' We shout Hosanna today as we remember during Holy Week that Jesus came so that he could save us.

The procession that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem was not the only procession happening in Jerusalem on that day. Pilate was leading another procession on the opposite side of the city. A procession fueled by fear that there would be an uprising against the Roman government born out of a desire for freedom from oppression. In just a few short days, Jesus would go from being praised by a crowd waving palm branches to the cross.

Questions for Reflection:

- Consider these two processions that happened in Jerusalem. To what extent do you follow one, the other, or perhaps even both?
- As you sing and shout Hosanna this week, how does the meaning of the word hosanna resonate with you today? What prayer is swelling in your heart as you speak the words hosanna, save now, we pray?

Spiritual Practice: Journaling



Journaling as a spiritual practice can be a creative way to spend time with God. In the pages of a journal you can record your prayers and reflect on scriptures, your life and faith journey. A journal can be a place to share your concerns, fears, and challenges as well as expressions of gratitude, celebrations and God Sightings, or ways you see God at work in your life or in the world. Journaling as a spiritual practice is less about the art of writing and more about connecting with God.

One blessing of journaling is being able to look back at previous writings and discover evidence of your spiritual growth, new insight on scripture, comfort in how God is with you in challenging times, and ways you experience hope and faith in God.

Spiritual journaling also doesn't just happen with words. A spiritual journal can also be done using drawings and pictures, and photography. Use whatever creative means speaks to your soul and helps you to express your thoughts, prayers and feelings to God.

Holy Week provides an ideal opportunity to begin a new spiritual practice by journaling about each day of Holy Week. Set aside a few minutes each day to reflect on the events of Jesus' last week. Record or illustrate your questions, express your thoughts and consider how these events impact your life and faith journey today. Spiritual journaling can also be a way to express your prayers, concerns and even gratitude as we journey through the Coronavirus pandemic.

Share your thoughts about the spiritual practice of journaling or responses to this week's Lent Reflection questions by emailing or texting Kathy Schmucker (kschmucker@faithumchurch.org, 330-224-6138) or Pastor Steve (stultzcstello@faithumchurch.org, 330-224-7337). You are also welcome to share on social media @faithnorthcanton.