

Service of Lessons and Hymns for Palm/Passion Sunday
Epworth United Methodist Church, Berkeley
April 5, 2020

GATHERING

PRELUDE “Amazing Grace”: Caroline Lee, viola

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Kristin Stoneking

INVOCATION: “Setting the Stage” by Ann Weems (from *Kneeling in Jerusalem*): Akesa Fakava

The journey to Bethlehem
was much more to my liking.
I am content kneeling here,
where there’s an aura of angels
and the ever-present procession
of shepherds and of kings
who’ve come to kneel to the Newborn
in whom we are newborn.

I want to linger here in Bethlehem
in joy and celebration, knowing once I set my feet
toward Jerusalem the Child will grow,
and I will be asked to follow.

The time of Light and Angels is drawing to a close.
Just when I’ve settled contentedly
into the quiet wonder of the Star and Child,
He bids me leave and follow.
How can I be expected to go back
into darkness after sitting mangerside,
bathed in such Light?

It’s hard to get away
this time of year;
I don’t know how I’ll manage.
It’s not just the time...
the conversation along the way turns from Birth to Death.
I’m not sure I can stand
the stress and pain;
I have enough of those already.
Besides, I’ve found the lighting
on the road to Jerusalem is very poor.

This time around, there is no Star...

The shepherds have left;
they've returned to the hillside and to sheep.
The Magi, too, have gone,
having been warned in a dream, as was
Joseph, who packed up his family and fled.
If I stay in Bethlehem, I stay alone.
God has gone on toward Jerusalem."

HEARING THE WORD: THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 21:1-11: Rev. Brian Adkins

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵"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.'" ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!" 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."

HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* UMH 280

Refrain:

All glory, laud, and honor,
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and Blessed One. [Refrain]

2. The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply. [Refrain]

3. The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;

our prayer and praise and anthems
before thee we present. [Refrain]

4. To thee, before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. [Refrain]

5. Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King. [Refrain]

UNISON PRAYER (please share in this prayer together): Gabby Downs
Hosanna. Hosanna, we pray. Like our ancestors who cried out together in memory of your great works, we proclaim our trust in you. We long for deliverance from all that destroys life. We are desperate for an end to the greed that strips our communities of well-being. We know the Kingdom is near. Let it come. And let the needs of all your people be satisfied. Amen. (Blaedel and Barclay, en fleshed, c. 2020)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Susan Jardin

HEARING THE WORD: PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION STORY

THE CHANGING SCENE: "Lent, 1991" by Maren C. Tirabassi: Paloma Campi

Lent Comes.
We draw a holy comma
in rushed and busy lives.
We follow down
old scripture words
the journey to Jerusalem.
We stumble into prayer again
and whisper soft
the dearest, fearest
of our thoughts.
Lent comes.
Last year's palms
crumble into ashes.
Last year's peace
weeps into war.
We sing of Gethsemane
amid new tears, new bleeding.
The screaming bombs
burn crosses in our hearts –
this too is God's story.

Lent comes,
but also Ramadan's fast,
Passover's freedom memory,
Easter's crazy contradiction.
Faith is born of prayer
and sings with courage,
while all the children
of the earth
shelter in the wings of God
awaiting our embrace.

HYMN "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" UMH 269

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.

2 As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

3 As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.

4 And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

5 Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

SCRIPTURE READING: THE BETRAYAL: Matthew 26:14-16: Zachary McVey

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,
"What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And
from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

THE BETRAYAL: "For the Indigenous" by Alice Walker: Orion Lacey

They are destroying you because you are beautiful
And you know how to live here;

This they have done
Since landing in smelly, ill fitting
Metal suits
And observing that you
Already had it down:

Life on Pachamama;

Life on Earth.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:17-36

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

HYMN *Go to Dark Gethsemane*, UMH 290

1. Go to dark Gethsemane,
ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away;
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

2. See him at the judgment hall,
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn of Christ to bear the cross.

3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

4. Early hasten to the tomb
where they laid his breathless clay;
all is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes;
Savior, teach us so to rise.

IN THE GARDEN "Gethsemane" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox (from *Poems of Power*): Randall Miller

In golden youth when seems the earth
 A Summer-land of singing mirth,
 When souls are glad and hearts are light,
 And not a shadow lurks in sight,
We do not know it, but there lies
 Somewhere veiled under evening skies
 A garden which we all must see--
 The garden of Gethsemane.
With joyous steps we go our ways,
 Love lends a halo to our days;
 Light sorrows sail like clouds afar,
 We laugh, and say how strong we are.
 We hurry on; and hurrying, go
 Close to the border-land of woe,
 That waits for you, and waits for me--
 Forever waits Gethsemane.
Down shadowy lanes, across strange streams,
 Bridged over by our broken dreams;
 Behind the misty caps of years,
 Beyond the great salt fount of tears,
 The garden lies. Strive as you may,
 You cannot miss it in your way.
 All paths that have been, or shall be,
 Pass somewhere through Gethsemane.
All those who journey, soon or late,
 Must pass within the garden's gate;
 Must kneel alone in darkness there,
 And battle with some fierce despair
 God pity those who cannot say,

"Not mine but thine," who only pray,
"Let this cup pass," and cannot see
The *purpose* in Gethsemane.

HYMN What Wondrous Love is This? Vs 1-2 UMH 292*

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

THE SILENCE OF GOD, by Andrew Peterson: Rev. Brian Adkins

And if a man has got to listen to the voices of the mob
Who are reeling in the throes of all the happiness they've got
When they tell you all their troubles
Have been nailed up to that cross
Then what about the times when even followers get lost?
'Cause we all get lost sometimes

There's a statue of Jesus on a monastery knoll
In the hills of Kentucky, all quiet and cold
And He's kneeling in the garden, as silent as a Stone
All His friends are sleeping and He's weeping all alone

And the man of all sorrows, he never forgot
What sorrow is carried by the hearts that he bought
So when the questions dissolve into the silence of God
The aching may remain but the breaking does not
The aching may remain but the breaking does not
In the holy, lonesome echo of the silence of God

HYMN *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*, vs 1 & 3 UMH 286*

1. O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish

which once was bright as morn!

3. What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

SCRIPTURE READING: JESUS BEFORE PILATE, Matthew 27: 11-14, 19, 22-26: Orion Lacey

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

HYMN *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord*, vs 1-2 UMH 285

1 To mock your reign, O dearest Lord,
they made a crown of thorns;
set you with taunts along that road
from which no one returns.
They could not know, as we do now,
how glorious is that crown;
that thorns would flower upon your brow,
your sorrows heal our own.

2 In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord,
they snatched a purple cloak;
your passion turned, for all they cared,
into a soldier's joke.

They could not know, as we do now,
that though we merit blame,
you will your robe of mercy throw
around our naked shame.

SCRIPTURE READING: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED Matthew 27:27, 29-34, 37-40, 45-46, 50-54: John Campi

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus ... They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

HYMN *Were You There?*, vs 1 & 4 UMH 288*

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)

OUR RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Rev. Brian Adkins

"I Believe" Epworth Choir

THE LORD'S PRAYER, led by Kiana Jardin

CALL FOR THE OFFERING: Akesa Fakava

Like Jesus who refused to abandon any neighbor in need, even in the midst of great stress, we hope to commit to one another with such fierce loyalty. We remember that what we have is meant to be shared. Let us be generous in heart and trust God's blessing upon our offerings.

OFFERTORY: "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from the musical *Godspell*: Michelle Areola-Burl

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Rev. Kristin Stoneking

Saving One, you know what ails our hearts, our minds, our bodies. You know the pain and sorrow many are facing today. You know, because you take on human flesh and your Spirit companions us in all things. For this gift and all your acts of compassion, we are grateful. May all we share with one another be blessed to what comforts, what sustains, and what nourishes those laboring for good. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION: Rev. Kristin Stoneking

POSTLUDE: "Sanctuary" by Eliza Gilkyson, Judy Kriege and Erin Adachi-Kriege