

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021)

Share:

The story of faith is a story of courage.

It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

It took courage for Mary to say, “Here I am. Use me.”

It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

It took courage for the paralyzed man’s friends to lower him through the roof.

It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

Again and again, God, show us the way.

Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

Read these words from a hymn today:

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 victory 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.
O may we ever praise him, with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.*

Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 50:4-9, *The Message*

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

⁹ It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Mark 11:1-11, 15-18, *The Message*

³ When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: “Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you’ll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, ‘What are you doing?’ say, ‘The Master needs him, and will return him right away.’”

⁴⁻⁷ They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, “What are you doing untying that colt?” The disciples replied exactly as

Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted.

⁸⁻¹⁰ The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God’s name! Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in highest heaven!”

¹¹ He entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ They arrived at Jerusalem. Immediately on entering the Temple Jesus started throwing out everyone who had set up shop there, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of the bankers and the stalls of the pigeon merchants. He didn’t let anyone even carry a basket through the Temple. And then he taught them, quoting this text: “My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations; You’ve turned it into a hangout for thieves.

¹⁸ The high priests and religion scholars heard what was going on and plotted how they might get rid of him. They panicked, for the entire crowd was carried away by his teaching.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- Do you love a parade? What do you enjoy about parades?
- Where are you in the parade scene on Palm Sunday? What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel as you watch this event?
- Holy Week begins today, but why do we need to take some time to walk with Jesus this week and not rush to Easter?
- What message is Jesus signaling as he enters Jerusalem? What powers of evil is he confronting?
- When we do we need to cry out “hosanna” today?
- How might the stories of Jesus’ last week on earth reshape your week, your life, our world?
- Where will you do a hard thing and commit to letting love win? How will this change your life?
- How does our belief that ultimately “goodness is stronger than evil” speak to us and direct our faith in action?

Pray together: Hosanna, we pray. Save us, Lord. Save us from ourselves, when we trip over pride, doubt, or fear. Save us from the systems that keep us bound, when we cannot see the way out. Save us from our sins, when we feel their weight pressing on our hearts. Remind us, O Lord, that crowds shouting “Hosanna” will soon be screaming, “Crucify him.” Save us we pray, O Lord, and do not let us be among them. Through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say: "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used: *Disciplines, A Book of Daily Devotions*
Feasting on the Word, Year A, A Worship Companion
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal
The Message, by Rev. Eugene Peterson