

SOJOURNERS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“A safe place to begin. A safe place to begin again.”

March 28, 2021

In the morning at 10:00am

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – “No Answer”

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH



“We are a community of faith called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in the way of Jesus, by including all peoples in all walks and ways of life, in our life of worship and celebration, nurture and growth, love and service.”

~ Covenant of Sojourners Congregation

your love, and with your change, so we might rely on your answers, here and now. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (*inspired by Psalm 31:9-16*)

Oh Holy God, we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the Palm Sunday parade. We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you sit beside us in our sheltering in locations.

We are too busy sighing and talking. We have insisted upon our own answers. We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things happen, about why the rich get richer, about why the world feels so broken.

We have assured ourselves that this is the way things must be, but this life is in your hands. Our lives are in your hands.

Dear God, speak to us and fill our silences. Comfort us with your love so we may find your understanding. Trust us to find your answers when we finally tire from our own. Save us, Dear God, with your steadfast love.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Rev. Karen Mann

God opens your ears. God speaks when you are silent. God approaches you in the Palm Sunday parade, in your sheltering in places, in your denial and in your praise. God will be your help, now and always. **Amen.**

Collections Cart

Rev. Karen Mann

This is the time the children usually collect donations of food for the food bank from the congregation. The Food Bank and other organizations still need your donations, perhaps [Blue Ridge Area Food Bank](#).

Time with Children

Kathy Doby

Contemporary Reading

Hisako Kinukawa *"If we want to dialogue with the Scriptures, we must expose ourselves to the political, social, economic, cultural, and religious situations of the ancient world where the writings were born and where the people did not necessarily enjoy peace and justice."*

Richard Rohr *"Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die."*

Special Music

"Freedom is Coming"

Sojourners Choir

South African freedom song, arranged by Anders Nyberg

The Palm Parade Mark 11:1-11

Rev. Karen Mann

They were looking for answers. So, they went to Jerusalem. They gathered in the streets to make a way for peace. On the other side of the city, there was another procession. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, rode into Jerusalem with an army of horses, armored soldiers and waving banners.

On the other side of the city, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus had sent two of his disciples to go into the village and find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. He instructed them, "If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They replied with the answer Jesus had given. "The Lord needs it," they said.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and Jesus sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who needed answers, those who had come looking for peace, began shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Come. Join in the parade, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.

Special Music

"Wondrous Love"

Jane and Tom Hansen

The Anointing Mark 14:1-9

Villette Griffin

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

They were looking for their own answers. They thought they knew how the world worked. While they worried, Jesus sat at the table in the house of Simon the leper. A woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. She did not reply. She continued with her task. She did what she could; she anointed his body beforehand for its burial. Jesus spoke, where she did not. "Truly I tell you," he said. "Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Come. Kneel beside her, Sojourners. Do not speak but remember what your own hands have done to proclaim the good news.

Silence [30 Seconds]

The Last Supper Mark 14:10-25

Ray East

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

They didn't understand his way. They didn't understand all that he taught but when it came time to share in the Passover feast, they turned to Jesus. On the first day of

Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, those looking for answers, those who came looking for peace, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man, the Human One, goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Human One is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Come join us on Easter Sunday. On that day, one week from today, we will invite you to find your place at the table, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.

The Garden

Mark 14:32-40

Maddie Hutter

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. They had no answers.

Come. Rest in the garden, you who are weary, you who don't have any answers.

Hymn (Instrumental)

I Must Tell Jesus

M. L. Morgan, Harmonicist

The Betrayal Mark 14:43-50

Meghan Wallace

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. He was confident in his own answer. He thought he knew how this must end. So, he had told the chief priests, the scribes and the elders, "Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." When he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. They had come looking for answers. They had come looking for peace. This wasn't the way. They didn't understand. And so, they deserted him and fled.

Come. Run into your fears, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.

Silence [30 Seconds]

The Arrest Mark 14:53-65

Bob Garrity

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. They did not have one answer. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

The chief priests, the elders and the scribes knew their answer. They thought they knew the ways of God. They thought they knew all that God could do. There was nothing that could convince them otherwise. They spit on him and blindfolded him. They beat him for the words he said.

Come. Listen to what God might be saying. Listen to what God might be doing that doesn't fit with everything that you have been taught about this world. Listen for God to speak.

Silence [30 Seconds]

The Denial Mark 14:66-72

Pastor Morgan

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." He answered, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Come. Join those who wander through courtyards, court rooms, streets and gardens. Join the crowds who have come looking for answers, looking for peace.

Hymn (Instrumental) "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" M. L. Morgan, Harmonicist

Invitation to the Offering Cindy Hoehler-Fatton
A special appeal for One Great Hour of Sharing

Dedication of the Offering
O Holy One, Bless these gifts so that the world may know your love even when we are silent. Amen.

The Doxology

Joys and Concerns *Rev. Karen Mann*
It is more important than ever to hold one another in prayer. If you are participating in this service at-home, we invite you to light a candle and remember your fellow Sojourners in prayer. If you are watching live from home, we invite you to leave a comment, on the "Chat" screen, with your joys or concerns, now. Please remember that this is a PUBLIC forum and can be seen by anyone.

Pastoral Prayer by Pastor Morgan

Closing Hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"
words by Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century; translated by John Mason Neale, 1854;
music by Melchior Teschner, 1615

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
The one called "God's Beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise,
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,

Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Closing Comments by Pastor Morgan

Benediction

Go into the world to find your voice, listening to what God will do.
Go into the world to find each other, reaching out when we need support.
Go into the world be amazed, knowing that God is always with us. **Amen.**

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