March 28, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Palm/Passion Sunday

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Song Leaders: Dan Steward and
Julie Clopper-Smith
Videographer: Nancy Taylor

Ministers: All of Aldersgate’s Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Keyboardist: Deanna Steward
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.
Prelude “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” — arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome (Julie)

Call to Worship (John)
Pastor: Cry “Hosanna” to the Christ who comes!
All: But wait: is this the One we were expecting?
Pastor: Shout “God saves” for the Christ who comes!
All: But why does he not take power right now? Why does he end up judged, not judging?
Pastor: Save us, O God, have mercy and save us.
All: Open to us the gates of righteousness.
Pastor: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!
All: Hosanna in the highest.
Pastor: Come and see the Christ we should follow!

Opening Prayer (John)
Pastor: O God, forgive us for cheering so loudly at the parade when we thought Jesus was going to win one for us. Also forgive us for fleeing quickly when our high hopes collapsed.
All: Deliver us from the worship of false values, and save us from selling the highest and best we know for a few pieces of silver. Strengthen us for the betrayals and disappointments we will face when we refuse to give in to the temptations that come to all who follow Jesus. In the name of Jesus we pray as a people of God. Amen.

Hymn #139 (red, vs. 1, 5) “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

Words: Joachim Neader, 1680; st. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
Music: Erneuerten Gaspangbuch, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (Joseph)
Pastor: Let us confess our lack of faith:
All: Lord God, we so often fall short of the people your Holy Spirit inspires us to be. We try to muster wisdom but ignore your words. We claim to love you, but often crucify your messengers, prophets and servants if they do not bring us blessing and good news. We are not worthy of your forgiveness, but we are afraid to be honest about our sins. Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: The message of Jesus’ death is forgiveness. People of God, live as people worth dying for, because that is who you are. Accept this forgiveness and give it away freely to a world that needs it.
All: Amen.
Prayers of the People, Answered Prayers and Lord’s Prayer #895 (red) (Joseph)

PASTOR: On this day the church hears Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and remembers the passion of our Lord, into which we are baptized. We follow Jesus on the road into Jerusalem recalling the love poured out for all. Having the mind of Christ, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, saying:

ALL: Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

PASTOR: For the whole church throughout the world, its bishops, clergy, and all the baptized and for those preparing for baptism. That they may faithfully continue to serve their Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

PASTOR: For peace among nations and forbearance among all people. May all God’s children knowing their common origin learn how to listen to one another, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

PASTOR: For the community of Aldersgate and Newman United Methodist Churches and our online viewers as we walk the road toward the cross, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus the pioneer of our faith, and hold on to our faith in all circumstances, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

PASTOR: For the weary, for the sick, for those who are consumed with sorrow, for the forgotten, for the isolated, for those in refugee camps, and for all who have commended themselves to us for any need, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

PASTOR: For all who are in harm’s way. For all who risk being a missionary or a Christian in lands that are hostile to Christian faith, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

PASTOR: Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught his disciples to pray saying:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn #278 (red, vs. 1, 3) “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.

3. "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!

WORDS: Jeanette Threlfall, 1873
MUSIC: Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle, 1784; adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

God’s Word Proclaimed (John) based on Mark 11:1-11

It was many, many days later that we disciples had any idea about what the procession with Jesus into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration meant.

We were so caught up with what Jesus had been telling and teaching us. As we walked that last stretch of our journey to Jerusalem and through the east-facing gate, Jesus seemed frustrated and impatient and more on edge with us, but he was also more focused and definite than we had ever seen him.

And then there was the way the details all fell into place – the donkey, the crowds gathering, people spreading their cloaks and leafy palm branches before him on the road, and the cheering: “Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

It was as though it had all been pre-arranged and carefully planned. Yet, we had been with Jesus every day, all day, 24/7! And it all happened at the same time as the Romans processed into Jerusalem through the other gate.

We had seen that procession before. That was the usual way for the powerful to enter Jerusalem for the Passover. The Roman rulers wanted to show their power, frighten people, to make sure no one took advantage and used a gathering of so many people to try to overthrow the Roman government. Pilate would enter first, on horseback. There would have been many, many soldiers parading in with him, some on horses, some on foot. The sound of their armor and weapons clanging would echo off the walls of the city’s buildings, mixing with the sound of hooves and feet marching and throwing clouds of dust into the air.

Our entrance into Jerusalem with Jesus was certainly another way, a different way, a way we had never imagined we’d see or be part of. We entered with enthusiasm and joy, hopeful and fearless. But we didn’t understand or even think about how important it was, how we were supporting another way, a different sort of power, and how it would disturb so many people. Despite the cruel Roman ways, most of us were far too afraid to stand up against the Roman rulers; everyone thought that meant fighting and bloodshed and death for us. No one, not any of us disciples, ever imagined another way to face the Romans, a way where one could stand up against them without armor or even a weapon in one’s hand, with peace and truth and love in one’s heart.

No one, that is, except Jesus.

Good News for Kids (Joseph)

Sermon (Joseph)  “Jesus Goes to a Parade Riding a Donkey”

1. Palm Sunday parade and other parades
   Jesus’ parade must have to do with what is going to happen rather than what has already happened.

2. Time for Messianic Secret is over now
   Palm Sunday is the right and ripe time for the announcement about who Jesus is and why he has come.

3. Our only question today: Will we shout with our lives, “Hosanna” OR
   Will we live our lives that shout, “Crucify him!”

4. Being a donkey for Christ’s use

5. The donkey needs to be untied before use
   Question: Are there ropes of addiction, anger, age, or prejudice; ropes of no time, other priorities and obligations holding me back from carrying Jesus around?

Prayer of Dedication (Joseph)

Dear Jesus, you put your life on a sacrificial altar withholding nothing from God and God’s work. Give us the courage to demonstrate, in whatever way we can, the willingness to trust God with our lives and our wealth, for everything we have is also from God. In your saving name, O Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Hymn #280 (red, vs. 1, 3, 5)  “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

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

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David’s royal Son,
who in the Lord’s name comest, the King and Blessed One.

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

3. The people of the Hebrews with psalms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present.
All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  

5. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.  
All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  

WORDS: Theodulph of Orleans, 8-9th cent.; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851  
MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

Prayer for Coronavirus Victims and Those Attending Them (John)

Commissioning and Blessing (John)  
PASTOR: Give thanks for God’s reign among us. Praise God, whose steadfast love endures forever.  
ALL: Hosanna in the highest heaven!  
We trust in God and seek to serve even as a donkey served Christ.  
PASTOR: May God who created you to honor him in what you say and do, bless you. In the name of God,  
the Creator, Jesus the Savior and Holy Spirit the Sustainer. Amen.  
ALL: Amen.

Postlude  
“All Glory, Laud and Honor” — arr. Austin North

Announcements

Today, March 28, 2021  
Palm Sunday  
9:30 a.m. Online Worship on www.aldersgatelinc.org or our Facebook page  
Limit of 10 in attendance.  
9:40a Youth Sunday School — zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069175128?pwd=Sm85R3VWMlhY0c53BoSkRBNUhuUT09  
Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128  
Passcode: 991876  
One tap mobile  
+16699006833,,88069175128#,,,0#,991876# US (San Jose)  
Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128  
Passcode: 991876  
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keeyuVYqao

11:00 a.m. Worship Watch Party — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates  
1:00 p.m. Virtual Coffee “hour” — zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUJ0ZjYrQjIyZHkoaTZvQzFMQT09  
Meeting ID: 812 243 946  
Password: 021075  
One tap mobile +12532158782,,812243946#,1#,021075# US (Tacoma)  
Dial by your location  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 812 243 946  
Password: 021075  
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFkfw3laD

1:30 p.m. A.R.M. Youth Group — zoom  
2:00 p.m. End The Statistic: An Anti-Human Trafficking Event — Facebook live  
2-3:30 p.m. Easter Family Fun Day — Camp Fontanelle
Tuesday
7:00 p.m.  Learning Key Result Team — zoom

Thursday  Maundy Thursday
8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Drive-thru Communion
2:30 p.m. Connected & Caring Prayer Meeting — zoom
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488353446pwd=YVRqT1Z3NncvSWFmekNIT3dWZFPpidz09
  Meeting ID: 814 8835 3446
  Passcode: 848320
  Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
  Meeting ID: 814 8835 3446
  Passcode: 848320
  Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbE5F9y7tN

Online Worship. Please have your communion elements available.

Friday  Good Friday
8:30 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Sunshine Room
Pastor Joseph’s Good Friday reflections — Facebook post

Next Sunday, April 4  Easter
9:30 a.m.  Worship and Communion — Worship Center and Online
9:40 a.m. Youth Sunday School — zoom
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069175128?pwd=Sm85R3VWMlhlVY0c5c3BoSkRBNUhvUT09
  Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128
  Passcode: 991876
  One tap mobile +16699006833,,88069175128#,,,,,0#,,991876# US (San Jose)
  Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
  Meeting ID: 880 6917 5128
  Passcode: 991876
  Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keeyuVYaqa
11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion — Worship Center
11:00 a.m. Worship Watch Party — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates
1:00 p.m. Virtual Coffee “hour” — zoom
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=cIRSQUIOZjYrQj1yZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09
  Meeting ID: 812 243 946
  Password: 021075
  One tap mobile +12532158782,,812243946#,,1#,,021075# US (Tacoma)
  Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
  Meeting ID: 812 243 946
  Password: 021075
  Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFkw3laD
1:30 p.m. A.R.M. Youth Group — zoom

Next Monday, April 5
Office is closed.

Tuesday, April 6
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  Election Day — Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 7
1:30 p.m.  Book Club Stella Bain by Anita Shreve — zoom