

New Milford United Methodist Church

Celebration of Palm Sunday | April 5, 2020 @ 9:30am



You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.

* **The order of service is** subject to change at the leading of **the Holy Spirit.**

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

✝ Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Please invite your friends to join our worship services on Facebook & share our livestream.

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Welcome

Prayer of Invocation [adapted from Circle of Grace by Jan Richardson]

✝ Opening Hymn #280

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

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]

✝ Call to Worship [© enfleshed]

Take heart! Love still lives and moves among us.

Love is alive among the people, ordinary and humble.

Love gathers our strength together and champions the vulnerable.

Love cries out for justice and multiplies our capacity for good.

Be still and remember –

the steadfast love that endures forever lives within each of us.

Thanks be to God, the source of all that saves us.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination [© enflashed]

***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.***

✠ Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11 (MSG)

The Royal Welcome

21 ¹⁻³ When they neared Jerusalem,
having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions:
“Go over to the village across from you.
You’ll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her.
Untie her and bring them to me.
If anyone asks what you’re doing, say,
‘The Master needs them!’ He will send them with you.”
⁴⁻⁵ This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:
Tell Zion’s daughter,
“Look, your king’s on his way,
poised and ready, mounted
On a donkey, on a colt,
foal of a pack animal.”
⁶⁻⁹ The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do.
They led the donkey and colt out,
laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted.
Nearly all the people in the crowd
threw their garments down on the road,
giving him a royal welcome.
Others cut branches from the trees
and threw them down as a welcome mat.
Crowds went ahead and crowds followed,
all of them calling out,
“Hosanna to David’s son!”
“Blessed is he who comes in God’s name!”
“Hosanna in highest heaven!”
¹⁰ As he made his entrance into Jerusalem,
the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking,
“What’s going on here? Who is this?”
¹¹ The parade crowd answered,
“This is the prophet Jesus,
the one from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

[Psalm 31:9-16 "Opening to You: Zen – Inspired translations of the Psalms", Norman Fisher]

Hymn of Response #185

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

1. When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!
 Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!
2. The night becomes as day when from the heart we say:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!
The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!
3. Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!
In heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!
4. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th' eternal song through all the ages long:
 May Jesus Christ be praised!

Prayer of the People & Lord's Prayer [adapted from Circle of Grace by Jan Richardson]

This blessing keeps nothing for itself.
You can find it by following the path of what it has let go,
of what it has learned it can live without.
Say this blessing out loud a few times
and you will hear the hollow places within it,
how it echoes in a way that gives your voice back to you
as if you had never heard it before.
Yet this blessing would not be mistaken for any other as if, in its emptying,
it had lost what makes it most itself.
It simply desires to have room enough to welcome what comes.
Today, it's you.
So come and sit in this place made holy by its hollows.
You think you have too much to do, too little time,
too great a weight of responsibility that none but you can carry.
I tell you, lay it down. Just for a moment, if that's what you can manage at first.
Five minutes. Lift up your voices—in laughter, in weeping, it does not matter—
and let it ring against these spacious walls.
[prayers of the people conclude with...]

**Do this until you can hear the spaces within your own breathing.
Do this until you can feel the hollow in your heart where something is letting go,
where something is letting go, where something is making way.**

***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.
Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

Invitation to Offering [© enfleshed]

Please consider making an offering online <https://bit.ly/NMUMCGive>

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

musical selection by Tim Smith

✝ **Doxology #95**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, Ye heavenly host; praise God, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Dedication [© enfleshed]

GOING FORTH

✝ **Closing Hymn #277**

"Tell me the Stories of Jesus"

1. Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.
2. First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.
3. Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

Commission & Benediction [© enfleshed]

When fear and sorrow draw near, we know our help comes from God.

We do not place our trust in the promises of the powerful.

We do not cling to the empty words
of those who do not care for the vulnerable.

We remember Love. We remember each other.

We remember that Christ lives in us.

With this departing commitment,
***may the peace that surpasses all understanding be in our hearts,
be in our homes, and be close to all who need it. Amen***

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Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC