

No Answer: Prayers for Palm & Passion Sunday April 14, 2019

Prelude:

Welcome

Chimes and Bell Call To Worship

Introit: #252 v.v. 1-2 "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Isaiah 50:4-9a*)

One: Come. Come seeking words.

All: **Come to let your tongue give praise.**

Come. Come to find your voice.

Come to hear the response.

Come. Come to open your ears.

Come to listen.

Come. Come to be healed by the silence.

Come to stand together.

Come. Come to approach what words cannot describe.

Come to find God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Come. Come O Holy One. Come through the streets.

Come into the house. Come to find a space beside us at the table.

Come to challenge our answers about

Why tragedy comes ... Why poverty increases Why we are afraid.

Come O Holy One. Speak to us in the silence

With wisdom greater than ours ... With love deeper than ours

With change wider than ours.

Come O Holy One. Fill in these stories with your wisdom with your love with your change so that we might rely on your answers. Here and now. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE: #213 "HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*inspired by Psalm 31:9-16*)

O Holy One, we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the parade.

We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you sit beside us at the table.

We are too busy sighing. We are too busy 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 that things must be, but this life is in your hands. Our lives are in your hands.

O Holy One, speak to us.
Fill our silences.
Comfort us with your love
so that we may find your understanding.
Trust us to find your answers
when we finally tire from our own.
Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God opens your ears.
God speaks when you are silent.
God approaches you in the parade and at table
in your denial and your praise to be your help.
Now and always. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: #215 *"RIDE ON! RIDE ON IN MAJESTY"*

THE PALM PARADE (STEVE BRUSE)

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

¹¹ When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

PROCESSION OF THE PALMS HYMN: *Pave the Way with Branches*

(SEE PP)

The Plot to Kill Jesus

14 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; ² for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

The Anointing at Bethany

³ While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, 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. ⁴ But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, 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.

Do not speak but remember what your hands have done to proclaim the good news.

Silence

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹ 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.

The Passover with the Disciples

¹² On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ 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?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶ So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ 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." ¹⁹ They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

²² 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." ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." ²⁵ 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. Find your place at this table,
you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.*

HYMN #346: "BREAD FOR THE WORLD"

THE STORY CONTINUES

THE GARDEN (MARTY WEPKING)

Mark 14:32-40

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ 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.

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

VIDEO: "PRAYER OF GETHSEMANE" [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=DYVYV9IRGJG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYVYV9IRGJG)

THE BETRAYAL (JUDY PROCHASKA)

Mark 14:43-50

⁴³ 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. ⁴⁴ 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." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ All of them deserted him and fled.

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

THE ARREST (SARAH WELBES)

Mark 14:53-65

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴ Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "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.'" ⁵⁹ But even on this point their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" ⁶² Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

*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.*

Silent Reflection:

THE DENIAL (DIANE RONDEAU)

Mark 14:66-72

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ 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." ⁷¹ But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷² 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.*

Prayers of the People
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

When you have no words, when you cannot find your voice,
God approaches. Let us reach out to our God.
Guided by the Holy Spirit, let us give our gifts.

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

*O Holy One,
Bless these gifts and our lives
So that the world may know your love
through these gifts and our lives. Amen.*

SENDING HYMN: *Journey to Gethsemane* v.v. 1-3

TNCH 219

BENEDICTION & RESPONSE

GO NOW IN PEACE

Revealed to Us: Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a budding spiritual director and wandering interim minister. She writes liturgies and shares her thoughts on cookingwithelsa.org.



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