

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Worship Leader: Alice Pace

Chancel: Shirley Keene

*Please rise in body or spirit

“Self-Giving”

Lent Six - Palm/Passion Sunday

Prelude *“The Holy City”* Hanna Noh

Palm Procession

Reader: Hear the story from Luke, Chapter 19! “People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying, ‘Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!’ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’ Jesus replied, ‘I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!’”

Centering Hymn *“Hosanna (Praise is Rising)”* – Paul Baloche

Welcome and Announcements

Over the Threshold

Leader: Mystic St. Francis of Assisi said this: O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek to be consoled, as to console. To be understood, as to understand. To be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

Together

**Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

As we approach the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week, we give thanks for a rich season of awe-filled practices. We have explored what it is to be “purveyors of awe”—those who advocate for more Beauty, Wonder, Meaning, Curiosity, Delight, and Connection. Today we discover that all of these elements lead not just to more “happiness,” but actually to self-less desire to contribute to making the world a better place.

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you
I want to see you**

A sense of awe can include witnessing acts of moral beauty.” Jesus entrance into Jerusalem was such an act as he continued his ministry of lifting up the cause of the lowly and advocating for the power of peace and justice. Research shows that when we witness with awe others kindness, courage, strength, and overcoming, we are more likely to feel inspired to give ourselves in service of the good. We become more self-giving, more ready to lend a helping hand or commit energy to making the world a better place. Let us rise in body and/or spirit and pray:

Awe-inspiring God,
we come together this day because we need to be reminded
to see through the lens of self-giving.
Too often, we think that life will be better if we just “get” more,
but you show us just the opposite—the awe-filled experience of giving more.
Open us to perceive anew.
Inspire us to receive the opportunities to give with awe.
Forgive us when we turn our back on parades of justice,
paths of grace, roads of mercy.
Be with us on this journey
as we seek again to marvel at your works.

together
**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

We can give ourselves to the cause at any moment and join the journey of Jesus.
God forgives us. Jesus embraces us. The Spirit enlivens us.
We are whole.
With awe, we accept this belovedness.
And all God’s people say, “**Amen.**”

The Peace
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

I invite you to share the peace of Christ with those around you, [remembering to greet those online with a wave to the camera].

Opening Hymn/Song

“Hosanna (Praise is Rising)” – Paul Baloche

Contemporary Reading

Reader: Our first reading is a contemporary one—an excerpt from Adam Hoffman, in an article called “How Awe Makes Us Generous” in the Greater Good Magazine:

In a study, participants consistently reported that awe produced a reduced sense of self importance relative to something larger and more powerful that they felt connected to...’ And subsequent analysis confirmed that this feeling of the ‘small self’ was responsible for their ethical behavior... experiencing awe prompts people to help others.”

Ancient Reading

Excerpt from Psalm 118 / Luke 19: 28-40

Reader: The biblical poets that we have heard in this “season of awe”—this season of Lent—have been quick to recognize and praise the mighty works of God, especially in deliverance from distress. A righteous and merciful God is the motivation for the people’s own acts of justice and mercy. Hear the poet’s words, which becomes the liturgy of the procession of Jesus as the people cried “Hosanna!” which means, “save us.”

*This is the day YHWH has made—
let us celebrate with joy!
Please, YHWH, please save us!
Please, YHWH, give us prosperity now!
Blessings on the one who comes in the name of YHWH!
we bless you from YHWH s temple!
YHWH is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!*

People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying, Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, Teacher, rebuke your

disciples!” Jesus replied, I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!” – Luke 19: 28-40

In Awe of Music (Choir Anthem) “Sing Hosanna to the King”

In Awe of the Word
“Self-Giving” Rev. Yohan Go

Approaching an Awesome God

During this Lenten season, we will take a brief moment each week to practice *Visio Divina* before sharing our joys and concerns. I invite you to embrace this practice as a way to recognize God's presence in every moment of our lives. As we reflect on God's nearness in our own journeys, let us also listen with care and sincerity to the joys and concerns of others, mindful that God is present in their stories as well.

Visio Divina

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Holy and Living God, we approach this time of prayer with increased desire to be a part of the goodness of this world. With all our senses, we open to you.

Give us lenses of awe with which to perceive and love others as you perceive and love us. We imagine in our mind's eye now the people in our lives, the people of our communities, and the people of our world. Each of them is beloved by you, and this alone creates awe in us. We especially lift up those who need our prayers in this moment... *[continue with prayers of thanksgiving and care for people].*

For all these people and those we name in our hearts,
Hear our prayer, Awesome God.

Give us lenses of awe with which to perceive and love your creation as you perceive and love it. Each exchange of photosynthesis, each drink of pure water, each taste of delicious food reminds us that self-giving is the way of nature. You are making all things new all around us. Help us to care for the nature around us. This week, we name... *[continue with prayers about specific entities of nature in your area].*

For all these places, creatures, and lifeforms, and those we name in our hearts,
Hear our prayer, Awesome God.

Give us lenses of awe with which to perceive and love life as you perceive and love the life you have given us. Open us to become a bigger part of your story of redeeming

love. Slow us down as we approach this Holy Week so that we might savor anew the gift of life. We pause in this silence, setting intentions of awe for the week ahead.

[pause in silence]

For all these intentions,
Hear our prayer, Awesome God.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

Lord's Prayer

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Prayer Response

*Words: Mark Hayes, used with permission.
("This is My Father's World")*

**You are a great and awesome God,
your wonders we proclaim.
You are our Rock, our Strength, our Shield,
from age to age the same.
You forgive us all our sins,
you transform us with your love.
In joyful, grateful, hearts we sing
you are a great and awesome God.**

Responding with Awe Offertory Solo

"The Palms" – Solo by Frank Rose

Doxology

**Praise God, Creator of us all,
Praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free,
Our awe is yours, the One-in-Three.**

Offering Prayer Rev. Yohan Go

Closing Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (UMH 298)

Leader: The events of Holy Week display an act of self-giving so poignant that it is a story told through the ages. We will also retell the story this week on Maundy Thursday at 5 p.m. at Zion and Good Friday worship at 7 p.m. at Asbury. The awe of our faith story leads us to be disciples of the one who advocated until death for the plight of the poor, the outcast, the lowly. Let us sing this Passion hymn.

We Go Forth with Awe

I invite you to open your palms in a position of receiving, as we have each week of Lent. Imagine a radiant stream of light from above shining upon you and everything else around you. Take a look around and know that the blessing of Christ's self-giving is for all people. And this week when you need to be reminded of Jesus' call to "go and do likewise" in the world, take this stance again. Open your palms to receive, look around to perceive, and be in awe that Christ's love emerges out of pain, and hope will have the last word.

And now may you go forth
remembering St. Francis' words:

"For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Be a purveyor of awe this week.
Look for the pain in the world and offer yourself in the ways you can,
and invite Christ to live and breathe new life in you.

May the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Awe,
the Holy One-in-Three,
be with you now and throughout these days,
Amen.

Postlude "Lift High the Cross" Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. The worship leader for Easter Sunday, April 20th is Becky Arnold.
2. **Annual Easter Egg Hunt.** The Christian Education Committee seeks donations of small bite-size wrapped candy and small toys that will fit in plastic Easter eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt will take place directly after Easter Worship Service on Sunday, April 20th. We will have at least 5 children. **We do NOT need any plastic eggs as we have loads already.** Donations should be

left in the Dahlquist Coffee Hour Room. Thank you in advance, Diane Newman-Goins & Billy McGovern - Christian Education Co-Chairs.

3. **Join Us for Holy Week Worship:** We invite you to walk with us through the sacred journey of Holy Week. Each service offers a unique way to remember and celebrate the life, love, and resurrection of Christ. Come, and bring a friend!
 - **Palm Sunday – April 13th at 9:30 a.m. (Asbury UMC)**
Let us enter Holy Week with songs of "Hosanna!" as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
 - **Maundy Thursday – April 17th at 5 p.m. (Zion KUMC)**
Join us for a fellowship dinner at 5 p.m., followed by a meaningful worship service at 6 p.m., including hand-washing and Holy Communion.
Please sign up in advance so Zion can prepare dinner accordingly.
 - **Good Friday – April 18th at 7 p.m. (Asbury UMC)**
Experience a meditative Taizé-style prayer service as we reflect on the depth of Christ's love and sacrifice.
 - **Easter Sunday – April 20th at 9 a.m. (Asbury UMC)**
Celebrate the resurrection together in joyful worship! Christ is risen—let us rejoice!

Birthdays

- 14th Paul Anderson
15th Andrew Hallam & Rev. Elisabeth Smith
16th Trevor Weigner
17th Carl Bishop Jr.

Flowers *The palms on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy Mitchell.*