

Asbury United Methodist Church

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MARCH 24, 2024

Worship Leader: Alice Pace

Chancel: Becky Arnold

* Please rise in body or in spirit

“Sit Up”

Lent 6

GATHERING UP

Music for Centering

Prelude “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” Hanna Noh

Palm Sunday Procession

PALM READING Luke 19:28-40

19:28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 19:29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 19:30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 19:31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" 19:32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 19:33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 19:34 They said, "The Lord needs it." 19:35 Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 19:36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 19:37 As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 19:38 saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" 19:39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." 19:40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Procession with Palm UMH 657 This Is The Day (twice)

Welcome and Asbury Mission Statement

We are Asbury! Abundantly thankful to God; Saved by Christ's resurrection; Blessed by God; United by Christ's love for each of us; Reaching out to our church family and our community; Yearning to tell the Good News to all by being Christ's voice, hands, and feet in the world.

Announcements

We Acknowledge What's Up

Confession/Assurance

"You Raise Me Up"

Leader: Make no mistake, the powers-that-be in Jerusalem sat up and took notice at the actions of Jesus and his motley crew of palm-waving followers on that morning. It was a show of the "power" of love and injustice for the "least of these," in stark juxtaposition to the military might of the Roman rulers. It was a non-violent action featuring a man sitting on a donkey — an action that has offered hope throughout the ages. Will we sit up and take notice of the injustice of this world and work to eradicate it in ways that honor that first Palm Sunday parade?

**When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary
When troubles come and my heart burdened be
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence
Until You come and sit awhile with me**

**You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be**

Leader:

Let us pray together:

**Peace-loving God, our first instinct in fighting oppression
is often to take up weapons,
utter fighting words, and lash out with vitriol.
But Jesus demonstrated humility and patience,
even against his mortal enemies.
In this moment of quiet, we lift up to you
those things we'd like to give up for good...
for the sake of The Good.**

Meditative Moment

Leader: Hear assurance in what the Psalmist proclaims:

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever." . . . Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the

gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. . . . Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and God has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever. (*Psalm 118, excerpts*)

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God, Amen!

I invite you to stand as you are comfortable.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be

The Peace

As a people forgiven and freed,
we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ.
Peace be with you!
And also with you!

You are invited to share the Peace with those around you [remembering to send your peace through the camera to those worshipping remotely].

Opening Hymn/Song with Procession of Palms *"We Are Marching in the Light of God" (TFWS 2235-b)*

FILLING UP

Psalm 31:9-16

31:9 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. 10 For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. 11 I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. 12 I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. 13 For I hear the whispering of many-- terror all around!-- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. 14 But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." 15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. 16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Music for Soaring (Choir)
“Sing Hosanna to the King”

The Word Uplifts

Scripture

John 12: 12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

Song of Illumination

UMH#454 Open My Eyes, That I May See vs1

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!

Sermon “Sit Up!” Rev. Yohan Go

BUILDING UP

Up to Something Good

Prayers of the People

“Let My Prayer Rise Up”

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

Leader: We are watching, O God, for signs of your gentle presence in the midst of insurmountable systems of oppression. We remember the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey as a symbol of hope that endures in this age of violence. Especially in these times of heightened anxiety and fear, we pray that we can be “up to

something good” for our selves, our neighborhoods, and our world. And so this week we start with thanksgiving for these acts of uplifting goodness:

Sharing Joy

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

Sharing Concerns

Leader: We call upon you, O God, to incline your ear and extend your love and healing power for these laments:

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Yohan Go

We call upon you, O God, to give us the strength and courage to be up to something good for the sake of The Good. In this moment — in our mind’s eye — we imagine and offer our commitment to one small thing this week that will lift someone up, elevate and affirm the good when we see it, and bring a bit more calm or joy where we are. And if we find we are not up to it, we pray we can accept the goodness of others and feel your encouraging love.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

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.

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

Uplifting Messages of Support

Offering/Offertory

Offertory Music

"The Palms" by Jean-Baptiste Faure

Doxology

"What R U Up 2 for My Sake?"

What are you up to for my sake?

What are you up to "for the Good?"

Would you come now, follow, join up?

Let us take up, wake up anew,

Let us build up, fill up with you!

Let us lift up

the gifts we raise up.

For the sake of,

for the shape of,

heaven on earth.

Offertory Prayer Rev. Yohan Go

Spirit of Gentleness, we offer up not only the gifts we share today
but the whole of our lives as we join the procession
of all those who have toiled for justice through non-violence.
Bless these gifts for your work in creating a more peaceful world.

LIVING IT UP

Closing Hymn/Song

"Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)" –vs. 1, Chorus x2

Blessing for the Journey

And so now go into the world,
committed to peaceful acts of resistance,

sitting up and paying attention to the quiet symbols of God's uplifting presence,
knowing that even in the midst of crushing oppression,
you have all you need to be up to something.

When someone asks you, "What are you up to?"
you can respond,
"With God's help, I'm up to something good!"

Let the people say, Amen!
Amen!

Music for Movin' on Up

Postlude "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" Hanna Noh

1. **Lakewood Baptist Church** will host a **fundraising concert** for local foodbank today at 6:30 P.M.

2. Holy Week Worship information

Palm Sunday (24th) at 9:30 a.m. at Asbury

Maundy Thursday Service(28th): Fellowship dinner at 6:00 p.m. Worship at 7:00 p.m at Zion KUMC

Good Friday Worship Service(29th) at 7:00 p.m. at Asbury

Easter Service(31st) at 9:30 a.m. at Asbury.

3. Most of you have noticed **the bright blue food pantry** on the front lawn. This is an Eagle Scout Service Project. Please do not leave ANY items in the pantry at this time. Canned goods and game donations for the pantry is on hold until signage is up. Trevor is working on signs and has repaired the front door. When donations do start canned goods and small games will be the only donations allowed.

4. We are looking for a **leadership team for a Tea Party**. If you would like to help or share ideas, contact Andrea Dunn!

5. Worship leader March 31st – Carl Bishop Jr.

Birthdays

24th Beth Bradbury, Sarah Gibbs, Carolyn Whitney

26th Jan Jones

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