

March 28, 2010, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship - Palm Sunday

"I see the God in you. I greet the God in you."

Bill Wallace, New Zealand

As we gather for worship,
please introduce yourself to those around you.
There are no strangers in God's house.

PALM PROCESSIONAL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here We Are To Worship

Tim Hughes

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

(Refrain)

Here we are to worship, here we are to bow down,
Here we are to say that You're our God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to us.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Refrain x 2

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WELCOME

TIME WITH CHILDREN

♥ (Children are invited to hear God's word in their classes.) ♥

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

One: Joy is ours; the exultant crowds welcome Jesus.

All: Sorrow is ours; we know the crowds will cry out, "Crucify him!"

One: Joy is ours; the disciples are caught up with enthusiasm for their leader.

All: Sorrow is ours; the disciples will desert their leader at his moment of need.

One: Joy is ours; we sense the power of the triumph of good over evil.

All: Sorrow is ours; we realize the huge cost, which is symbolized by the cross.

One: Let us worship God.

SUNG RESPONSE (from The Servant Song)

We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are travelers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

All: We are chosen...

Chosen to proclaim the wonderful work of God
Who has called us out of darkness
Into God's marvelous light.
Once we were no people:
Now we are God's People.
Once we didn't know God's mercy: With open hearts we wait for
God's love and mercy to be fulfilled! Amen.

OPENING SONG (see insert) All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: Do you not recognize the Bethlehem baby, who arrived to the singing of anthems and slept in the silence of awe?

All: The baby who inspired the joy of the angels and kindled the hope of the peoples? Glory to you in the highest, and peace to all on earth!

One: Do you not recognize the temple youth, who questioned the answers of sages and answered the questions of teachers?

All: The youth who amazed the minds of the elders and astonished the hearts of his parents? Glory to you in the highest and peace to all on earth!

One: And do you not recognize the Nazareth prophet, who proclaimed release to the captives and demanded relief for the poor?

All: The prophet who preached salvation for our foes and was thrown out of our city? Who is he to be glorified? How can he be the Chosen One?

One: And do you not recognize the Jewish messiah, who was anointed king by a woman's hand, who established the kingdom for servants and sinners?

All: The messiah who sleeps in the house of outcasts and feasts at the table of fools? Who is he to be glorified? How can he be the Chosen One? O God, tell us: How can we hail this carpenter-king or honor this day that has swept us away?

---Time for silent reflection---

One: People of God, put your hope in God, for God offers us love that never fails, life that never ends.

All: We wait for God, and God does not show up late, God's hope, God's love, God's grace are forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERTORY SONG

Be Thou Near To Me

David Grow

O Lord, I come with heart here open,
For in my hour of darkness I may be ~
Seeking the joy of love unspoken,
O Lord, be Thou near to me.

Refrain:

And the holy voices sing Hallelujah!
Ever will Thy reign be.
As I wander through this life,
O Lord, be Thou near to me.

Though in this burden of my making,
Yet in the shadows still a light I see.
Maker whose love is not forsaken,
O Lord, be thou near to me.

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DOXOLOGY

We thank you God for all you have given.
Now we return a portion to you -
For all that we have, and all that we are,
We bring our gifts, and thank you God for life.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:12-19

CEV

The next day a large crowd was in Jerusalem for Passover. When they heard that Jesus was coming for the festival, they took palm branches and went out to greet him. They shouted, "Hooray! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a donkey and rode on it, just as the Scriptures say, "People of Jerusalem, don't be afraid! Your King is now coming, and he is riding on a donkey."

At first, Jesus' disciples did not understand. But after he had been given his glory, they remembered all this. Everything had happened exactly as the Scriptures said it would. A crowd had come to meet Jesus because they had seen him call Lazarus out of the tomb. They kept talking about him and this miracle. But the Pharisees said to each other, "There is nothing that can be done! Everyone in the world is following Jesus."

SERMON

The Rev. Jana R Reister

FOCUS SONG (see insert)

Who Am I

Mark Hall

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG (see insert)

Lord Reign In Me

Brentan Brown

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today's liturgy:

Gathering: Adapted from David Sparks, Prayers to Share, Year B; Renewing the Covenant: Adapted from Litanies & Other Prayers For the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C and Lectionary Worship Aids, Series VIII, Cycle A.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

CHURCH STAFF (513-321-2573)

Mr. John Adams, Ext. 109Church Administrator
Mr. David Annett, Ext. 107Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Mrs. Jan Annett, 871-2399Director of Stephen Ministry
Ms. Christina HaanOrganist
Mrs. Marie George, (321-9228)Co-Director of Knox Preschool
Mrs. Laura Johnson (321-9228)Co-Director of Knox Preschool
Mrs. Renché le Roux, Ext. 110Financial Secretary
Mr. John W. Plattner, 221-7997Clerk of the Session
Rev. Jana Reister, Ext. 106Associate Pastor
Dr. Earl G. Rivers, Ext. 113Director of Music
Mrs. Pam Ward, R.N, Ext. 108Faith Community Nurse
Rev. Thomas D. York, Ext. 104Pastor
Ms. Tiffany Zents, Ext. 111Church Educator
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