

Willow Springs Worship March 28, 2021 LENT #6, Palm Sunday

FOCUS - As we follow Jesus into Holy Week, we sense the rush of the crowds and seek the deep, steady current of God's steadfast love, calling us to deep hope in the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Thematic Slide Show

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: In the current of life, God calls us to deep hope.

Many: God wakens my ear, and I turn to God.

I do not turn toward those who strike me.

I do not hide my face from insult.

One: God helps us, so let us stand up together.

Many: Save us, O Lord! Bind the festival procession with branches. You are our God.

We give thanks, for you are good, and your steadfast love endures.

One: Many shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!"

Many: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Song

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

One: We confess the rapid pace of life that sweeps us off our feet
into whirlpools of expectations,
into eddies of busy distractions.

We confess our need for a steadfast stream of your grace
enduring forever,
saving us.

(Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep hope.)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep hope.

We come to you, God.

Song

Children's time

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9, Matt. 21:1-10

Sermon: Flint Face:

the Edge of Hope the Power of Truth and Love

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering our lives/song

Announcements

April 1 – Maundy Thursday worship service, 7:00 pm via zoom. Reflect on the hands and feet of those who have served you recently or in ways you have served. Have some elements ready for communion at home with the group together in the Spirit.

April 4 – Easter Worship, 10:00 am, via Zoom.

SENDING BLESSING

Through the current of the crowd, Jesus came. The shouts swelled, blurred, and hurried, but he remained calm. It is easy to be swept up in a changing current. May we see the current for what it is and be centered in deep hope. Go in the knowledge that the current of the crowd was not the end of the story, but led to a new beginning. May hope in the kingdom of God be with you always. Amen.

* * *

Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

⁵The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.

⁶I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

⁷Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!

⁹It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.
Who will condemn me?

They will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will eat them up.

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵"Say to Daughter Zion,

 'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" ⁶

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna ¹⁰to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" ¹¹

"Hosanna ¹²in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

¹¹The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."