

Willow Springs Worship

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Call to worship – Esther Johnson

based partly on Luke 19:38

One: As we worship this Palm Sunday, Christ collides with our expectations.

Many: **Have we not collided enough?**

One: In deep compassion, our Lord sets out a mission of full life.

Many: **Form us fully, Jesus.**

One: “Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Many: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.”**

All: *Our Lord, it is time for you to work in and with us as we worship you!*

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Confession and words of assurance

All: *Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.*

One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Many: **We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.**

One: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: **We cling to our expectations, and we do not make space for you to challenge them.**

All: *We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us let go of our narrow expectations so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.*

One: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God’s image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Song – VT 512 Let the Children Come

Children’s time – Ellen Davis-Zehr

Scripture – Luke 19:29-42 NIV

Sermon – Richard Blackburn

“Would That You Knew the Things that Make for Peace”: The Entry into Jerusalem in Art

Songs

VT 315 All Glory Laud and Honor

Sharing and prayer – Ellen Davis-Zehr

Song

Announcements

Sending – As we journey, Jesus collides with our expectations. Think kingdom thoughts! Welcome our Savior! Go, growing peace!

Sending Song – VT 568 Christ Has No Body Here but Ours

Calendar

April 16	Elders meeting, 7:00 pm
April 17	Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 pm
April 20	Easter Sunday: Worship through singing
April 27	Input by Bryan Miller

Thank you to Richard Blackburn for bringing the message today!

The theme for today, Palm Sunday, is Christ Collides with Our Expectations. The disciples believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the real king who would put an end to Roman rule through military force. To the Pharisees, Jesus was a

troublemaker who blasphemed God, falsely claimed to be God, and claimed to have God's authority. They believed they still had control over him. The people expected everything to continue as usual, without any disruptions. Some hoped that life would remain comfortable, while others likely felt hopeless, as if the status quo they were locked out of would never change. Expectations were about to be upended by the collision of Christ's reality. We can learn to develop better expectations through increased knowledge and experiences with Christ. How can we develop an expectation that Christ's reality will surprise, collide, and transform us?

Lent themes so far: Christ Collides with Our... Bias, Condemnation, Priorities, Selfishness, Blindness, and Expectations.

Lent-at-Home: Christ Collides, a free downloadable Lenten devotional from Mennonite Education Agency | [Download it here](#).

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for March/April is Mennonite Central Committee ([MCC](#)). If you would like to give to the organization, write a check to Willow Springs and **make a notation on the memo line**. Thank you for supporting organizations ministering to many.

Our Maundy Thursday service is on April 17 at 6:00 pm. We will reflect on the Last Supper through singing, drama, communion, and foot washing. Please sign up to bring food to share for supper.

3/16 transitional pastor update: Pastor Phil Waite will join us in mid-July, to assist as we discern what comes next for Willow Springs. This process will require time, thought and energy. We hope all of you will be willing to put in this energy. We have work ahead of us! If you have questions about this process, please talk with one of the Elders.

If pastoral care is needed, please contact an Elder: Dale Bachman, Ellen Davis-Zehr, Pam Kaufmann, or Elvin Krabill

Luke 19:29-42 NIV

29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, **30** "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. **33** As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. **36** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"^[a]

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it **42** and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.