

## **Palm Sunday Livestream Worship Program**

**April 5, 2020**

**Rev. Abbie Huff**

WELCOME AND (SOCIALY DISTANCED) LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Follow along with the program linked on the “Connect with God” page where you watch the livestream, directly above the livestream.

### **Continued - No In-Person Worship**

As you might have guessed, Session has decided we will continue to worship remotely for another month, and at our next session meeting, at the end of April, we will again assess where we are in all of this.

### **Palm Sunday Zoom Fellowship**

Join us after this worship Livestream on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. The link can be found in an email that was sent Friday, or email me to request it after this service - I hope you can drop in and we can see some friendly faces.

### **Holy Week**

Maundy Thursday by Zoom - celebrate communion

Good Friday self-guided

Easter Sunday Sunrise service 6:30 a.m. - Go somewhere you can watch the sun rise.

Easter Sunday 10:30 Livestream followed by Zoom hymnsing

### **Thank You for Giving**

Thank you to those who have continued to send in their pledges as well as given additional donations to serve the most vulnerable in our community during this time. And a reminder, you can still mail in a check, you can set something up with your bank to do automated giving, or you can use the Zelle app or the paypal button on the website. I've included a link and brief instructions on the connect with God page above the livestream window.

### **Sunday School Lessons and Activities**

Parents of Sunday School age kids, look for an email from Patty Zollinger with some fun things to do for Palm Sunday.

### **Choir**

If you want to give it a try, David Morgans Sanchez, our music director has some parts of songs recorded and sent out for you to practice. This is a great, non-intimidating way to try out what it's like to be part of the choir.

### **Germonds Cemetery**

Take a walk in the Germonds cemetery anytime, it is beautiful. A good place for socially distanced walks.

### SETTLING

Let us settle in to this time of worship.

### TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

- Difficult time - a lot of anxiety and stress.
- This is a good time to practice being your best self. Patient, sharing, kind, a good listener, creative, joyful.
- The bible says we don't need to be anxious - it's all gonna be ok.
- God walks with us through our hardest times.
- Teach five finger prayer. Maybe you've learned one similar.
- These are the different things we can pray about - thanks, praise, confession, petition (prayers for loved ones, friends, people in this world who need our help), ourselves (that we might learn to be more like Jesus - this world needs more people like Jesus).
- Your prayers are important. They make a difference.
- Let's all pray together.

### OPENING PRAYER

Before we begin with prayer, I would like to share with you a note from the deacons. I will be emailing this out as well.

*At each meeting the Deacons of Germonds spend time in reflection and prayer. We discuss how we can best address the needs of our congregation. Often it is with a meal, card or an assist to a doctor's appointment. Pastor Abbie and the Deacons keep a list of these needs – The Prayer Chain.*

*During these difficult times, the list of people that we have been asked to pray for, increases almost daily. We ask that the entire Germonds family join us in our daily devotions. Pray with us for the needs that your friends find most pressing.*

*Health issues:*

*The struggles of loved ones with cancer, brain tumor, kidney failure, blood transfusion, leukemia, back injury, chronic pain, migraines, depression, intestinal issues, vision and hearing loss, and chemo therapy effects.*

*Separation:*

*Parents in nursing facilities, those suffering with Alzheimers. Church members who are mourning the loss of close friends and family. People that they want to comfort, but due to the virus, are forced to distance themselves from.*

And on a personal note, I have a friend, who heads up the pastoral care department at a hospital, and she has specifically asked for *your* prayers. As the chaplains try to comfort families who are not allowed to be physically present with dying loved ones, as they break difficult news to families, as they seek to bring hope and peace in the midst of what she has called “a war zone.” Keep them in prayer. And as always, keep the healthcare workers, who are every day putting their lives on the line, in your prayers, as well as all the other “essential workers” who are keeping us fed and safe in this difficult time.

Let us pray. God of life and death, God whose steadfast love endures forever, we lift up our prayers to you. We lift our voices with prayers of thanksgiving - for this day, for loved ones, our bodies and our breath. This morning we honor you as the Creator and maker of this world’s interdependent life and breathtaking creation. We lift up prayers of confession, acknowledging where we have come up short, lost our patience, or been scared or stingy. Forgive us Lord; give us generous, patient hearts in this time of trial. We lift up to you our prayers of petition. That you would heal and hold and comfort and strengthen all the concerns of our congregation, of our neighborhoods, of our world. Help us all to help one another as we make our way through this season of isolation and fear. Lord, we know you hear our every prayer, you listen and draw near to us when we pray. May you fill our spiritual wells, that we might have strength for others. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

A Joyful Noise Choir

*Shalom*

I will play it now, but if you would like to go back and listen again, there is a link for it on the Connect With God page, above where you clicked to watch this livestream.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 118:25-29

25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.<sup>[a]</sup>

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God,

and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,

up to the horns of the altar.<sup>[b]</sup>

28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God, I will extol you.

29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

## SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:1-11

**11** When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples **2** and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” **4** They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, **5** some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” **6** They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. **7** Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. **8** Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. **9** Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

MESSAGE

BENEDICTION

Below is a self-guided prayer for the community. I encourage you to copy and paste it, print it off - use it as you go into the community (alone) this week, praying for the places and people who keep our neighborhoods going.

### **A Prayer for Our Communities Beyond Distance and Quarantine**

- Rev. Gretchen N. Sausville, March 17, 2020

**Premise:** *As I pondered the past Sunday in a new way, I thought about all the communities I have served, nationally and internationally, urban and suburban, and what those communities all have in common. I then considered the connection that comes from prayer as a way for individuals and households to be in and for the world, while being distanced from one another.*

*This Community Prayer is intended to be done by driving, walking, biking, or from a kitchen table. It is meant to allow us to leave our personal place of loneliness, fear, and isolation, and remember we are a part of something much greater.*

*Consider the community where you live, and then plan a route to these places. Maybe venture out to all 12 places in a day, or choose 1 place every day.*

### **A House of Worship**

O Divine Presence, You have many names and your creation cries out to you in all the languages of the earth. Bless this House of Worship and its people. May we remember that we are all connected in the divine plan of your world. Help us help each other, no matter the creeds we speak or the mantras we meditate upon. May our words ever be “loving kindness.” Amen.

### **A Community/Recreation/Senior/Social Service Center**

We pray, Infinite Spirit, for the safe haven of these walls and for those who come here to connect in body, mind, and spirit. We pray for the staff and the many services they provide, for their well-being in this time of sickness and closure. We pray for its patrons, who dream and long for the return of community, of laughter, of athleticism, of acceptance. We pray that all may be seen and heard while being absent from one another. Amen.

### **A School or Library**

Within the mortar of brick and reflection of glass, in the bookcases of mystery and science fiction, and from the lips of storytellers and historians, we find ourselves. We remember our favorite teachers, our favorite books with weather-worn pages; we remember the stomp of shoes and the excitement of a new lesson learned. Bless our teachers of the past, and bless students of every age. May we remember that we are never too old to learn a new thing. Amen.

### **A Police/Fire/Rescue Squad Station**

“Look for the helpers”, said Mr. Rogers and so we look to you, and pray for you, those of you on the front lines of emergencies day after day. From fires and flat tires, to animal rescues and flat lines, you respond to us with courage and compassion. May we continue to help each other in all circumstances. Amen

### **A Medical Practice**

It is not easy to work here; and yet every day you come, no matter the weather, no matter what is happening in the world, to care for all creation. You tend our bodies and minds, our eyes or feet, even our teeth, and maybe even our pet’s teeth. You place our needs above yours, and you work to make us healthier. We pray for your health, safety, and spirit on this day, and that of your patients, too. Amen.

### **A Place where *food* is purchased, cooked, stored, or shared**

We know that bread is life; and yet for many, they wonder from where their bread will come. We know that many go hungry even though there is an abundance to be found. We pray that all may have enough to eat and drink today, tomorrow, and always. We pray for those whose livelihood is food that they may continue to cook, and share, and live by bread. Amen.

### **A Local Business**

You are a staple in our community, you who have been here for three generations and you who have only just begun. You add color and life to our community: You fix cars and shoes; you sell amazing wine and bake delicious cupcakes; and you have been the best tax person anyone could ever ask for. Your small businesses are what make Saturdays fun and remind us that anything and everything is possible. So, we pray for you, the strong and mighty pioneer of local pride. Amen.

### **A Park/Green Space**

Spring dawns with her buzz cut of green and her full body of color and texture. The birds return their songs to her, the sun bows and the moon adorns her with diamond skies. Spring parks herself on a bench beside the tulips, and she inhales. The scent of color calls forth “thank you,” “bless you,” “Blessed bee”. In this place, Spring is stung by the beauty and the fragility of our environment. She prays to all that will hear, “Bless the bees of the field, the flowers of the field, and the sweet honeycomb. Blessed are all things that come from the earth.” Amen.

### **A Cemetery**

As the cycles of life change us from birth to death, we remember all who came before, all who walked this road, all who journey with us, and we honor them. Whether or not they are here in this hallowed ground, they are here among the humble and not so humble who have gone before us. We come to thank them, the unknown and the unnamed, and say “thank you”. You remind us that we are given this one organic body and this one amazing life, and we are named *Beloved*. May we live fully, create beautifully, and remember that we are dust of the heavens and of the earth. We honor you, and your families who grieve and celebrate you. Thank you, well done, good and faithful ones. Amen.

### **A Care Facility (child, senior, recovery, rehab)**

Care comes in many forms, and your caregiving is a gift. You may be a saint with children and a gem with elders, you may be a wise one with those who need a new way home. Big decisions are made here for the welfare of each resident. You care! Care comes thru smiles, laughter, handshakes, silly songs, and solid conversations. How lucky we are to receive care from you. We lift up your goodness and patience and perseverance for the care of all God’s people. Amen.

### **Your Neighborhood**

This is my exit and my street. The dog howls, the children swing, the dads dwell in deep thoughts, the moms time out, the widow makes her way to the Apple Store and the widower Snapchats her later, after his grandchildren have showed him the way. My neighborhood, where I see the Divine in all I meet. Some of my neighbors have always lived here, some are brand new,

some I have never met, I must rectify that. I pray for my neighborhood, my street, my microcosm of community, the loud man, the noisy car, and the dog that signs his name on my part of the side walk. I love my neighborhood in sickness and in health. I do. Amen.

### **Your Home**

I've lived here long enough to know, I would love it or hate it. But this home is mine by the grace of family and friends, by the grace of the right deal at the right time, by the grace of the One called God/Parent/Creator. This home in this neighborhood is where I dream and cry, where I write my memoir and share my life. This home, whether it is my body, my house, or the place I long to find in a dream, may I see it safe, secure, and strong . . . so that future generations may say "Home is safe, secure, and strong." May it be so. Amen.