



The United Church of Bethel

An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

March 28th Palm Sunday, 2021

Tom Harty – Pastor

Becky Kondi- Keyboard & Vocals, Larry Noble – Guitar & Vocals,

Seth Stoddard Technical Director

♠= Please Stand If you Are Able

All Prayers and Service Music are Found in the Folders in the Music Racks

Centering & Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Greeting and Responsive Call to Worship

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give him thanks and praise

Come. Come seeking words.
Come to let your tongue give praise.

Come. Come to find your voice.
Come to hear the response.

Come. Come to open your ears.
Come to listen.

Come. Come to be healed by the silence.
Come to stand together.

Come. Come to approach what words cannot describe.
Come to find God.

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

♠ Hymn NCH 229 Where You There?

Prayer of Confession

O Holy One, we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the parade.
We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you sit beside us at the table.
We are too busy sighing. We are too busy talking.
We have insisted upon our own answers.
We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things happen,
about why the rich get richer, about why the world feels so broken.

We have assured ourselves that this is the way that things must be,
but this life is in your hands. Our lives are in your hands.

O Holy One, speak to us.

Fill our silences.

**Comfort us with your love
so that we may find your understanding.**

Trust us to find your answers

when we finally tire from our own.

Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God opens your ears.

God speaks when you are silent.

God approaches you

in the parade and at table

in your denial and your praise

to be your help.

Now and always. Amen

Passing of the Peace

Psalm 118

R: The Righteous Shall Enter the Gates of God

✦ Gloria Patri

Choral Anthem

✦ Gospel Mark 11:1-11

✦ Hymn 215 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✦ Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

✦ Hymn NCH 216 All Glory laud and Honor

✦ Choral Benediction

Postlude

(Please remain seated for a period of quiet meditation and appreciation for the music our worship team provides.)

Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

Our Faith is 2000 Years Old; Our Thinking is Not.

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

The Righteous shall enter the gates of God!

1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

The Righteous shall enter the gates of God!

21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

The Righteous shall enter the gates of God!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
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.

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.

The Righteous shall enter the gates of God!

GOSPEL

Mark 11:1–11

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.

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