

Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship “With the Waving of Palms” Choir

*Hymn “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” 278

Proclamation of the Entry into Jerusalem Matthew 21:1-11 Page 26 (N.T.)

Opening Prayer
(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided)

*Psalter Psalm 31:9-16 764-765
Anthem “In Remembrance of Me” Choir

Proclamation of the Passion Story Matthew 26:17 – 27:2, 11-61 Pages 33-36 (N.T.)

Sermon “Triumph to Tragedy: Misguided Expectations” Rev. John Jordan

*Affirmation of Faith “Apostles’ Creed” 881

*Gloria Patri “Glory Be to the Father” 70

Pastoral Prayer
Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 95

*Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” 286

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response “May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You” Choir
May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever,
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God’s face and God’s grace forever,
May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

Pastor: John D. Jordan Time Together: Mary Louise Robinson
Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Director: Marie Stiles
Church Musician AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor’s tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers. An **INFANT AND TODDLER NURSERY** is provided during the worship hour. Parents: please ask an usher for assistance.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

TODAY’S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the ***Glory of God.***

**“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS
MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...**

Patsy Zeigler Becky Derrick Cristen Hipp Dale Wells Patsy Shuler Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis Steve Aiello Kaye Floyd John Ballentine Dan Greshel
Jack Stevens Kathy Aiello

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Georgeann Pace; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; George Taylor

Family and Friends: **Doug Coates; Lauren Edwards** (*granddaughter of Hilda Edwards*); **Andrea Johnson, Gary Spence** (*former members*); **Gloria Erd** (*friend of Lynn Martin*); **Pearl Geddens** (*mother of Tom Geddens*); **Beverly Lipscomb** (*sister-in-law of John Jordan*); **Ross Deal** (*grandson of Mary Kamoroff*); **David Williamson, Nancy Wilson, Jimmy Dawkins** (*friends of Jeanette Hornsby*); **David Turner** (*brother of Pam Turner*); **Chip Mixon** (*friend of Tommy Gleaton*); **Ron Walker** (*friend of Tommy & Chris Gleaton*); **Merit Takach** (*friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson*); **Frankie Hendrix** (*cousin of Billy Pearson*); **James Boggs** (*father of Claire Boggs*); **Stacy Coggins** (*daughter of Steve Aiello*); **Dan & Leslie White** (*brother & sister-in-law of Steve White*); **Mary Ann Rentz** (*stepmother of Marty Johnson*); **Alva Humphries** (*friend of Marty Johnson*); **Bill Areheart** (*friend of Bonnie Ramsey*); **Hayley Beaudoin** (*niece of Edwa Meek*); **Addie Kinard** (*cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek*); **Chip Hooker** (*Wayne Hooker's father*); **Robert Bradley** (*Business Associate of Simon Ross*); **Gary Becton** (*friend of Mark Branham*); **Florence Lee Carter, Monnie Tiller** (*friends of Chris Derrick*); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (*stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey*); **Alexa Lookingbill, Lynn Presley** (*wives of coworkers of Kathy White*); **Teddy Derrick** (*uncle of Arvan Derrick*); **Haidee Baehr** (*friends of Ruth Frady*); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (*cousins of Gale Frady*); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (*friends of Gale Frady*); **Wayne Blair** (*son of Dot Johnson*); **Walt & Janet Beck** (*friends of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Adam Lavender** (*son of Phil Lavender*)

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 03/26 Sunday School 13 Morning Worship: 39

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/26 \$ 6,997.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

TODAY Holy Week Service @Mt. Hebron UMC, 6 p.m.

04/03 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Deadline for Donations In Lieu of Lilies

Holy Week Service @ Cayce UMC, 6 p.m.

04/04 Holy Week Service @ Brookland UMC, 6 p.m.

04/05 Holy Week Service @ Shiloh UMC, 6 p.m.

Choir, 6 p.m.

T.a.G., 7 p.m.

04/06 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service @ Trinity, 6 p.m.

04/16 Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Readings for Easter Sunday

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:14-29

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10



All Holy Week Services will begin at 6 p.m. Holy Week Offerings will go to God's Helping Hands.

Sunday 04/02 Mt. Hebron UMC
Monday 04/03 Cayce UMC
Tuesday 04/04 Brookland UMC
Wednesday 04/05 Shiloh UMC
Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity, 6 p.m.
Easter Sunrise Service at Trinity, 7 a.m.



All Holy Week Services will begin at 6 p.m. Holy Week Offerings will go to God's Helping Hands.

Sunday 04/02 Mt. Hebron UMC
Monday 04/03 Cayce UMC
Tuesday 04/04 Brookland UMC
Wednesday 04/05 Shiloh UMC
Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity, 6 p.m.
Easter Sunrise Service at Trinity, 7 a.m.



**Saturday, April 8
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Join us for a morning of fun as we meet
in the Fellowship Hall
on Saturday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m.
for an Easter Egg Hunt!
There will also be crafts
and refreshments!

We are in need of small wrapped candy to fill the eggs or donations to purchase the candy. The candy and donations can be dropped off at the Church Office through Thursday, April 6.



**Saturday, April 8
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Join us for a morning of fun as we meet
in the Fellowship Hall
on Saturday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m.
for an Easter Egg Hunt!
There will also be crafts
and refreshments!

We are in need of small wrapped candy to fill the eggs or donations to purchase the candy. The candy and donations can be dropped off at the Church Office through Thursday, April 6.

This Sunday begins with triumph! Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and a colt, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. The crowd spreads their cloaks along the road, a sign of loyalty just as Jehu's followers spread their cloaks on the paved steps when he was appointed king of Israel in defiance of Jehoram.

The crowd saw a king like David coming to save them. Jesus was coming in the name of the Lord. He was coming to rescue them from evil and oppression. The Jews had been praying for this Son of David for 500 years. Since the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by Babylon, the Jews had been waiting for the Son of David to overthrow the foreign oppressors. Now, the Son of David was entering the city. The salvation of the Jews has come. Triumph!

Then, a few short days later, the triumph is gone. The king the crowd so joyously welcomed, hung on a Roman cross. Sunday, the crowd shouted, "Hosanna". Thursday, they shouted, "Crucify him". In a few hours, this king, Jesus, was betrayed, denied, and deserted. He went from accolades to abuse and execution.

How could this happen? How could the crowd who so fervently welcomed Jesus turn so quickly and viciously? How could the disciples, who followed him from Galilee, betray, deny, and desert him?

Perhaps the answer is misguided expectations. The expectations of the crowd and the disciples were not played out. What they expected was not what they got.

Much has been discussed and written about Judas' motives for betraying Jesus. Matthew portrays Judas as remorseful when he recognizes his sin. In the musical *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, Judas betrays Jesus because he fears Roman reprisals if Jesus goes too far. Some speculate Judas wanted to force Jesus to demonstrate his power. Whatever his motives, Judas' expectations of Jesus were misguided.

The disciples may have expected Jesus to demonstrate great signs that he was the Son of God. They may have expected everyone to welcome and follow Jesus as they did. A groundswell of support for Jesus that would completely overwhelm the authorities and the Romans may have been their expectation. What they expected did not happen, so they deserted and denied Jesus.

The crowd expected a king like David. They wanted a military leader who would overthrow the Romans and their oppressive puppet rulers. Jesus was to lead a revolution that would free them from evil oppressors. There was no call to arms, no revolution, so the crowd shouted crucify him.

Jesus did not do what Judas, the disciples, or the crowd expected, dashing their hopes. Their hope was based on expectations that were misguided in two ways.

Their expectations were misguided in what they awaited. They longed for a king who would free them from evil and oppression. They wanted freedom from surface evil and oppression. They expected political freedom.

Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem to free the crowd and disciples from evil and oppression. He rode into Jerusalem to free all from evil and oppression. Jesus' purpose was not to save just Israel but all nations. He did not come to free them from Rome. Jesus rode into Jerusalem to free the crowds and all from evil in its full depths.¹ Jesus came to free all from the depths of sin which lies within humans. Jesus came to free all from the evil within that leads to oppression and exploitation. Jesus gave the crowd and disciples what they expected but at a much deeper level. Jesus went to the core cause of what they wanted.

The crowd, Judas, and the disciples were also misguided by how Jesus would fulfill his purpose. The crowd expected a military revolutionary. Even though Jesus told the disciples and Judas he must suffer and die, it seems they did not believe him. They probably expected some show of power to prove Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus was enthroned on a pagan cross, not in a palace. Jesus suffered shame and humiliation. Jesus was abused and abandoned. Jesus was executed like the worst of criminals. Jesus was not glorified the way one would expect.

Our expectations of Jesus may be misguided. We expect Jesus to meet our needs. We want Jesus to be our savior. We forget that Jesus is the savior of the world. To save the world, Jesus may want us to sacrifice. We may be called to sacrifice our money, time, talents, and, yes, our lives so Jesus can save the world. We may pray for what we want: healing, a new job, church growth, etc. However, Jesus gives us much more. He gives us what we need, a close intimate relationship with God.

Nor are our prayers answered in the way we expect.

While I was teaching Sunday School at Mt Hebron, Ward Smith was in the class when he was home from his job with UMCOR. Ward had been assigned to go to Ghana in West Africa. The Sunday before he left, I asked the class to lay hands on Ward and we prayed for his safety and success.

Ward contracted malaria. He was flown home and admitted directly into Lexington Medical Center. He spent several weeks in the hospital and more at home recovering.

The next time I saw Ward I said, "Ward, I am sorry but it seems our prayer was not answered."

Ward replied, " Well, John, I could have died."

I expected God to keep Ward safe and to have a successful mission. Instead of keeping Ward from getting sick, God gave Ward the strength and medical care to overcome the disease. Ward received the assurance that he could face whatever happened to him in any assignment.

Too often our misguided expectations lead to what we perceive as a tragedy. This week leads from Sunday's triumph to Friday's tragedy. But the week is not over.

¹ N. T. Wright, *Matthew for Everyone, Part 2*. (Louisville, KY Westminster John Knox Press, 2004) 68.