



Worship Resources

Palm Sunday, April 5th - songs and prayers, plus resources for your use at any time.

Worship resources for Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, will be included in another email next week.

Even though we are physically apart, let's be together Sunday morning at 10:30, as we pray, sing, listen and read scripture, hear a message ... carrying to God our heartfelt prayers of gratitude and petition; sitting in silence, allowing God's Holy Spirit, Love, Grace, Peace to sweep over and through us.

For whenever two or more are gathering in the name of Jesus Christ, He is there.
Can I hear an "Amen!"

[Visit our Website](#)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

We are attempting this week to provide you with an order of worship that will be somewhat familiar to our congregation. If this is your first time with us, it is an abbreviated version of our in-person worship services. There will be responsive readings, prayers, songs, and my message. If you cannot access the church website many of those elements are included on this email. Feel free to arrange them in an order that is meaningful for you.

[Click Here](#) to go to the podcast page for the full recording. Again, thanks to Rob Bickmore for recording, editing, and posting these!

The **Call to Worship** text will be posted on the sermon podcast page so everyone can read responsively. Our Call to Worship uses parts of Psalm 118.

The **Prayer of Confession** and **Words of Assurance** will be read as we are in prayer. They make use of the Matthew 26-27 reading and Psalm 118, respectively.

Communion -- This is the first Sunday of the month and we will be celebrating communion together. ***You are invited to have with you a piece of bread or a cracker, and a cup or glass with juice.*** The communion service is included in the recording/podcast for this Sunday. There are two spots where I ask everyone to respond after me. As we pray together we consecrate the communion elements. This promises to be a first for all of us ... *Thanks Be to God!*

[Songs and Hymns](#)

Click on the song title for video with music and lyrics.

["All Glory, Laud, and Honor"](#)

UM Hymnal #280

["Let Us Break Bread Together"](#)

UM Hymnal #618

["What Wondrous Love is This"](#)

UM Hymnal #292



Lectionary Scripture Readings for April 5th:

Because this Sunday is considered both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday there are more scripture readings in the lectionary for this day. We list them according to the theme. And, you will note that I have used as my sermon text the gospel reading from Luke (which is in the lectionary for another year).

Palm Readings:

Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Passion Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14 - 27:66*

*(This reading is the full passion story, from the time Judas Iscariot goes to the high priests and Jesus and his disciples eat the Passover meal, through the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial.)

[Click here](#) to read all the Lectionary Readings designated for this week of Lent.



Stay Connected....

With church gatherings suspended, we gather and share through telephone & technology. Staying connected during this time of Coronavirus is important for all of us. May these emails and the links provided help you stay connected to God and the wider community.

If you have items to share -- news, a prayer, song, Bible verse, reflection, photo -- please send it by email so we can share them.

[Link to Worship Resources](#)



Take Time to Be Holy

Giving Correction...

In our last Update we mentioned that givers would need the church account number for working with your financial institutions. That is incorrect. You can simply use the **Pay**



Bill system with your Bank or Credit Union. They will then mail a check to the church. Simple and straight forward.

Palm Sunday Feast

The liturgical color for Palm Sunday is red, the color of the Passion. On this last Sunday of Lent, we are closer than ever to the hope of Easter, but we are also entering into Holy Week, the most solemn week of the church year, set aside for remembering the events of Christ's last days.

To acknowledge the beginning of Holy Week, some churches practice veiling or "stripping of the altar" on Palm Sunday (or during the vigil the night before), covering the altar and any images, statues, and crosses in dark fabric, or removing everything from the altar. At PUMC we have traditionally draped the large cross on the wall behind the altar with black cloth.

A custom that stretches back to the middle ages, veiling imposes a sort of visual fast until the Easter vigil, when Christ is again revealed, his glory no longer hidden.

The Palm Sunday liturgy usually features an extended reading of the events of the Passion: Christ's last supper, betrayal, crucifixion, and death. Sometimes the congregation plays the part of the crowd, repeating everything from the initial "Hosanna" at Jesus's entry into Jerusalem to the condemning call to "crucify him!"

Thus the celebratory feel of Palm Sunday is tempered by the knowledge that Jesus will soon be betrayed, and that those who now hail him as prophet and king will all have abandoned him by the time of his death.



Prayer for Today

We praise you, Lord, for your gifts of childlike wonder and exuberant joy. We thank you for the hope you give us as we begin new ventures. Sustain us in that hope in the face of life's trials, and give us an enduring, joyful, and reverent faith in your promise of eternal salvation.

May we always be willing to welcome you into our lives, finding in you both the king of glory and the faithful servant who suffers on our behalf. It is because of Jesus that we know we can look to you in our times of gladness and our times of grief.

As we begin our Holy Week journey with Jesus and his disciples may we better understand your sacrificial love for us, and more willingly embrace all the sacrifices that your love calls us to bear. Hear us, Lord, as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.