

**NO ANSWER!**  
**Prayers for Palm & Passion Sunday**  
**March 28, 2021**

THE  
**PASSION**  
OF THE CHRIST

**St. John United Church of Christ**  
10207 Lincoln Trail  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
Telephone 397-6323  
Secretary – Judy Hartman  
Rev. Rosemary Captain

Prayers and Liturgy by  
Rev. Elsa A. Cook  
Organist – Sharon Banjavcic  
Liturgists – Ginny Ganschietz  
Susan Williams and Judy Schmitt

*This liturgy of silence and story combines Palm Sunday (Mark 11:1-11) and Passion Sunday (Mark 14:1-15:47). Using passages adapted from the NRSV, this liturgy provides the opportunity for lay leaders to share the story from the Gospel of Mark. Each reading concludes with a statement “Come...” to respond to the story in silence.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME:**

**PRELUDE: “Hosanna to the King”** John M. Rasley

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

(inspired by Isaiah 50:4-9a)

**One:** Come. Come seeking words.

**All:** **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.**

**\*RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

Come. Come O Holy One.

Come through the streets.

Come into the house.

Come to find a space beside us at the table.

Come to challenge our answers about

**Why tragedy comes**

**Why poverty increases**

**Why we are afraid.**

Come O Holy One.

Speak to us in the silence

**With wisdom greater than ours**

**With love deeper than ours  
With change wider than ours.**

*Shared Silence*

Come O Holy One.  
Fill in these stories  
with your wisdom  
with your love  
with your change  
so that we might rely on your answers.  
Here and now. **Amen.**

**MUSIC: "O How He Loves You and Me"**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (inspired by Psalm 31:9-16)

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.**

**MUSIC: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"**

**THE PALM PARADE: Mark 11:1-11**

**MUSIC: "Mantos y Ramos"**

("Filled With Excitement")

**THE ANOINTING: Mark 14:1-9**

It was two days before the Passover . . .

. . . "Truly I tell you," he said. "Wherever the good news is  
proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be  
told in remembrance of her."

**Come. Kneel beside her.**

**Do not speak but remember what your hands have done  
to proclaim the good news.**

*Shared Silence*

**THE LAST SUPPER:**

**Mark 14:10-25**

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, . . .

. . . Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

**Come. Find your place at this table,  
you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.**

**MUSIC: “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

**INVITATION TO CHRIST’S TABLE:**

**COMMUNION PRAYER:**

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks for the peace of God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP:**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR:**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**THE STORY CONTINUES:**

**THE GARDEN: Mark 14:32-40**

They went to a place called Gethsemane; . . .

. . . And again, he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. They had no answers.

**Come. Rest in the garden,  
you who are weary, you who don’t have any answers.**

**MUSIC: “I Must Tell Jesus”**

**THE BETRAYAL: Mark 14:43-50**

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, . . .

. . . They had come looking for peace. This wasn’t the way. They didn’t understand. And so, they deserted him and fled.

**Come. Run into your fears,  
you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.**

*Shared Silence*

**THE ARREST: Mark 14:53-65**

They took Jesus to the high priest; . . .

. . . The chief priests, the elders and the scribes knew their answer. They thought they knew the ways of God. They thought they knew all that God could do. There was nothing that could convince them otherwise. They spit on him and blindfolded him. They beat him for the words he said.

**Come. Listen to what God might be saying.**

**Listen to what God might be doing  
that doesn't fit with everything that you have been taught  
about this world.**

**Listen for God to speak.**

*Shared Silence*

**THE DENIAL: Mark 14:66-72**

While Peter was below in the courtyard, . . .

. . . Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

**Come. Join those who wander through courtyards, court  
rooms, streets and gardens.**

**Join the crowds who have come looking for answers,  
looking for peace.**

**MUSIC: "I Want Jesus to Go with Me"**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:**

When you have no words,  
When you cannot find your voice,  
God approaches.

Let us reach out to our God.

Let us give our gifts.

**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING:**

**O Holy One, Bless these gifts**

**So that the world may know your love**

**Even when we are silent. Amen.**

**MUSIC: "Journey to Gethsemane"**

**BENEDICTION:**

**One: Go into the world to find your voice.**

**All: Listening to what God will do.**

Go into the world to find each other.

**Reaching out when we need support.**

Go into the world be amazed.

**Knowing that God is always with us.**

**POSTLUDE: "March to Jerusalem"** Robert W. Thygerson

**No Answer: Prayers for Palm-Passion Sunday** was written  
by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook.

**PRAYER LIST: We pray for the health and well-being of all  
affected by the pandemic and we especially pray for:**

Urban Baum, Donna Isselhard, Becky Ballard, P.J. Bennett,  
Nelson Libell, Joe Knapp.

**Maundy Thursday Service April 1 7 pm**