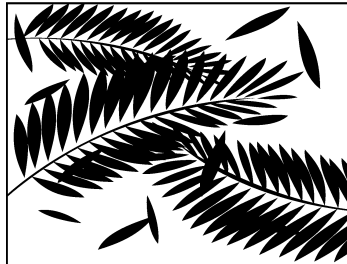


P A L M

Sunday



Please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM

Parking lot worship for

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers

Organist: Kathy Bowe

Thanks for attending our drive-in worship service. Please remember the guidelines below:

- The church will be open for restroom use only.
- The rules for social distancing remain in effect. Stay a minimum of 6 feet from each other and wear a mask that covers both your mouth and nose.
- Scrip will be available for purchase before and after worship. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

PALM SUNDAY GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The sound of hope and victory.

For the time being, the people wear glad hearts,

Their King has come into his own.

So we come with hope this day,

To worship God, who sends Jesus into our midst.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (UNISON)

Come, Lord Jesus, into our midst this day. Open our hearts to receive your love; open our minds to hear your story; open our hands to receive your grace. In praise and adoration, we raise our palms to you. Amen.

THE PALM SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READING: John 12:12-16

12 The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

'Hosanna!

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

the King of Israel!

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

15 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,

sitting on a donkey's colt!

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" v1
(wave palms out your window if so moved by the Holy Spirit)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"
Piano Duet: Kathy Bowe & Polly Jeanty

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God: We come together to worship longing for tenderness because this world can be hard. We come longing for light because our lives are crowded with shadows. We come desperately needing direction. Fill us this morning with your peace: your spirit is our peace and our path.

SONG #53 "God Moves in Mysterious Ways"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Out of the depths we cry to God, in our suffering and in our pain. Out of the depths God cries to us, asking us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and to accept forgiveness. So let us pray with one another, first in silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, hear our prayer:
For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;
For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;
For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;
For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;
We pray for the courage to admit our fault,**

**The strength to amend our actions,
And the hope that your grace awaits us.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Just know that it's God's eternal agenda to forgive and not condemn. He sent Jesus to save not judge. Receive forgiveness from your loving Father in heaven and let that empower you to forgive yourself and start anew. You may not deserve it, but you're worth it in God's eyes. **Thanks Be to God, Amen**

RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"

READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

MESSAGE "The Purpose of Suffering"

SONG #390 "It is Well"

PASTORAL PRAYER...LORD'S PRAYER

Each petition ends with “Lord in your Mercy” the congregation responds, “**Hear our Prayer**”

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING (inspired by 1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

POSTLUDE

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones: _____

Boulder, CO and Atlanta, GA shooting victims

Those struggling with health issues: _____

Cassie Jeanty
Amy Wempner
Warren Fidlin
Macullen Schnell
Dan Wempner
Ross Westphalen

Julia
Karen Schlegel
Jane Markelz
Dale Horneck
Olivia Marie
Jessica Horneck

Those unable to worship with us: _____

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer, Carol Meiselwitz,

Other concerns:

Division in the U.S.

The people of Myanmar
Health Care workers
Those who are out of work

Racial Justice and equality in our country
Those whose businesses are struggling
People who live in places where violence prevails.

BETHLEHEM ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There will be a Maundy Thursday evening production with actors and a choir on April 1 (No joke) in the Bethlehem United church of Christ parking lot.

The group did a very successful “live” Christmas Eve nativity scene and now will try to bring the characters alive on the last evening of Jesus’s life in a “radio broadcast” directly from Jerusalem!

The cast of characters includes Jane Umland, Ginny Schultz, Bonnie Zorn, Steven Volland, Pastor Roy Rogers, Mark Riesterer, Garret Schultz, Tom Rabe and Will Mathes who also wrote the play.

There will also be a double quartette involved including Traci Rabe, Lora Mathes, Rick Rabe, Tasha Rabe, Ross Westphalen, Lisa Westphalen, Trenton Rabe and Randy Koppenhaver. The quartette is accompanied by Kathy Bowe.

The play is produced by Lora and Will Mathes, Traci Rabe and Kathy Bowe.

The production will begin at 7:00 pm in the Bethlehem UCC parking lot on FM Radio at 101.3 on your radio dial. Everyone is welcome.

Plan a visit to one of our homebound members! Assisted living facilities are taking visitors again!

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer are at Field of Dreams in Kiel (286-6189) Call to arrange a visit.

Carol Meiselwitz is at The Waterford in Plymouth. Monday-Friday by appointment only. (920-892-4635)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Drive thru Stations of the Cross – Good Friday (4/2) – 6pm-7pm – Immanuel UCC (County Roads FF and M, near Lakeland University)

2021 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 3/28: 9:30a Palm Sunday Drive-In worship;

Monday 3/29: *Happy Birthday Everett Henning!*

Tuesday 3/30: *Happy Anniversary Joe & Doreen Schmidt!*

Wednesday 3/31:

Thursday 4/1: 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday 4/2:

Saturday 4/3: *Happy Birthday Tyler Hanson, Vanessa Nenahlo, Sheri Wilharms, and Nicole Watson!*

Sunday 4/4: 9:30a Easter Sunday Drive-In worship; *Happy Birthday Greg Schultz!*

Pantry item: Bottle of Hand soap, Dish soap or Shampoo