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PALM SUNDAY



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Neil Parker
Palm Sunday
24 March 2024



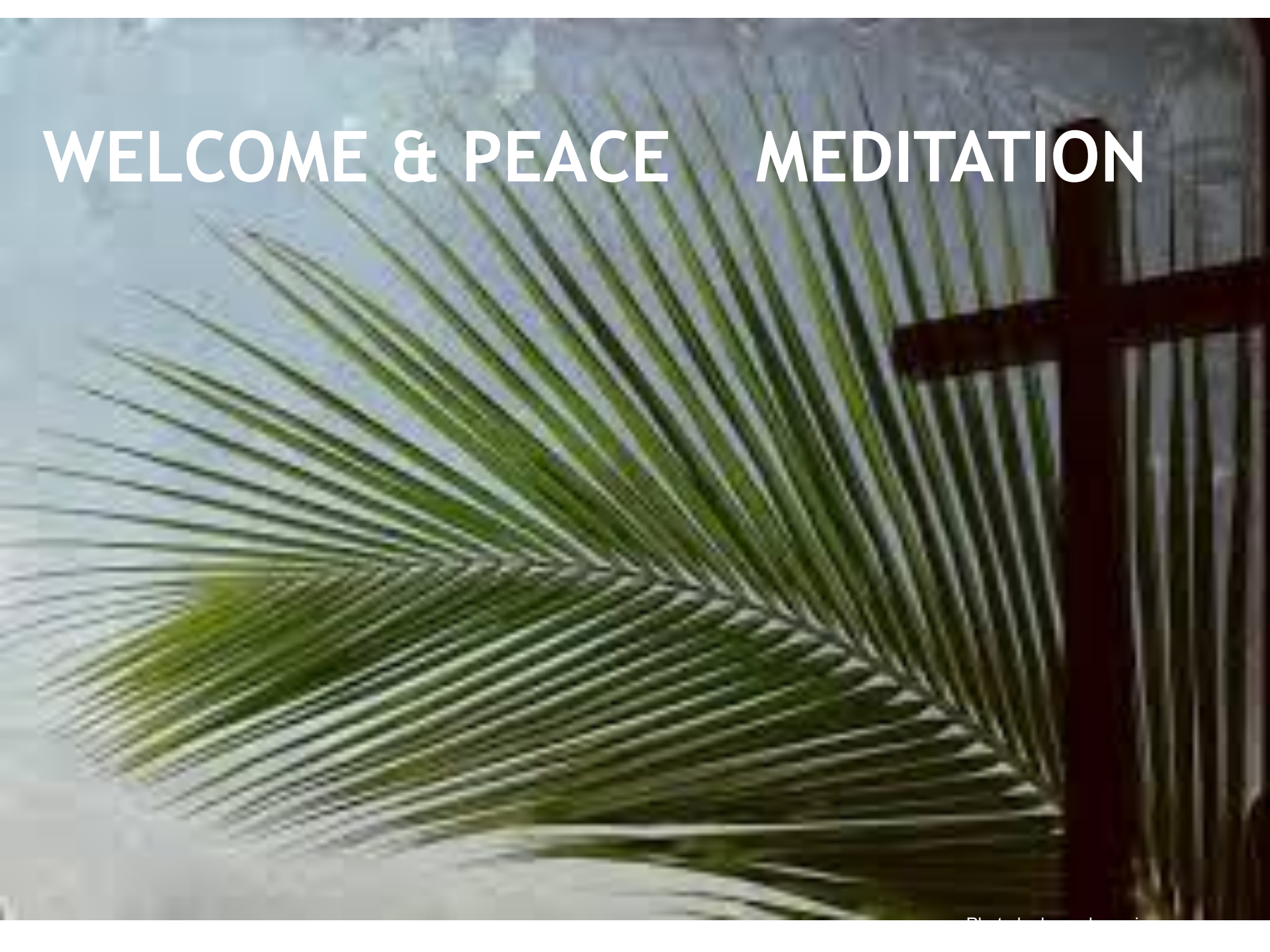
**Handel Allegro (Arrival of the Queen of
Sheba)**

Elizabeth Koyama & Tomasz Pietak



PARADE TO THE CROSS

WELCOME & PEACE MEDITATION



OPENING HYMN - CH 192

Life Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold
the glorious Ruler waits!

The Sovereign One is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! We open wide
Our hearts to you; here , Christ, abide!
Let us your inner presence feel,
Your grace and love in us reveal.

4 So come, our Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
your Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

CANDLE LIGHTING





SPECIAL PEOPLE

**GRAB WHAT YOU CAN:
BRANCHES, PUSSY WILLOWS,
T-SHIRTS, BANNERS, FLAGS, SIGNS!**

Photo credit: usatoday.com

FIRST READING - *John 12:12-16*

Read by Mickela Moore

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

SPECIAL MUSIC



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Philippians 2:5-11

Read by Mickela Moore

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VCC CHOIR

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks



Mark 14:1-26

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.” While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard.

She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.

She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'

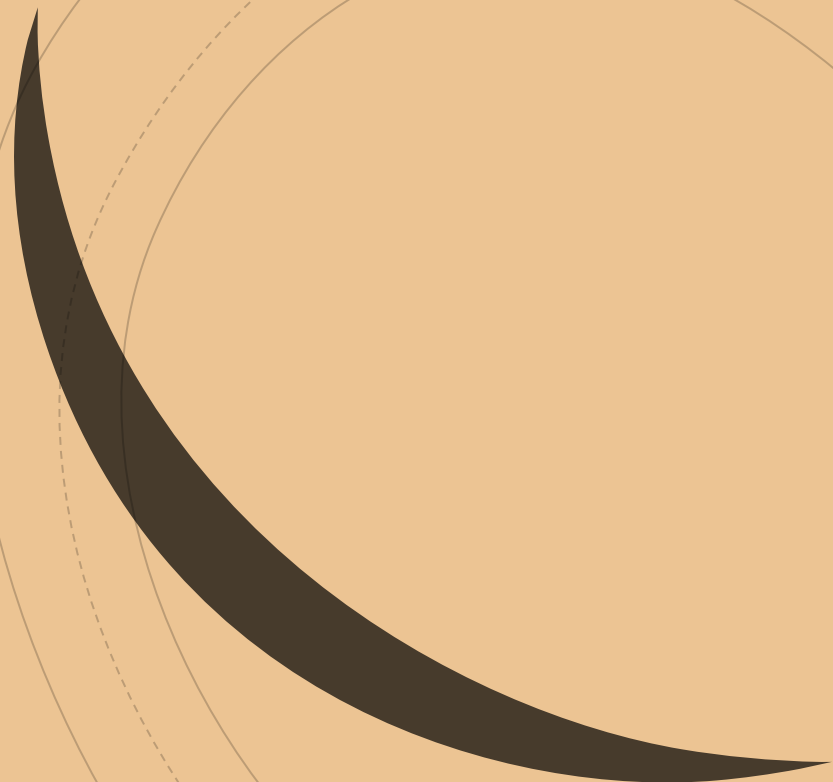
He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.” They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?” “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me.

The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them.

“Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

SERMON: *The Stations of the Cross Less Traveled By*



RESPONSIVE HYMN - Ch 600

Jesu, Jesu

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us
how to serve the neighbors we have from
you.

1. Kneel at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet. Master who
acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us
how to serve the neighbors we have from
you.

2. Neighbours are rich and poor, varied in
colour and race, neighbours are near and
far away. (Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us
how to serve the neighbors we have from
you.

3. These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love; all
these are neighbours to us and you.
(Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us
how to serve the neighbors we have from
you.

4. Loving puts us on our knees, serving as
though we are slaves, this is the way we
should live with you. (Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us
how to serve the neighbors we have from
you.

5. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet, this is the way
we should live with you. (Refrain)

Mark 15:1-47

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer?”

See how many things they are accusing you of.” But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

RESPONSIVE HYMN - Ch 569

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they shouted. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!”

RESPONSIVE HYMN - Ch 569

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.

RESPONSIVE HYMN - Ch 569

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!” In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.”

Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him. At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.” Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink.

RESPONSIVE HYMN - Ch 569

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

“Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.

In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

RESPONSIVE HYMN - Ch 569

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a diverse group of people holding hands in a circle. The individuals are looking upwards with expressions of hope and faith. The lighting is bright and warm, creating a sense of spiritual connection. The word "PRAYERS" is centered in the image in a bold, dark blue font.

PRAYERS

Photo by Delain Johnson([Unsplash](#))

OFFERING

Offering
WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

**When Jesus Speaks by Lowell Prescott
David Corcoran & Tomasz Pietak**

DOXOLOGY - CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen





ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN - Ch 548

The Old Rugged Cross

1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged
cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the
dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it someday for a crown.

2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by
the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory
above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it someday for a crown.

3 In that old rugged cross, stained with
blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered
and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it someday for a crown.

4 To that old rugged cross I will ever be
true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home
far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.
[Refrain]

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it someday for a crown.

Sing
Amen!

BLESSING

Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God



Palm Sunday



POSTLUDE

Tomasz Pietak, organ