



Order of Worship – Online Service
WE GATHER FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

Gathering Music

The Palms

Faure

Welcome Message

Pastor Michelle

Call to Worship

**The story of faith is a story of courage.
It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.
It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am. Use me."
It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.
It took courage for the paralyzed man's friends to lower him through the roof.
It took courage for Peter to walk on water.
It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.
It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.
Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.
Again and again, God, show us the way.
Let us worship a brave and courageous God.**

Hymn of Praise

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

UMH #278

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

“Hosanna in the highest”
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of Heaven our king.
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**



WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

**If we could buy our way closer to you, we’d sell everything we have.
If we could work our way to you, we’d never take a day off.
If we could walk our way to you, we’d keep our tennis shoes on tight.
But I know—we know—we cannot buy, or work, or walk our way closer to you.
We must listen our way closer to you.**

**So holy God, as you have so often done again and again, Open our ears.
Clear out the self-talk that keeps us from you.
Dust out the negativity and distractions.**

Remove any doubt hindering our way. Amen.



Scripture

John 12:1-19

NRSV

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

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. ¹⁷ So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸ It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹ The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Confession

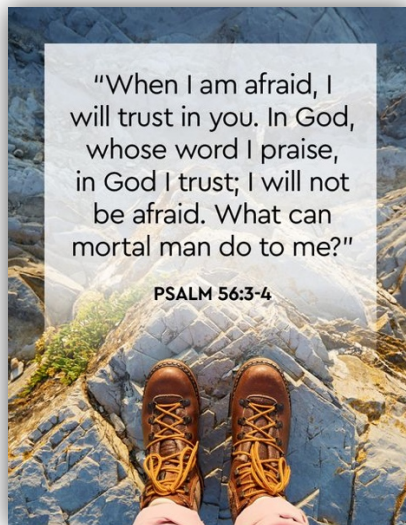
**God of palm branches and hallelujahs:
We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.**

**We love the sound of a joyful parade.
We love shouting, “Hallelujah!”
We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.
We love good news.**

**However, if we slow down and pay attention,
We know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.**

**There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence.
You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire,
And the whole world knew it.**

**Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.
Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage,
And even we can do hard things.
With hope we pray. Amen.**



Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith,
Even when we gloss over the truth,
Even when our courage fails us,
Even when we doubt that we can do hard things,
God believes in us. God loves us.
God forgives us. Hear and believe this truth:
We are known.
We are loved.
We are forgiven.
Again and again and again. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

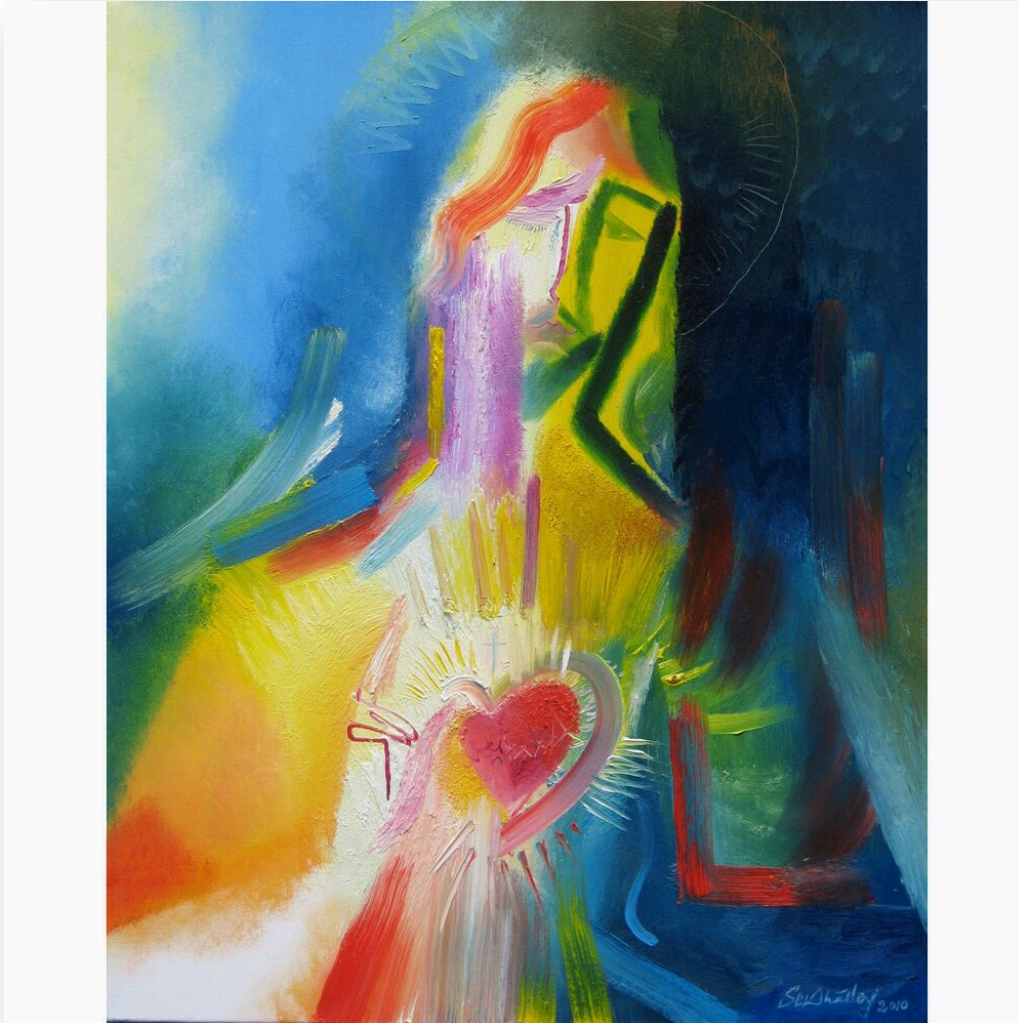
Giving of Our Gifts

**If you haven't already done so, we hope you'll share your gifts.*

Music Ministry

Strong Man of Galilee
Aldersgate Choir

Farrington



Affirmation of Faith

I refuse to believe that I am powerless.

I refuse to believe that injustice and hatred are simply the way it has to be.

I refuse to believe that I am better or more deserving than my neighbor.

I refuse to believe that my self-worth is rooted in my accomplishments or appearance.

I refuse to believe that the Church is dying, because I see God all around me.

I refuse to believe that the traditions of old are the only path for moving forward.

I refuse to believe that I cannot make a difference.

So with hope in my heart, I will strive to live a life of courage, conviction, and compassion, Just as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me!



Opportunities for Connection and Service

Benediction

Postlude

Mantos y Palmas

UMH #464

**To share your offering, you may use this link: <https://www.uumcp.org/electronic-giving>*

Another option is to mail your offering to the church office:

3621 Campus Drive | College Park, MD 20740

Liturgy: Adapted from *Liturgy* by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Flowers provided by David and Frances Notley. Flowers arranged by Marie Venero. Dove picture: Michael Kwan from pixabay
Jesus by He Qi

SIGN OF HOPE



Father, when You call,
How do we hear?
With our senses only, or does Your
Holy Spirit lend its ear?

Help us to listen
Through Your wide lens, as a dove,
That we may discern
as we pray
Your enfolding endless
mercy, grace, and love. Amen

This beautiful prayer was written by Patricia Thomas, who was inspired by the devotional readings from "Again and Again".

Artist's Statement

again & again, we draw on courage

Through the Palms



by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by John 12:1-19 | *Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper*

Jesus lies down on the donkey's back, steeling himself before his journey through the palms. He has a target on his back—he's a disruption to the status quo upheld by the Pharisees and Chief Priests, and a threat to the power of the empire. His friend Lazarus is caught up in it all too. I imagine as he closes his eyes and strokes the donkey's hair, he hears the anguish in Mary and Martha's voices as they cried out to him, wondering why he took so long. I imagine he smells the pungent fragrance of the burial perfume poured on his feet, bringing into clarity the reality of his impending death. I imagine he sees the judgment on Judas' face as he was scrutinized for wasting perfume and neglecting those in desperate need.

Jesus plans to enter the city in a way that symbolically subverts

power, taking a route opposite of the military leaders who oversee the festival celebrations. His entry would make a definitive statement, imaging an alternative kind of power, a servant leader riding an humble donkey. He knew this act would inch him closer to state-sanctioned torture and death.

We are in a time when we need to draw on courage to call into question the structures that uphold systems of oppression. We are in a time when we need to subvert the powerful and protect the vulnerable. The crowds close in on Jesus. Some lift their hands in praise, others point accusingly. I hope this image serves as a reminder to call upon God for the courage you need, to rest and recharge for the work ahead. But I hope it also heartens you to move forward in courage, even in the midst of great resistance, toward the work God is calling you into.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



Announcements for March 28, 2021

HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

- Palm Sunday – Prerecorded service; Facebook 10:30 a.m.
- Prayer Call – noon on Zoom
- Maundy Thursday – Zoom meal and service 5:15 p.m.
- Good Friday – Prerecorded service
- Easter Sunday – Prerecorded service. Also, in-person worship on church lawn at 10:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt – following our worship service
- Sunday after Easter – Prerecorded worship service from Bishop Easterling
- April 18 – Aldersgate Choir cantata

CAN YOU HELP? How wonderful it will be to gather on our church lawn for Easter worship! We are excited about seeing each other in person. Before then, gumballs on our church yard need to be raked up so that people may safely walk on the grass. If you have a few minutes to an hour, you could get your daily exercise AND help our church family by coming by the church any day – at your convenience – to rake up some gumballs. We have a rake and wheelbarrow, for bringing them to the woods at the back of our lot, or you are welcome to take them home! (See *Did You Know...*)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Join our Sunday School class (via Zoom) for a discussion of scriptures and sermon, sharing of insights, and time of fellowship. We meet Sundays at 11:15 after our online pre-recorded worship services.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS Join Pastor Michelle and members of your church family in a time of sharing prayers on Wednesdays at noon, via a Zoom call. You will receive log in information that morning.

Did You Know...

Joel Zinkievich, a freshman at the University of Maryland, is helping us with our online technology and social media, such as running our Zoom services and posting weekly questions, prayers, and scripture on Facebook.

Each week, Millicent Scarlett, our music ministry director, sends recordings of organ or piano pieces to choir members, along with copies of the written music. The choir then records themselves singing to the backtrack and sends it back to Millie. Millie then takes all of the parts and “mixes” them on the computer – editing/ aligning/managing volume for each part. After that, she sends the completed song to the church office to be inserted into the online service.

When we remember Holy Week, we contemplate the events of Jesus’s last week of life. Please see the next page for a timeline.

You may send tidbits of information to the church office to be included on this page in future bulletins.

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Twitter: @UUMCCollegePark

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Prayer Requests: prayers@uumcp.org

Michelle Mejia, Pastor: revmichelle@uumcp.org



Passion Week Timeline



SArmy

Australia Southern Territory
Resource Centre
sarmy.org.au

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem
Spends the night in Bethany

Matt 21:1-11 **Mark 11:1-10**
Mark 11:11

MONDAY

Curses the fig tree on the way into the city
Weeps over Jerusalem
Cleanses the temple for the second time
Jesus returns to Bethany

Matt 21:18-19 **Mark 11:19** **Luke 19:41W**
Luke 19:45-48

TUESDAY

Disciples see the fig tree withered
Jesus teaches parables
Woe unto Pharisees
Prophetic words regarding the return of Christ

Matt 21:19-22 **Mark 13:1-37** **Luke 20:45-7**
Matt 21:23 **Luke 21:5-36**
Matt 23:1-39
Matt 24:1-51

WEDNESDAY

Judas agrees to betray Jesus

Matt 26:14-16 **Mark 14:10-11** **Luke 22:3-6**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Peter and John prepare for Passover
Passover meal
Jesus washes the disciple's feet
Jesus identifies his betrayer
Lord's Supper instituted

Matt 26:20 **Mark 14:12-16** **Luke 22:7-13**
Matt 26:21-5 **Luke 22:14-6** **John 13:16:1**
Matt 26:26-9 **Mark 14:22-5** **Luke 22:21-3** **John 13:2-17**
Luke 22:15-20 **John 13:18-30**

GOOD FRIDAY

12 AM Garden of Gethsemane
Jesus prays in Gethsemane
Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss

Matt 26:36-46 **Mark 14:32-42** **Luke 22:39-46** **John 17-18:1**
Matt 26:47-56 **Mark 14:43-52** **Luke 22:47-53** **John 18:2-12**

3 AM Jesus taken to the Annas
Jesus taken to the High Priest Caiaphas
Peter denies Jesus
Sanhedrin condemn Jesus
Judas commits suicide

Matt 27:1 **Mark 14:54-72** **Luke 22:54-62** **John 18:13-4**
Matt 27:3-10 **Mark 15:1** **Luke 22:66-71** **John 18:24**

6 AM Jesus before Pilate
Jesus before Herod
Jesus before Pilate again
Jesus is whipped
Jesus mocked
Jesus is given his crucified
Jesus issued a crown of thorns

Matt 27:2-14 **Mark 15:1-5** **Luke 23:8-12**
Matt 27:15-23 **Mark 15:6-14** **Luke 23:13-22** **John 18:39-40**
Matt 27:27-31 **Mark 15:16-9** **John 19:1-3**
Matt 27:22-6 **Mark 15:12-5** **Luke 23:20-5** **John 19:4-16**
Mark 15:17

9AM Jesus is crucified

Matt 27:35-44 **Mark 15:24-32** **Luke 23:33-43** **John 19:18-24**

12 PM Darkness falls over the land

Mark 15:33

3 PM Jesus dies for the sins of all humankind
Jesus commits his Spirit into God's hands and dies
Temple veil torn by God
Jesus' side is pierced
Jesus is buried before sundown

Matt 27:50 **Mark 15:37** **John 19:30**
Matt 27:51 **Mark 15:38**
Matt 27:57-61 **Mark 15:42-47** **John 19:34**
John 19:38-42

SATURDAY

The Pharisees ask for a guard at Jesus' tomb
The saviour's body lies in the grave

Matt 27:62-66 **Mark 15:46**
Matt 27:59-28:1

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

The tomb is found empty for Jesus has risen
Jesus appears to his disciples

Matt 28:6 **Mark 16:6** **John 20:1-10**
Matt 28:8-10 **Luke 24:13-53** **John 20:11-25**