

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

March 29, 2015



Gathering: *Jesus calls us to journey with him, to journey with him to a hill looking out across Jerusalem, to journey with him to dangerous and chaotic streets in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt to journey with him to the crowded refugee camps. Jesus calls us to weep with him, to weep with Rachel for the massacre of her children, to weep with those who mourn of the execution of Egyptian Christians in Libya, to weep with all the victims of war in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt. And Jesus calls us to hope when hoping seems hopeless, Jesus calls us to hope for new life where there is death, Jesus calls us to hope for resurrection in the midst of crucifixion, Jesus calls us to hope for peace in the turmoil of war.*

Hymn: ♪ Ride on, ride on (vs. 1-3) 217

As we gather to worship God in this place, commemorating the entry of Lord Jesus to Jerusalem and his passion, let us remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt.

We lament the massacre of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in these tragic and absurd wars, where Christians and other vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities are specifically targeted; we lament with those persecuted because of their beliefs; we grieve with all those who are forcefully displaced from their homes and lands by those who perpetuate suspicion, hatred and terror against those different from them.

We are here to pray for peace in those countries and in our world, to renew our hope in the Triune God, and to strengthen our commitment to strive for justice and peace.

Confession: *The streets were crowded. A parade mood filled the air. Shouts came from deep in the heart. Hosanna. Save us. Save us from lukewarm faith. Hosanna. Save us. Save us from callous indifference. Hosanna. Save us. Save us from paltry hopes and petty dreams. Hosanna. Save us. Save us from unquenchable greed. Hosanna. Save us. Save us from lazy habits and faithless commitments. Hosanna. Save us. Save us from soft-mindedness and hard-heartedness. Hosanna. Save us. We cry from the depth of our hearts and the very pit of our souls. Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.*

Response to prayer:

I believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression, whose suffering and death bring new life. I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned towards the truth.

I believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people and God's creation.

I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all.

Scripture: **Mark 1: 1-11**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and

immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." " They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Focus question: When Jesus 'looked around at everything', what did he see?

Hymn: ♪ Ride on, ride on (vs. 4-5) 217

*Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,
We will enter and give thanks to the Lord!
 We give you thanks for You have answered us;
You have become our salvation!
 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
God's faithful love endures forever.*

Prayers for Palm Sunday

We are invited to enter in, and sit at table and share in the feast which has been prepared. As we welcome Christ anew today we enter anew into covenant with him and all those who love the Lords coming.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hymn: Filled with excitement 215

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. **God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you.***

We bless you for life and new life made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another.

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest. May we share life with others walking the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother.*** (Continue in prayer)

Hymn: Hallelujah 532

Communion

Prayer following communion:

Sending out: *We have gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna!
Because even if we were silent the stones themselves would have called out. We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed, and then it changed. We have walked with another crowd. One that called words of scorn and condemnation. And now we follow the crowd as it leads out to the cross, and yet even as the world grows dark, we cannot lose hope. Because God is with us. God will be with us. Whatever happens. We are not alone. And so we watch the crowd and we follow...*

Hymn: For the bread 549

