

Immanuel United Church
Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

Today, we acknowledge the land that we are gathered on is Treaty 1 territory..... the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota Peoples, as well as the homeland and the heart of the Red River Metis people, who for thousands of years, walked gently on this land with deeply rooted gifts of spirituality, culture and ways of knowing.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and give thanks for the connection we share with this land – in times past and also in the present day.

Today we are called to seek a new relationship as Indigenous and non-indigenous people, creating one based on friendship, built on respect, and one that produces peace, remembering that we are all treaty people.

***As we enter this time of worship,
we acknowledge the Christ candle, marking the presence of light in our midst, and the
Rainbow Candle, symbolizing that we are an inclusive and affirming community, and
all belong here.***

WELCOME

PALM PROCESSION

Hymn: VU#123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

LESSON FROM THE WILDERNESS

This is the sixth week of our Lenten words lessons on the theme of Lessons from the Wilderness. Each week, we have a word that is inspired by the story and we will try to see how with the help of Jesus' teaching, the word changes into something more beneficial for ourselves and our world.

This week our first word is Humility. Humility can be defined as freedom from pride or arrogance. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he didn't enter with a grand procession riding on a giant chariot but he entering riding on a humble donkey. Jesus knew who he was, what he was sent here to do and his importance to the world but that knowledge did not lead him to pride or arrogance. He didn't need the trappings of power and importance to validate his position.

Many times humility can be seen as weakness. The humble quiet person is overlooked and thought to be weak and powerless. But Jesus shows us that humility can be strong. There is strength in knowing who you are and what you believe in. Jesus showed his strength by chasing the moneylenders out of the temple and by healing the sick. He did what he knew was the right thing to do. His strength lay not by appeasing the rich and powerful, but in working for the poor and marginalized as God inspired him.

Let us pray:

Holy One

During this time of Lent, open our eyes and hearts to your beautiful world that surrounds us. Help us to trust that following your way is the path that best serves us and others. Lead us as we venture into the unknown. Help us to continue in the spirit of inclusivity that you modeled for us. Strengthen our connection to you and to others. Let our faith in you continue to grow. Let us be both humble and strong in continuing your work in the world.

Amen.

HYMN: VU#124 He Came Riding

MOMENT TO PONDER:

HYMN: MV#8 And on This Path

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 21: 1-17

THE CHOIR ANTHEM: "Ride On"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 598 When Pain of the World

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

Response: VU# 539 God Of All Good (vs. 1)

Let us Pray:

AMEN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - SUNG

HYMN: VU#647 Travel On, Travel On

Blessing

Choral Amen

Postlude