April 5, 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;

 Matthew 26:14-27:66 *or* Matthew 27:11-54

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

Andrew Kennaly, Pastor

Annie Welle, Pianist

Dana Stockman, Soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem triumphantly. Jesus comes in peace. The city is stirred. The one who comes in the name of the Lord has arrived. Expectations are heightened. The crowds are shouting. Cloaks are laid down as prophecy is fulfilled. Christ is in our midst! Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

Palm Sunday expectations, O Lord, are often resentments waiting to happen. We get invested in particular outcomes, have opinions on how things should be, and strive to control the narrative. Even in our faith, we have truths we cling to, identities we defend, and assumptions we make from our points of view. We project outwardly onto others that which is suppressed within us, too painful to bear so we look for scapegoats. Thankfully, the forgiving presence of Jesus comes to us, reaching past our delusions to share wholeness and healing at deeper levels of awareness and receptivity. We invite the Living Christ into the turmoil of our life, even as we pray for the peace of Christ in our midst, in our hearts, and in the world.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When Jesus was arrested, one of his disciples took out a sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus immediately said, “Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.” Then Jesus, through non-violent resistance, went on to give his life, showing God’s love for the world. Violence begets violence, and cycles of vengeance circle and loop. As we surrender our hearts to the living God, in Christ, we are set free and are given peace beyond understanding. The Peace of Christ be with you.

(And also with you). Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC Dana Stockman, soloist Annie Welle, accompanist

OFFERTORY PRAYER

INTRO: financial giving can be sent to 417 N. Fourth Ave, or online at church website: [www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org)

O God, some brought branches, some brought leaves, others laid their cloaks on the ground. As Jesus lives in our hearts, you invite us to give; sharing our thanks, claiming our freedom, and helping God’s world in need. Holy God, bless the giving and the receiving of your gifts for the working out of your purpose on earth, as it is in heaven. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Many Christians call this Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, following the Passion of our Lord throughout this week, concluding with Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. Ever since, Sunday’s are called, “The Lord’s Day.” As we claim this day, this Holy Week, for the Lord, may God open our hearts to the Holy’s Spirit’s continued movement as we die to ourselves and rise with Christ. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.