**Salem United Church of Christ Moorestown**

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**Ministers of the Church – Every Member of Salem UCC**

**April 5, 2020 - Palm Sunday Worship**

**Welcome to Virtual Worship**

**Musical Selection**

**Call to Worship**

Jesus is coming!  
From the mountainside, from the seaside,  
from the homes of the rich  
and the company of the poor,  
from the bedside of those who are sick,  
Jesus is coming!  
Along dusty roads,  
with a ragged band of travelers,  
Jesus comes to Jerusalem,  
Jesus comes to worship.  
Let’s greet Jesus with Hosannas?

*(Wave your branches…shout “Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”)*

**Opening Prayer**  
 We have come to meet you today, Jesus. We don’t know quite what to expect. We think we know what we need, how you can meet our needs.  
But we come humbly, laying our coats before you. It’s your call. Reveal to us who you are, how you can be a Savior in our lives, a Savior in our world today. Come, Lord Jesus!

**Music – Hymn # 267 – “*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (2 verses)***

**Prayer of Confession**

Let us come together to a moment of confession. Imagine Jesus entering our presence just as he entered Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. Envision the palm branches, the donkey, the shouts of "hosanna." Understanding who he is and knowing who we are…let us pray….

Holy God, you know us well. We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to [live](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prayer-of-confession-for-palm-sunday) it fully. We shout "hosanna" as Jesus approaches, as did the people of Jerusalem many years ago; but we do not want him to come too close -- not close enough to really see…We are quick to claim faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior; but, like the crowd who greeted his entry into Jerusalem, we are fickle, slow to live fully as faithful disciples. We are quick to want the blessings of faithfulness; but, like the Twelve who spent the last week with him, we are slow to accept the sacrifices of authentic Christ-like living. Forgive our weakness and fear…Listen now to our silent confession….

*(silence is kept)*

**Assurance of Pardon**  
 Sister and brothers in Christ, hear the good news: The steadfast love of God endures forever and ever. Rejoice, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Children’s Message**

**A Road Made of Cloaks – *based on Matthew 21:1-11***

**Today’s Message**

**Music – Hymn # 265 –** *“All Glory, Laud and Honor” 2 verses*

**Offering –** Even in a time of global pandemic we each have much to be thankful for. I invite you at this time to consider ways to express your thankfulness by giving of your time and talents in new ways in this time of social distancing. I also ask you to consider how you will offer your tithes and offerings at this time as well – some options are: on-line giving available through our website or your smartphone, mail check in weekly or set aside your offering each week until we can meet again in the building.

**Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Between Sundays**

Today, we wave our branches. We shout Hosanna. We look ahead to the Resurrection. We are ready for the celebration of Easter. But friends without the events that take place between Sundays, between Palm Sunday and Easter, there is no reason to celebrate. As we prepare to end today’s worship, I ask you to remember with me the events that take place between Sundays:

*There is a plot to kill Jesus*

*Jesus and the Disciples prepare for Passover*

*The Institution of the Lord’s Supper takes place at the Passover meal*

*The Dispute About Greatness*

*Jesus Predicts Peters Denial*

*Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane*

*Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested*

*Peter Denies Jesus, not once, but three times*

*Jesus is Mocked and Beaten*

*Jesus is brought before Herod and Pilot*

*Jesus Sentenced to Death*

*Jesus is Crucified*

*Jesus Dies*

You can read the story of these events that take place between Sunday in the book of Matthew - Chapters 26 and 27. I encourage you to include these passages in your daily devotional practice throughout the coming week.

**Music – Hymn # 253** *“Lead Me to Calvary”*

**Benediction**

Sister and brothers in Christ, as we travel through this holy week, let us keep our eyes on Jesus. Allowing Christ to lead us, guide us and walk with us. Amen.

*\*Portions of this worship were adapted from “leadinginworship.com”, “Discipleship Ministries”, and ”Seasons of the Spirit”.*