



**April 5, 2020 – Sunday of the Passion:**  
**Palm Sunday**

**(Please have available homemade palms, three nails, a candle, bread and wine)**

*During this time of necessitated fasting from eucharistic nourishment, our deep sense of loss may tempt us to use remote online pseudo-consecrations, which are not sanctioned. Instead, be encouraged to explore the tradition of Spiritual Communion, or by an agape meal, during which readings and prayers could be complemented by a simultaneous moment of enjoying food together.*

*— Bishop Alan Gates, March 21, 2020*

**Rules for the Road in Virtual Worship**

**A WORD from each of us about our experience of God at work in our lives this week.**

**Opening Hymn**

*All Glory, Laud and Honor, vs. 1*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3a8fTTrAdE>

**Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

**Officiant:** Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Gospel of the Triumphal Entry**

Jim Chapman

**Matthew 21:1-11**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on

the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! "When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

(Unmute your microphones, and with fanfare and waving of your palms, show your love for the Messiah on screen!!)

**Psalm 118:1-2, 19-21.27-29** ( *please read together the bolded lines*)

Kat Lemieux

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.

**Let Israel now proclaim,  
"His mercy endures for ever."**

Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them;

**I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

"This is the gate of the Lord;  
he who is righteous may enter."

**I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

**"You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you."**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.

(Mute your microphones and have three nails near you)

**The Passion of the Lord**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Matthew 26:14- 27:66

**Reflection, Meditation and Silence** (*light your candles now as you contemplate the 3 nails.*)  
*“That love would go so far as this...that God’s Son would die so that we might with him, establish God’s Kingdom of compassion, justice and peace. Let us keep silence in thanksgiving and contemplate this great love.”*

**Prayers of the People**

Erika Bianchi

Now I invite your prayers for all the news of the world God so loved.

For the layers of comfort and convenience that surrounded our lives and that we never considered a blessing, but always just took for granted, forgive us.

For we who must grieve in isolation and not in community, comfort us.

For the ability to turn off the fear-mongering and unhelpful commentary, and worst-case scenario media, strengthen us.

For the times when we are all out of creative ideas for how to get through this with cooped up kids, inspire us.

For the grace to allow ourselves and others to just be less productive, shower us.

For the generosity needed from those of us who have more resources, empower us.

From our own selfish inclinations, deliver us.

For just being your children, none of whom have done a global pandemic before, love us.

For the days ahead, accompany us.

God unbound by time, help us to know that you are already present in the future we are fearing.  
*Adapted from the Corners Blog by Nadia Bolz-Weber*

We pray also for our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, and for all bishops, priests, seminarians and deacons, including Alan, Gayle, Marya, Brett and Jim. *Gracious God, we thank you for your continual strengthening of Brett as he becomes a credible witness of your saving love to others. Inspire him as he continues to grow and open his heart to hear Your call.*

We pray for all who have died, especially those who have lost their lives to the Coronavirus. Are there souls whose names you would like to offer in prayer? We pray that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Today let us pray for the isolated among us, and those who are despondent and fearful. Let us also pray for first responders, the medical community, government leaders. And biological scientists and researchers to be led by courage, compassion and the wisdom of God. Give to the sick your healing and to the suffering your hope, especially, **Bob** and **Barbara** Coleman, **Ken** Bouffard, **Darline** Bouffard, **Carolyn** Dennis, **Frank** and **Pat** Swasey, **Fran**, **Cara** O, **Clara**

and **Leonard** DeMild, **Misty** Baker, The Rev. **Patrick** Lafortune, **Phyllis** Endicott, **Nancy** Moore, **Mike**, **Peter**, **Kristen** and **Christian** Rydgren, **Richard** Sherrick, **Glenn**, **Eleanor** Corson, **Sandi** P., **Erik** Lord, **Katie** Clarkson, **Heather** Slack, and **Irena**, **Pano**, **Arbisa** and **Rai** Trebicka, and all those in quarantine, living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and elderly housing. For those who care for the sick, protect them. Are there others? May your saving will and the glory of your steadfast love support all who call upon you in the day of trouble.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the Parishes of the Charles River Deanery: Grace Church, Newton; St. John's Church, Newtonville; St. Mary's Church, Newton; Lower Falls Parish of St. Paul; Newton Highlands; and Prison Ministries. In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, and The Most Rev'd. James Richard Wong Yin Song, Archbishop and Bishop of the Seychelles.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We pray for those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially John Nichols, Charles Blake, and Heidi Johansen. Are there others? Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them, who put their trust in you. **AMEN**

### **Offertory Sentences**

We have counters ready for your pledges, and administrative help for online pledging. Be not afraid to share your gifts!!! Use this time for reflection about how to give gifts of love to your neighbors and your community.

### **Shared Agape Meal (bread and wine before each person)**

**Officiant:** Agape is the Greek word for love, and was a love feast of the early Christians. It was a time for sharing nourishment, of food for the body, for thanking God, for prayers, songs, and scripture for the soul, and a time for an offering of money for God's mission in the world.

### **Jim:**

We are viewing and hearing others from the hearths of the gathered to celebrate our love of Jesus, to share our faith in Christ, and to listen to one another. We have gathered together for healing...to be renewed. We are ready to be fed. Many years ago, near the Sea of Galilee, it was a similar setting. Jesus needed to be renewed. But, there were sick to be healed; crowds of people gathered around him, and stories were told; there was preparation for the journey. Let us thank our Lord. Loving God, Giver of all gifts, bless this bread and wine. May it nourish our bodies and give us strength to carry out your plan for peace in our lives. And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Let each person take a portion of bread and a cup of wine in their hands.*

**Officiant:** Let us share the feast with each other! Experience the grace of God!

### **Agape Meal Hymn**

*(Mute your microphones and listen to the musical offering)*

*Ah, Holy Jesus, vs. 1*

Johann Crüger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4MKOP-vhQ0>

**Brett:**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of miracles and wonderful surprises, we give thanks for our ability to come together in this circle of life, to share in the abundance of your love. We acknowledge we have not always shared out of our abundance. We have had so many loaves that we have had to freeze some, while our neighbors had none. Forgive us, O God. Often, our eyes have been closed to the miracles in our midst. Forgive us when we fail to see Christ in the ordinary, and in our extraordinary neighbor.

**Officiant:** As living beings, we recognize that we are a part of one another, freed by you to share in love with all your children everywhere. May we be responsible in our stewardship, joyous in our giving, and loving in all that we do. Continue to surprise us with your miracles, God. Multiply our work, our energy, our offerings, and our sharing in this time of social isolation and virtual worship, that we might be the bread of life to others. Continue to prepare us for our journeys into the world. **AMEN!**

### **Announcements and Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Travel**

#### **Benediction: The Passing of the Peace**

*(Mute your microphones and listen to the musical offering)*

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

Jeremiah Rankin

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQlv\\_xUYATg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQlv_xUYATg)

*God be with you till we meet again;  
By his counsels guide uphold you;  
With his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.*

## **Dismissal**

### **The Passion Readers:**

Narrator	John Gettings
Judas	Erika Bianchi
Jesus	Bob Stains
Peter	Scott McAllister-Dionne
High Priest	Sue Spencer
Servant Girl, Centurian, Pilate's Wife	Jan Briggs
Pilate	Vicki Lord
Accuser, Chief Priests, Congregation, Disciples, and Bystanders	All Readers