

Manor Minutes

Volume 11 Issue 14

April 3, 2020

Special greetings as we approach the beginning of Holy Week! May God's rich blessings and love be with you in your home and throughout our community. During this pandemic, the worshipping community of Fairhill Manor is encouraged to worship not in a common place, but in a common spirit. We encourage you to share the following worship service with your family as you gather in your home. Please remember that if you visit our website at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org, you will find recordings of this service for you to hear.

Also, remember to email or call either Pastor Darwin or Pastor Gena if you have prayer requests or special needs.

Pictures From Your Homes





Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(*Disciples of Christ*)

351 Montgomery Ave.

724-225-8610

Rev. Dr. W. Darwin Collins, Interim Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor

April 5, 2020

Welcome to our Home Worship Service!

Call to Worship

Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Pastoral Prayer*

Rev. Collins

Dear God, you who enter and call forth shouts of praise and thanksgiving, as you did in Jerusalem so many years ago. Come to us now and enter our lives and world so deeply troubled and frightened. Come as a gentle conqueror to enable us in the din of news reports and internal anxiety that we may hear your words of assurance and your comforting presence.

We remember those crowds that gathered along the palm-covered road as they were shocked by this new person, this one who was heralded as a healer and spoke with authority. We come this day scattered in our homes, in need of a healer, protector and one who can speak with authority in our lives that lack clarity and definition.

Ride into our lives this day, O Healer, for this invisible virus puts a cloud of uncertainty over us. We lack our familiar ways of comfort, fearing to touch or embrace...longing to be connected to our family and friends once again. Be our connection, O God, may your Spirit of peace and harmony make those connections through our calls, texts and emails. Draw us ever together in these distancing times with your love.

We give voice to our deepest concerns and prayers for those of our family and friends who need your healing and comforting presence. Hear now these petitions from our hearts: NAME YOUR PERSONAL CONCERNS.

Together, O God, we raise our common concerns of your protection for those who serve the needs of our neighbors and nation and world: for health care professionals who risk their own personal health to care for patients in need...from doctors and nurses to technicians and lab staff to custodians and office personnel. We pray for our first responders who seek to meet those calls of emergency for safety or health.

Children's Message*

Cara Hritz

Take a minute to think about the biggest parade you've seen. You may have seen a parade for a holiday in town, maybe on vacation somewhere, or maybe a special event for your school. Parades are a fun way to celebrate things! There's usually candy too! Now think about the things that you saw in the parade. Maybe you've seen fire trucks or police cars, maybe you've seen a band, or maybe dancers. Maybe people rode on big floats or sat upon fancy cars. If you've seen a parade in our town, it probably went right down Main Street, in the center of our city.

What you probably haven't seen in a parade is exactly what happened on Palm Sunday. The road wasn't like Main Street, it was muddy and made of dirt. And the person riding along wasn't in a fancy car, but on a donkey. Yet, a large crowd still gathered to see it all. Why do you think such a crowd would gather to see a man riding a donkey down a muddy road? Some people in the town asked the same thing. They didn't understand what was special about this man. Well, the people gathered there knew that Jesus was special without anything else. Jesus didn't need a fancy car or a big city road. Jesus gave new life and that alone was something to get excited about!

Let's take some time this week to remember that we can find Jesus anywhere. Even though we may not be together to celebrate and wave palms in a fun parade in our sanctuary, we can still celebrate Jesus and the excitement of Palm Sunday right in our homes.

Anthem

“Ride on King Jesus,” by the Moses Hogan Singers

<https://youtu.be/pE3WnhWI1IU>

You can click on the link above to hear this arrangement, or search on YouTube for this video.

Scripture Reading***Matthew 21:1-11**
Philippians 2:5-11

Kathy Moninger-Ford

Sermon Reflections***“Leadership 101”**

Rev. Collins

It's too bad we read this letter from Paul as prose rather than the poetry it was intended to be...as a matter of fact it was probably set to music to be shared by the congregation in worship. As we know hymns are often so much easier to recall than any sermon.

This powerful message from Paul is primarily directed to this audience in Philippi that he loved so dearly in response to their desire to know what God is truly like. His quick and simple answer to that question was, “look to Jesus.” For Paul, Jesus exemplified and humanized all the divine nature of God.

To explain that our God chose to come in human form would not have been foreign to these early Christians educated in the Greek and Roman gods. The stories were common of gods in relationship with humans seeking to show their power and influence over humanity...our more modernized superhero movies, think Thor, show the same concept. That was the way leadership was demonstrated...the powerful, the

godlike figures, the Roman authorities showed their leadership by oppressing the people, keeping them in their place.

So, when Paul talked about God coming in human form, it was no big deal...it was part of their culture in those days. The difference explained by Paul was that God came in Jesus to demonstrate a very different style of interaction and leadership. He gave to those Philippian Christians and to us a lesson in God-like leadership that contrasted with those ancient gods, with the Roman authorities, and, I dare say, with some of our current leaders who believe the important characteristics of being a great leader is to exert authority and control.

The power that God exerts through Jesus was not what is so commonly displayed in human leadership of demanding obedience but of humble service. Jesus emptied himself, becoming a slave. Jesus was the premiere example of humility. Leading by example.

Jesus willingly, in all his power, chose to use that power, not over, but rather as a power alongside his followers. He chose to show his power as love, compassion, mercy and companionship.

Jesus illustrates for us that God does not so much wish to show God's power over us as much as to bless us. Jesus, as the true reflection of God's essential character, accepted obedience even to the cross to share God's love to all of us. And then from the cross, Jesus shows forth love, "Father, forgive them."

That's what God is like...that's divine leadership. And let's not forget Paul began this ancient hymn to plead with those early Christians to emulate and imitate this same leadership style in their lives. "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..."

It was Thomas Paine that so eloquently described the critical time of the American Revolution when he explained that age as "these are the times that try men's souls." Our time is surely trying our souls and challenging how we respond...and I wonder if Paul would not write to us something very similar to inspire us and encourage us to lead by example and imitate that style of Jesus of thinking first of the good of others and always imitating the essential character of our God, love.

Call to Stewardship*

Marsha Sams

Good a.m. - Hope this finds you all healthy and safe. As we continue to live our "new normal" I'm sure some of you have had to make some adjustments, and that may include what you are able to give to the church. The financial obligations that we have, paying salaries, upkeep, utilities, roof repayment etc., continues so we pray that you are able to continue to give to the church what you can. We will also resume with monthly collections after we get back because there will be a great need to help our neighbors. There is a light at the end of this tunnel and may the LIGHT that guides us shine so bright within us that we continue to be aware of the world around us. God is good all the time and All the time God is good.

Service at the Lord's Table

(We invite you to prepare a roll of bread or a cracker with a glass of juice or a beverage. Place it on the table before you and your family and share it after repeating the following prayer offered by J.C. Leasure, our Elder, and the Words of Institution.)

Invitation to Communion*

Pastor Gena

This morning as we gather for Communion,
Jesus is in need of a table where he can share this meal with us.
Would you lend him your table?

On the first day of Holy Week long ago,
people throughout Judea arrived
at the dusty gates of Jerusalem,
primed with "Hosanna" in their hearts
and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey.

On the Thursday that followed,
Jesus rented or was given
an Upper Room
to celebrate the Passover with his disciples.

On the afternoon of the resurrection,
Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus
and used the bread of that hospitality
to break and bless.

Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart this morning, won't you?
For, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey,
"The Lord has need of it."

Prayer for the Bread and Cup*

J. C. Leasure

Our Father in heaven,
As we reflect on your Son's entry into Jerusalem and count it as triumphant,
let us also recognize that Jesus came not as a grand king or general, but as a humble
servant. Not looking to receive praise and glory but to give mercy and grace. As we
share this communion with Christ, let us do so in remembrance that as your disciples we
are not looking to gain any status but to be humbled and serve in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Words of Institution*

Pastor Gena

We remember that Paul the apostle
wrote letters to congregations throughout places
we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia,
and they were the first "remote" worship resources.
Our online service has a long heritage.

The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these:
For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said,
“This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Benediction*

Rev. Collins

Dearly beloved of God, those upon whom God's favor in Christ Jesus is always present, lift your hearts this day to offer praise to that one welcomed by a parade of cheers and palms who God has highly exalted and gave him a name above every name...to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

* You can listen to these pieces of worship at <https://fairhillmanorchurch.org/worship-audio-files>

The Invitation to Communion and Words of Institution were adapted from https://www.ucc.org/online_communion_palm_sunday_april_5_tirabassi.

Photo Challenge for This Week: Share a photo that you might entitle “Easter.”

Reflection Question for This Week: In this trying time for our nation and world, when in your life have you experienced another time of uncertainty? How did you feel God's help and support in passing through that experience?

PRAYERS NEEDED:

Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee in your prayers:

J.C. Leasure (Chairperson), Becca Caldwell, Jackie Nelson, Diane Palfreyman, Rolinda Sprowls and Mike Sweeney

Please remember Judy Hanning this coming week as she begins her chemotherapy plan. May God grant her strength and endurance as she proceeds in the weeks to come.

Good news report from Jody Mullis. She is continuing to get better and is almost finished with her therapy. She said she is gaining strength each day and can't wait until she will be able to come to Church to play the piano and be with everyone. She misses everyone so much.

If anyone is in need of food or knows of anyone who is, please contact Marsha Sams. She can be contacted by phone/text message at 859-421-7227 or e-mail at msams822@gmail.com.

PRAYERS NEEDED:

Avery Allen
Bill Behrens
Bristol Allan Berry
Mark & Susan Britko
Jim Chase
Emily Cope Robinson
Fred Engle
Bonnie Gregg
Judy Hanning
Ed & Harriet Jackman
Tom Lane
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dick Moninger
Jody Mullis
Ed Palfreyman
Joe Palfreyman
Denny Paul
Jeannie Riffle
Lori Riffle
Betty Jo Riggle
Barb Roupe
Shirley Sanders
Beth Teagarden
Melissa Teagarden
Shirley Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Preparing for Baptism – Nyka Rash

In the Military

Lance Dague
Terrell McClain
Brandon Lipscomb
Daniel Robinson
Shawn Dallatore
Andrew Gregg
Zachary Keene
Sarah Lipscomb
Travis Ringer
Emily Chase

During this time of precaution and limited visitation, take a moment to send a card or note to those in nursing homes or who are homebound to let them know that you are thinking of them.

In Care Centers:

Southmont-Presbyterian Medical Center, 835 S Main Street, Washington PA 15301

Bill Behrens Rm 437

Rev. Marge Frank

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino

317 Wellness Way

Strabane Trails #325

Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough

949 Bruce Street

Washington, PA 15301



Fairhill Manor has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.

Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.

Scriptures for April 12:

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 28:1-10

Rev. Collins is available to you for your pastoral needs.

Cell: (412) 337-4293

Email: wdar1950@gmail.com

From Rev. Thaddaeus Allen, Regional Minister

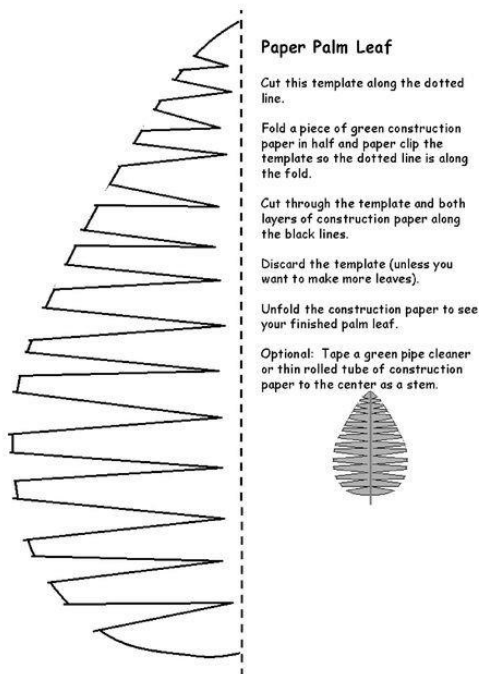
As the days unfold, I hope that we are being gentle with ourselves and with those around us. These days have reset us in many ways. Our Lenten sacrifice and time apart from world like pleasures has been refining us. We are reminded of how precious life is. We are seeing examples of sacrificial love that risks all to care for the sick and hurting. We are mindful of the gap that exists between those who have and those who have not. We are learning again about the love of God. In some ways we are closer as a church than ever. This closeness in distancing is a gift of God's good grace.

Earlier this week my daughter, Kaylie, and our dog, CiCi, strolled several blocks to put the regional mail in a box. There were closer options, but it provided a good excuse to get out and journey together. While walking we counted 12 bears! Have you heard of the Bear hunts? Neighbors are putting teddy bears or other kinds of critters in home windows. The neighborhood kids can then look for bears as a way to focus in this time of chaos.

Maybe we could add palms (made of paper or other material) to our windows or doors for our neighbors to see. I would love to go on a walk and count palms that devoted followers of Jesus displayed to usher in the Holiest Week of the year. Will you join me this? Together we can help ourselves, and even the world, to focus on the saving work of Jesus in this holy time of chaos.

Template

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Have a great day.

Choose Happy 😊

Karen

4/3/2020