

Manor Minutes
Volume 13 Issue 17
April 8, 2022

Prayer Vigil 7am Saturday, April 16 – 7am Sunday, April 17. Time slots available. Please see sign-up sheet in Narthex or you can call the office for available slots.

The Story Chapter 25 Who is Jesus? – April 10

Lenten Devotional Discussion – April 11, 7pm via Zoom

Elders Meeting – April 13, 6pm Library

Maundy Thursday Service – April 14, 7pm

Good Friday Service – April 15, 7pm

Stay up to date, check www.fairhillmanorchurch.org/calendar



Bethany Class

The Bethany Class Zoom will open at 8:30 am on Sunday.

The class will begin at 9am on Sunday.

Meeting ID: 883 3055 7258 Passcode: 344061

Unit 2: Liberating Gospels

April 10 Passover with the King Matthew 26:17-30

April 17 Resurrection of the King Matthew 28:1-10

April 24 Freedom in the King John 8:31-38

This Zoom class will also be available Wednesdays at 1pm. You will use the same Meeting ID and Passcode as Sunday link.

Bethany Class Luncheon – May 1, 1pm at Tower Restaurant

The special **Easter Offering** supports General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). You can place your donation in the offering plate, online through the FMCC website/Givelify or directly to the Disciples Mission Fund at disciplesmissionfund.org/give.



Soup Sunday – April 24 – following Worship
Everyone is welcome.

Bring your favorite soup or just stay to eat, enjoy and fellowship!



There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to bring soup. You can make the same kind of soup as someone else; we just would like to know about how many soups there will be. You don't have to sign up to come.



Fairhill Manor Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
351 Montgomery Ave.
724-225-8610

Rev. Chris Stillwell, Senior Minister
Rev. Gena Sheller, Associate Pastor
Elders: Cara Hritz, Bread
Diane Palfreyman, Cup
April 10, 2022 - 10:15am

Prelude

Audra Allen, organist

Welcome

Pastor Gena

Call to Worship

Gene Sheller

Leader: Sing glory to God in the highest heaven.

People: The king is coming!

Leader: Even if we keep silent, the rocks will shout it out.

People: The king is coming! The king is coming!

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Blessed are we who come into the presence of the Lord today!

Opening Hymn

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Audra Allen, organist

All glory, laud, and honor, to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
You are a child of Israel, Great David's greater son;
you ride in lowly triumph, Messiah, blessed one!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Gena

"Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Come, come this way into our city, into our homes, into our church, into our lives. Come and save us. We worship you, we welcome you, we lay down what we have to prepare a path that is just a bit more special for you, for we are glad you are coming this way! We open our hearts again to receive you, this time a little more willingly than the last.

Holy Lord, forgive us for misunderstanding what your kingdom is about. Forgive us for relying on power and might, prestige and merit. Forgive us for admiring those who have the newest and best. Help us to see that without anything, without any achievement, without any accomplishment, we are enough. We are your children and in you we have everything we need. Give us the courage to be ourselves as you have created us, willing to be vulnerable, willing to depend on you, willing to show others love and mercy and grace. Willing to lose and to serve in your name.

We give you thanks for inviting us to walk this journey with you this week, knowing how easily our thoughts and emotions, our loyalties and commitments will change. You know this about us and yet you still call us on the way with you. Even if we could get it all right this time, still that would not earn us your love any more. Your love is already here for us. And so we lift our voices in thanksgiving that this week shows us that nothing we can do can separate us from your love or earn your love for ourselves any more. Help us to rest in your endless love, to bask in it, to share it and live it, as we walk with you.

Holy God, your son humbled himself, even to death, to show us the power of loving service. Guide those holding positions of power, that their decisions might help all of the world you so love to flourish together.

Healing God, the violence your son endured continues in our violent world each day. Raise us to a new and rightly ordered world through the reconciling love of Christ, where all victims of violence, persecution, shame, or terror may stand together with you in peace. Heal our wounds and our anger, we pray.

Grieving God, your son consoled others in life and in death. We pray for all who are distressed, broken, or sorrowful, that together with Christ in his suffering we may be healed and raised in you.

Compassionate God, we know the comfort of your presence and strength in our lives and we so want others to experience that too. So please be with these we name now in your presence... You know what each one needs. Show us how to love and care for each other in your name.

Loving God, in Jesus' passion and resurrection, you show us there is no place you have not been and no place you fear to go. Morning by morning, awaken us more deeply to this truth. And then send us into the world this day and every day with the courage and wisdom to be faithful witnesses to your coming reign of justice, mercy, and peace.

We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, the coming King, who teaches us to pray, saying...

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 forever. Amen.

Prayer Response:

"Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29

Gary Ford

Anthem

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty," by Thomas Williams

Choir

Children's Message

J.C. Leasure

I have heard countless times that nothing lasts forever. I often hear that after something good has happened. Cleaning up after a camping trip, "Nothing lasts forever." Throwing darts in a playoff game, "Nothing lasts forever." Finishing a cup of coffee at my favorite coffee shop, "Nothing lasts forever." I wish some things would last forever, and I'm sure you do too. But we hear in our Scriptures today that one thing does last forever:

"Oh give thanks to the LORD for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 118:1

God loves us, and there is no end to that love. God loves us so much that he sent his Jesus to us, that whoever believes in him will live with God forever. Though the beautiful flowers of Spring may fade, and the shade of trees fall in Autumn, God's love for you has no end. God has always loved you, and will always love you. Sometimes we may feel like we are alone or a sadness will never end, but remember God is here with us always because he loves us that much. I know sometimes we may get tired hanging

out with friends but God never tires from being with you because he loves you so much. It is such a great feeling to be loved. It is even better to know that God, the one who created the earth and everything in it, loves us so much that he is always with us. So remember that flowers and activities are only temporary, but God's love lasts forever.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 19:28-44

Rev. Stillwell

Sermon

“The Stones Cry Out!”

Rev. Stillwell

Human beings have questioned and wondered whether or not there truly is a God for as long as we can know, and some have even tried to prove that God does or does not exist. Theological arguments and logical arguments alike have been batted back and forth. Alexander Campbell participated in many of them saying:

The whole systems of creation, providence, and redemption, are founded upon these relations in the Deity. Destroy these, blend and confound these, and nature, providence, and grace, are blended, confounded, and destroyed. (The Christian System Chapter V 1839)

So Campbell argued that all of creation is related to God, but many have argued that science and religion cannot mix so that to learn about God and to learn about how the world was made is to learn about two different things. What I have learned, however, is that one often helps reveal and explain the other. As I studied astronomy I learned of the millions of variables that had to take place so that life on earth could exist. We talked about all the things that happened differently on another planet that prevented life from taking root there, and, in the end, we were left with what a staggering improbability it is that you and I are here today.

But I find that, sometimes, all the empirical evidence in the world cannot make up for the simple eloquence of beauty. The beauty that I am referring to today is that of the created world. To see a sunrise over a mountain, to float in the warm and clear waters of the sea, to drive into the bottom of the Grand Canyon, to view the world from a high mountain top is the best argument for the existence of God that I know. To put it another way it is often the stones and not the facts that speak most powerfully about God. This is a truth that Jesus elucidates as he enters into the city of Jerusalem where, at first, it is the people who cry out welcoming him into the city, announcing his arrival, lavishing him with praise and adoration. In Jerusalem, on the first Palm Sunday, it was the people who “began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,³⁸ saying, ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’”

Here is the culmination of Jesus’ long journey to Jerusalem. It began many days ago in the gospel of Luke and along the way we read all manner of stories including healings and miracles, foretellings of what is to come, tricks and traps laid out for Jesus, and teachings of the Kingdom that is at hand.

In a normal story this would be the finale. The happy ending for which we have all been waiting. Jesus has rode into the capital of God’s country and been received by the people. The king has come into his kingdom.

But we know too well, as Jesus, himself, has told us through what he told his disciples, that this is no ordinary story. It does not follow the usual pattern. Although many in the city welcome him there are many more who do not. Upon reading this story at first we are not aware of them, but soon we will be. First, there are those in the temple going about their days trying to prepare for the most holy of days. They are too busy to care who this man is riding through the city on a common colt looking for all the world

like every other Jewish pilgrim come to make sacrifice in the temple. Their business of doing God's work doesn't leave them any time to notice or care that God is among them.

Then there were the priests and the scribes, who, when they did notice Jesus, were angered over his teachings and sought to stop him. They ask him about paying taxes knowing that there was no right answer. If Jesus said to pay taxes to Caesar the zealots would call him a traitor to Israel. If he said not to pay taxes the Romans would consider him a traitor to Rome.

Then there were all the people who weren't even aware that he was there. Even in small city no person can know everything that is happening and everyone who is there, but in the city of Jerusalem, a large city of its time and during its busiest period, you can be sure that most of the people either had not heard of Jesus of Nazareth or were completely unaware that he was here.

Finally, in the version of this story found in the gospel of Luke, some of the Pharisees were angered over his arrival. The crowd shouts "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." The Pharisees are scandalized and demand that they stop. The Pharisees are angry and afraid.

They are angry because this challenges their authority and draws an unpredictable crowd. They are afraid, because at the same time as Jesus' triumphal entry into the city there was also a procession on the other side of Jerusalem. As Pilate came to be in charge of Judea he entered the city as part of a procession of imperial cavalry and soldiers. Pilate's procession was a demonstration of both Roman imperial power and imperial theology. The emperor was considered divine, and Pilate was his emissary. As such, Jesus' procession proclaimed the Kingdom of God, Pilate's procession proclaimed the power of Roman Empire. These two processions embody the central conflict that would lead to Jesus'; crucifixion in the week ahead.

A crowd of people calling Jesus a king will arouse the anger of the Romans. For this reason the Pharisees were concerned that if this mob grows it will have to be put down, and Pilate will not take the time to distinguish who is a follower of Jesus or not. The Romans know nothing of the subtleties of the Jewish religion. They don't know one sect from another so in putting down this rebellion they won't just go after Jesus' followers. They'll punish the Jewish leadership as well. Disciples' and Pharisees' alike will feel the wrath of Rome.

Jesus did not come to be emperor, but those who hear the crowd call Jesus Lord and king don't understand the irony. Honestly most of the people doing the calling didn't understand it either. They were not being ironic and they failed to grasp the subversive nature of calling this man king who came to serve. Calling the one who came to save, Lord, means that he is not the same kind of king that Herod or Caesar were. Treating a man who rides on a colt and whose followers have no wealth or power like a king shows that this man did not come to change a government; he came to change a people.

All of this causes Jesus to weep over Jerusalem outside of its walls for though some people understand, most people just cannot be bothered to know about him, even, and especially, the ones cheering for him in the procession.

So Jesus entry into Jerusalem is called triumphal, but mostly it was misunderstood, or ignored. The people who did not welcome him were too busy with the busyness of Passover and all of the preparations that went into it to notice that the Messiah had finally come. What an irony! That is why we celebrate Palm Sunday and remember the day that Christ rode triumphantly into Jerusalem.

Palm Sunday prepares us for Easter so that we do not miss it in all of our busyness. Holy week is one of the busiest weeks in the lives of a Christian. We have Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, Good Friday

and Easter Sunday. Many Christians will not only attend their church at least once this week, but likely will attend another as well for a cantata or special service. We have to buy our candy and decorations. We have to color our eggs. We have to prepare for Easter dinner and some of us must travel to get there.

The ultimate irony is that we celebrate the triumph of Jesus Christ over those who were silent because they did not notice, but our preparations for the event sometimes cause us to miss him this time. So many people of Jerusalem missed him when he came, and we have to ask ourselves, if Christ came today would we be too busy with Easter to notice him? Just like at Christmas we can get so busy following our religion that we forget our God. Thank God that when we are silent the stones cry out.

That is what Jesus says to the Pharisees when they tell him to silence the crowd. 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.' Why would they do this? Because the stones that were created by the majesty of God cannot but declare God's majesty. Perhaps not with words, but by their very existence. The stones cry out God's glory and majesty. The stones cry out his presence and his passion. And not just the stones, but the plants, the flowers, the birds and the beasts, indeed all of creation exemplifies the wonderful and loving hand of God.

When people wonder if there is in fact a God, many go to logical or theological arguments, while others look for evidence in scientific data, but I look to the stones. I look at creation, itself, and see in its beauty and its order evidence of a divine creation and designer. I see in each sunrise and waterfall the hand of a loving God. I know that this is not definitive proof, and that many people enjoy the calm of the ocean and the wonder of a mountaintop without it moving them to faith, but, for me, the creation declares God's might and power simply by its beauty.

When we were in Colorado a few years ago, Owen said he was bored as we drove up the mountains. I told him to look out his window to see the show God had for us. His response was one that was true enough. He said, "It's just rocks and trees dad. We have those in Pennsylvania too." I agreed but replied, "Yeah, but they are arranged a little differently here."

Sometimes we become so inured to the presence of stones in our life that we take little or no notice of them, but I think it might be a good idea this week to pay particular attention to the stones that you see. If you look you'll notice that they are everywhere. Whenever you see one stop what you are doing for just a moment and think to yourself, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven," for each and every stone was created by the one who was so powerful and wise that he could design every stone in the universe while at the same time caring so much about us, small as we are in comparison.

Everything we see in nature is so intricately designed and lovingly created, and if God cares so much about the sparrows and the grass, so much about the rocks and stones, then how much does God care about us?

This is a great week for watching the flowers bloom, the grass grow. It is great for hearing the birds sing and noticing the ways in which the stones and all things in creation shout of God's goodness. Psalm 19 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands," and that is true, but this week, let us not look up to see God, but look down and see evidence of God all around us.

A resurrection is occurring in our midst just as we are preparing to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Let us not be the only part of creation not shouting his praise and witnessing to God's power and wonder. Let us join the flowers, the trees, the rocks and stone be declaring hosanna! Let us all shout to the king of kings!

Call to Offering

Diana Crowe

Jesus came as our king, to share your blessings with the world, O God. The one who was greatest among us became the least for us and our salvation. Our servant king humbled himself to sustain our weary souls. May the gifts we bring today be used by you, our Lord, to save and sustain the weary souls of our world today.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dedication of Offering Prayer

Rev. Stillwell

Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, O Lord, that the whole world may know the glory and power of your kingdom. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Stillwell

As Jesus entered into the city of Jerusalem the people greeted him by shouting Hosanna. There is no doubt that the people saw him as the Messiah, and they believed that he was coming to unseat the rulers. They believed that the kingdom was an earthly kingdom. They believed that Jesus was an earthly king just as David was before. Their expectations were high, but when Jesus entered the city, he looked around, and left. Maybe the people were disappointed that he did not overthrow Rome or conquer Herod. The word Hosanna means "Save now" and it is clear that the people wanted to be saved now, and when it did not happen on their time table, they quickly turned against him. If Christ would not save them now, they reasoned, he would not save them at all.

How guilty are we of putting God on our time table? We want things, and we want them now, but even when God does say yes to our prayers they rarely come when we want them. The problem is that in our impatience we can miss a pretty great blessing in our midst as the people of Jerusalem did that day. It was necessary that they might see that Jesus followed God's will and not the people's will. And in doing so he saved all people later.

As we commemorate the sacrifice Christ made and feel his presence in our midst let us take our prayers to him and ask him to save us from our troubles that oppress us but do not turn against him if we are not immediately saved from all of our troubles. Rather, let us continue to follow him even to the cross. For it is in following the Palm Sunday March to its full conclusion that we will come to the Kingdom.

Communion Hymn*"Lord of Our Highest Love!"*

Audra Allen, organist

Lord of our highest love! Let now your peace be given;
fix all our thoughts on things above, our hearts on you in heaven.

Prayer for the Bread & Cup

Cara Hritz

God of goodness and grace,

In this season of lent we are especially mindful of our own sacrifices. As we gather for this meal, fix our minds on your sacrifice. Fill out hearts and minds with your love. Your love that runs so deep you gave your only son to save us. Let this bread and cup bring a fullness that only you can give. Let that fullness of your love overflow into all we do as we go into your world. Amen

Words of Institution

Rev. Stillwell

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 Holy Communion

You will receive the bread and cup together. Please hold them; we will take each together as one body. Disciples of Christ believe in an Open Table. All who profess Christ and follow Him are welcome to share His meal.

Call to Discipleship

Rev. Stillwell

If you have come to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to profess that you intend to begin a life of faith, learning to walk in his way of Love, you are welcome to contact one of the Pastors to take this step. If you would like to join this part of the Body of Christ at Fairhill Manor Christian Church, to covenant to journey together in this life of faith, please reach out to one of the Pastors to learn more. We all take these moments to rededicate our lives to following Jesus.

Closing Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Jody Mullis, pianist

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Benediction

Rev. Stillwell

As you leave this place remember your lord as he was greeted that day in Jerusalem. Do not miss your opportunity to roar like a lion and shout “Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forevermore!”

Recorded worship services can be found on the Church website or on YouTube,
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmlH3qzih_fzHCC2X0Jhc_sfniJ7C1O3X



Do you have a prayer request or need help? Please feel free to contact Rev. Chris (412-956-6590) and Pastor Gena (724) 263-0033 directly and confidentially. Or scroll down on the opening page of our website (www.fairhillmanorchurch.org) to "Requests for Prayer or Help." There you can send an email which will go directly to Rev. Chris and Pastor Gena. We are One Body in Christ!

Homebound Members:

Phyllis Cimino
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Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Mary McDonough
949 Bruce Street
Washington PA 15301

Alice Cokeley
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826 Good Intent Rd
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Ed Alexy
Avery Allen
Terry Bailey
Donna Bakaitis
Jim Banish
Tom Barnhart
Abby Blanchard
Susan Britko
Mabel Brooks
Sandra Carman
Denise Charles
Wanda Chicone
Emily Cope Robinson
Ruth Cox
Irma Davis
Jessica Duke
Libby Eberhard
Fred Engle
Jay Freudenberg
Jett Fuller
Derek Gardiner
David & Lois Gayman
Joe Greene
Bonnie Gregg

Linda Hainer
Kyle Hallam
Judy Hanning
Aryn Hess
Ed Jackman
Dallas Jacobovitz
Kenger Family
Family of Pam Kloss
Ty, Kerri, Allie, Ivy &
Ty James Lacock
Von Lacock
Bob Lanning
Libby LeDuff
Lee & Betsy Martin
Dave McConnell
Don Melvin
Michaela Nixon
Carmen Oliverio
Ruth Mikuta
Deborah Patterson
Bo & Patty Pryor
Kayda Richards
Cathy Rentgen
Betty Jo Riggle
Dave Ross
Jim and Barb Roupe

John Samida
John Shadeck
Hannah Simpson
Doug and Tracy Smith
Cathy Stewart
John Stewart
Bernard and Jane Teagarden
Beth Teagarden
Nadine Teagarden
Gary Weaver
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck & Mary Wiseman
Sarah Wittenberg

In the Military

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

Church Office hours:

Karen is working from home on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9 am – 2 pm. She will be in the Church Office on Wednesday & Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm. The Church phone is forwarded to Karen's cell phone and can be reached anytime.

Pastor Gena is off on Friday. Pastor Gena is working from home and comes in to the church as needed. Feel free to text, call, email or set up a time to meet with Pastor Gena.

Rev. Chris is off on Tuesday during the school year.

If you need anything at any time, please call the Church Office phone at 724-225-8610.

Zoom Worship will continue to be live at
10:15 am each Sunday

"Join a Meeting" on Zoom at 9:45am using the
following meeting ID and password.

Meeting ID: **932 4557 4206** Password: **026316**

Fellowship with other "Zoomers" from 9:45 – 10:15am.

Text your prayer concerns to be shared during worship
to Rev. Chris at (412) 956-6590.



24 HOURS OF PRAYER

24 Hour Prayer Vigil

Fairhill Manor will be having a **24 hour prayer vigil** beginning at 7am Saturday, April 16 and ending 7am Sunday, April 17.

There will be ½ hour prayer slots. You may sign up for more than one slot.

If you choose a prayer slot from 7am Saturday through 11pm Saturday, you will pray in the Parlor at the Church. If you choose a prayer slot from 11pm Saturday through 7am Sunday, you will pray in your home.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex or contact the office (724) 225-8610.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This year we will recreate our Tenebrae service in two parts.

- On **Maundy Thursday** we will read Scriptures about the Last Supper and light a candle for each disciple.
- On **Good Friday** we will return to the candlelit Sanctuary and read Scriptures concerning Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion and one by one extinguish the candles.

Readers are needed for both services. Contact Rev. Chris for more information.

On Easter we will have a Sunrise Service on the front steps of the church and a joyful worship with the children playing the bells during the normal worship hour.

April 14	Maundy Thursday Service	7pm (In-person & on Zoom)
April 15	Good Friday Service	7pm (In-person & on Zoom)
April 17	Sunrise Service	7am (outside in front of the church)
	Breakfast	Following Sunrise Service
	Everyone is welcome to stay for a continental breakfast in the Large Fellowship Hall provided by the BYKOTA Sunday school class.	
	Worship Service	10:15 am (In-person & on Zoom)
	Children will play "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" on bells.	