ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST April 2, 2023 - 9:30 am PALM SUNDAY Bonnie Jacque, Pastor

This is our sanctuary, where we come to be with God. As you prepare for worship, please silence your phone.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP. Pastor: Who comes this way? **Right Side: I wonder who is he?** Left Side: They say he is the Christ. Pastor: That means Messiah. **Right Side: That means the Anointed One, the Savior, the...** All: King Left Side: Who comes this way? Right Side: Is it really him? I want him to beat the Romans and save us from poverty and hunger. Pastor: Is he victorious? Is he powerful? Is he scary? Left Side: Where is he from Greece? Rome? Jerusalem? Milwaukee? Right Side: They say he comes from Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth and Galilee. Pastor: "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" **Right Side: Who comes this way?** Left Side: Who is he? Why are we cheering him on? Is he good or bad? He must be rich to get such praise.

Pastor: Stop waving that branch in my face. Move away! Let me see around this parade. Put me on your shoulders. I need a higher glimpse of him. I just want to see his face and then I will know who he is, let me see...

Right Side: Wait!
Left Side: Wait!
Right Side: It is only a man.
Left Side: And he is just on a donkey, no conquering steed.
Pastor: It is only a man, what is so great about him?
Right Side: Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!
Left Side: Hosanna means "save us" and "we pray"
Pastor: But who is this man that will save us?
All: Who comes this way? Hosanna!

*OPENING PRAYER The story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, tells us that after his celebrated arrival, he went into the Temple and looked around at everything. As we gather here for worship today may it be with a sense that Jesus has walked in and is looking around. May our eyes be open to see Him, may our hearts be ready to be seen by Him, may our worship be worthy of His presence, and may we be transformed so that we see the world through His eyes. Amen.

***HYMN** Ride On, Ride On in Majesty #215

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

One: When we feel so negative about ourselves, and we do not hear the acceptance of those who care about us.

ALL: Forgive us, O Lord.

One: When our sense of isolation blocks out our awareness of your abiding love.

ALL: Forgive us, O Lord.

One: When we feel so guilty, we cannot hear your forgiveness and find new life.

ALL: Forgive us, O Lord. Amen. The good news is that we are accepted and affirmed by God as we are.

One: The good news is that we are not strangers to ourselves or to one another.

ALL: We are God's children, members of one body. Our sins are forgiven. We have been brought into new life.

One: Hear this good news! The procession is ever moving forward. We can join at any moment. The invitation still stands! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you. ALL: And also with you.

*HYMN	All Glory, Laud and Honor	#216

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 50:4-9a, Ps 31:9-16; Matthew 21:1-11

MEDITATION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

We give you but your own, what-er the gift may be. All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION O God of welcome and waving palms, as the crowd offered to you their praise and palms on the road, so we share these gifts out of the abundance you have provided. May they be for the healing salvation and work of justice you are about in the world through your unending love. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNUntil All Are FedInsert

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER. We thank you, God, that you have provided for all the worlds that ever were or will be by giving yourself to them in love. We thank you for Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, uncovering your presence. We ask now that you bless us, as we share this bread and cup,

that we might be nourished by that same unbounded love, and so be encouraged to be your servants to the world. And now, as your daughters and sons who you have reconciled to yourself, we pray: Our Father, who art in heave, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN	Filled with Excitement	#214

BENDICTION

*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Congregational Response to each prayer request is: Your prayer is our prayer. Your joy is our joy.

Communion is open to all, including children with parent's approval. We serve wine in the outer rings and juice in the middle. We offer a gluten free wafer for those with gluten intolerance or need a gluten-free diet.

Resources: Opening prayer written by Ann Siddall and posted on the **Stillpoint Spirituality Centre** website. <u>https://stillpointsa.org.au/</u>Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, umcdiscipleship.org

REMINDERS

- 04/06 Bible Study at 1 pm
- 04/06 Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service at 7 pm
- 04/09 Easter Sunday at 9:30
- 04/13 Bible Study
- 04/16 Congregational Meeting following worship
- 04/17 Council Meeting at 6 pm
- 04/20 Women's Guild at noon
- 04/29 SE Assoc. Annual Meeting 9 am Grafton
- 04/29 Spring Clean Up 8-11 am

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING following worship on April 16th regarding payment of the solar panels.

SE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING Pastor Bonnie will be attending and we are encouraged to include one additional representative. Speak to Pastor Bonnie if you are interested.

Rural Ministry Conference Pastor Bonnie (and Jeff) will be attending the Rural Ministry Conference in Dubuque, Iowa from April 16 to the 18th. Please contact Charmaine Duehring in an emergency.

Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits: Marilyn Dieball, Ron Smith, Beulah Timm, Richard Nell, Marvin Schlafer, and Lucy Krapfl.

Pastor Bonnie's e-mail address is: <u>saintpaulserin.pastor@gmail.com</u> Pastor Bonnie's phone number is: 262-416-5094.

There are no birthdays or anniversaries this coming week.

Liturgist for this Sunday	Brett Miller
Liturgist for next Sunday	Steve Manuell
Greeters for this Sunday	Needed
Greeters for next Sunday	Needed

Following service, you are invited for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Fall.