

And by the State

Matthew 27:1-4; 11-26

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

474 UMH

1. Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, Lead me home.

Meditation

Rev. Rachel G. May

Executed

Matthew 27:27-50

2. When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near
When my light is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Matthew 27:51-61

Please rise for this reading.



THE SENDING

*Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

301 UMH

*Benediction

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Presenting a quite different image of holy power than did the Roman Empire, riding a donkey instead of a war-horse, leading a legion of disciples in rags, wearing the armor of good will, Jesus entered the city on a dirt road. And the crowds roared approval for this act of public theater. Pilate considered it a revolutionary action.

- N. Rockwell, *Triumph and Defeat*

April 9, 2017

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

A Service of Worship for Palm and Passion Sunday

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal
(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

We glorify the up and coming;
Meanwhile, you are downwardly mobile.
Ride on, King of peace.
Ride on.

*Introit *Mantos Y Palmas*

THE PALMS

*The Entrance Psalm 118:19-29

*Hymn *All Glory, Laud, and Honor (1-3)* UMH 280

Greeting

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
on this day Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem
and was proclaimed King
by those who longed for your rule and your reign.
Let the branches they waived be for us signs of their love
and grant that we who are gathered in this place
may ever claim him,
and follow him, wherever he leads. **Amen.**

Children's Moment

Scripture Lesson Matthew 21:1-9

"The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting... (v. 9)"

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

All: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Matthew 21:10-11

*Hymn *Canticle of the Turning* Insert

Meditation Rev. Rachel G. May

Scripture Lesson Philippians 2:5-11

One: God, you defy our expectations.

Many: **We ask people to change;**

You teach us acceptance.

We ask to be loved;

You ask us to love.

We ask for ease;

You say, go, give others rest.

THE PASSION

Passover Matthew 26:17-29

On the Mount
In the Garden Matthew 26:30-39

Interlude
An offering is collected.

Sold Out
Handed Over Matthew 26:40-52

We Sang Our Glad Hosannas 2111 TFWS

1. **We sang our glad Hosannas,
and waved our branches high,
but some were silent, frowning,
as Jesus rode on by.
They sought a royal Savior
but did not understand
a king could rule by loving,
instead of by command.**

3. **We served him at the table
with wine, unleavened bread.
"The one who will betray me
now eats with me," he said.
His friends would not believe him,
but one by one that night,
as soldiers came to take him,
they scurried out of sight.**

Tried by Religion Matthew 26:57-68

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley 2112 TFWS

1. Je - sus walked __ this lone - some valley;
He had to walk __ it by him - self. __
_ Oh, no-bod - y else __ could walk it for him;
He had to walk __ it by him - self.

3. You must go __ and stand your tri - al;
You have to stand __ it by your - self. __
_ Oh, no-bod - y else __ can stand it for you;
you have to stand __ it by your - self.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

²⁷ **BIND THE FESTAL PROCESSION WITH BRANCHES** - Psalm 118

Well, what in the world does that mean? Bind the festal procession...yes, of course, let me run and do that...said no one ever.

Commentary from back in the day says that it is a call to come freely with the offering, which is to be presented to God (A. Barnes, 1870). The one saying bind the festal procession with branches is getting the people fired up about gift giving.

Martin Luther thought that this binding the festal procession with branches had to do with adorning a feast with leaves. Others concur: These words harken back to the Feast of Tabernacles or Sukkot, when the faithful filled Jerusalem to remember God's provision in the wilderness and to celebrate the promise of an age to come.

I suppose it would be okay to shrug and move on. A problem with that approach is in the dismissiveness. These words are taken from the pages of our spiritual ancestors' worship. To read a Psalm is to be invited to approach God alongside of those who approached God in the past. Connecting with the images is important!

Bind the festal procession with branches: What are we saying?

I think we are drumming up enthusiasm for a certain kind of entry into the stories of God and into the hopes of God's people. We are rallying folk, starting with ourselves, to join a procession. We are doing what our spiritual ancestors taught us to do; namely to mark holidays in the *present* in order to recall something God had done in the *past*, while looking forward to some *future* reality.

Actual processions will happen at many houses of worship this Palm Sunday. I don't think it's a cop-out to say that we can process in the terrain of the heart—that we can join in the truth and beauty of the moment without literally forming one line and waving branches in the air.

If we are glad to offer ourselves to holy happenings of the past and if we are glad to give what we have prepared to give in the present and and if we want the kingdom to come in the way that Jesus taught us to pray for it to come, then the Psalmist's words translate. Bind the festal procession with branches. *Throw yourself into the festivities. Celebrate. Recall. Long for a new day.*

God comes. We gather, with or without branches, to throw the welcome party.

Psalm 118

⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰**This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴**This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷The Lord is God, who has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹**O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
for God's steadfast love endures forever!**

WITNESS

telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like

{Together}

THIS HOLY WEEK:

April 9	Palm Sunday	Chapel	
April 11	Interfaith Seder (registration closed)	Temple Beth-El 3300 Grove Ave.	6:30 pm
April 13	Maundy Thursday	Chapel	7:00 pm
April 16	Easter Sunday	Sunrise Hollywood Cemetery	6:30 am
		Sanctuary	11:00 am



MAUNDY THURSDAY here means a meal woven into worship. You do not have to bring food to participate in the service scheduled for **Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm**. However, these are foods that help us bring that night to life:

- Olives
- Fig spread or fig cookies
- Mediterranean crackers
- Dried fruits
- Nuts
- Lentils
- Chickpeas
- Matzo ball soup
- Quinoa
- Honey
- Olive oil
- Potatoes
- Arugula
- Feta, Manchego, or Pecorino cheese

Can you bring one or some combination of these foods that are reminiscent of what Jesus would have eaten with his friends? Let Rachel know.

NURTURE

caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Colleen Bouldin, Kimberly Gwynn, Grayson Foy, Merle and Laurie, Jeanette, and Jay McKinney. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

OUR NURSERY is not staffed. However, the door to "Noah's Ark" is an open one. This space is on the first floor. Please feel free to exit and return at any point during this morning's service. We welcome infants and young children in the sanctuary. With them, we are more complete.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
March 1 – 31	\$15,589	\$9,376

Old friends and new friends: Know that we are working our way into a future that excites us and positions us to better balance the church checkbook. In the meantime, our operations are lean and we are spending on ministry—on people, on our city, on that which makes us a Jesus following community.