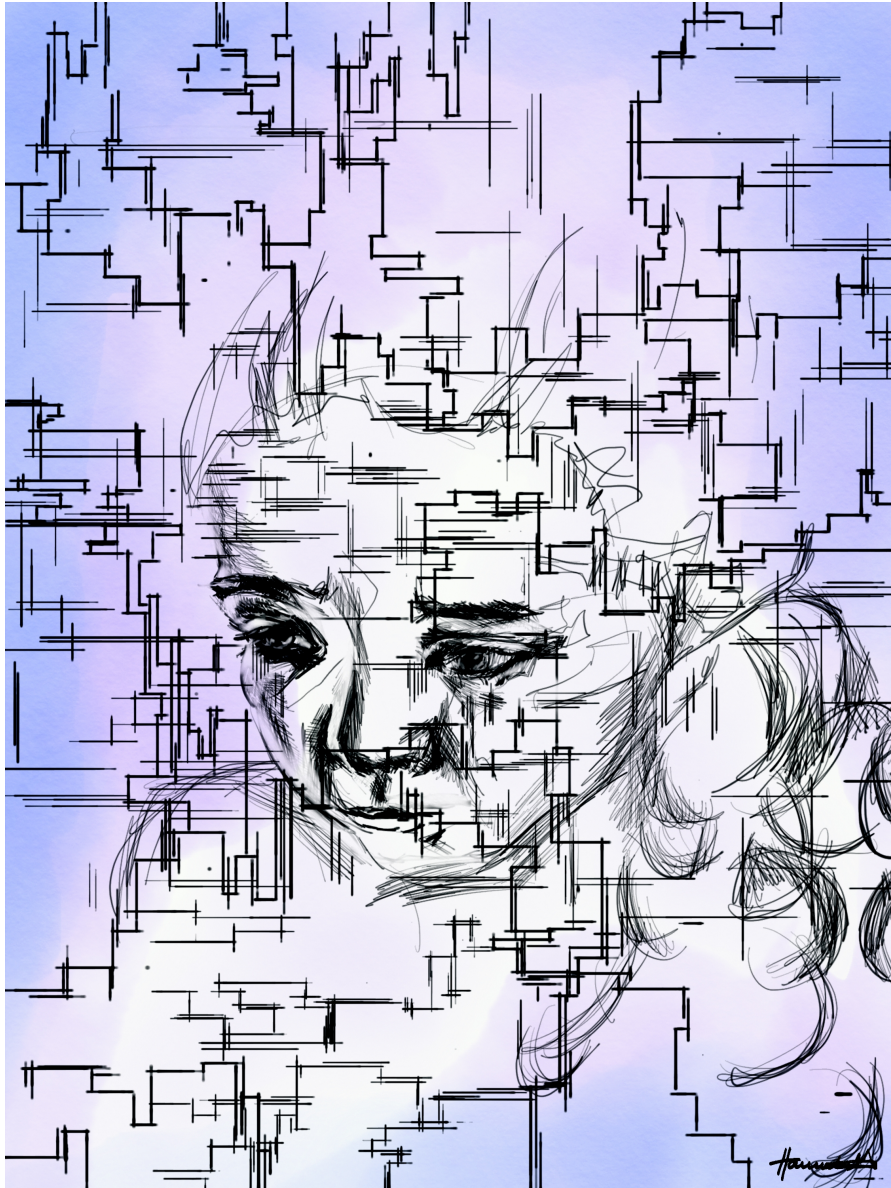


Sunday Worship- April 5, 2020



Daughters of Zion by Hannah Garrity

Palm/Passion Sunday

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: On Palm Sunday so many years ago, the people saw Jesus and asked,

P: Who is this?

L: In worship, we respond. In worship, we declare:

P: Jesus is a miracle worker and healer.

L: Jesus is a teacher and preacher.

P: Jesus is our light in the darkness.

L: Jesus is our source of love.

P: Jesus is our path in the wilderness.

L: So may we lay down our hearts like they laid down their coats.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

~Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV) - Jesus Entrance into Jerusalem

Reader 1: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

Reader 2: “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.”

Reader 1: 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.”

Reader 2: 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,

All: “Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Reader 1: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

Reader 2: The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

*1. All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.*

*2. The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and
anthems
before you we present.*

*3. To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: We are a people born of water and the Spirit.
We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples,
and to show his love to our life's end.
Although we fail to fulfill those baptismal vows,
God's faithful love endures forever.
Confident of God's grace, let us make our confession together:

All: Gracious God,

On Sunday the city of Jerusalem cheered for you. They laid down coats and palms for you.

They shouted "Hosanna!" and called you king. But on Friday they abandoned you.

On Friday they yelled "Crucify him!" On Friday, you were in the wilderness alone.

God, we want to be Palm Sunday Christians, but we know all too well that we also are the Good Friday crowd. So today we ask for forgiveness. Forgive us for the moments when we deny you and your message of love. Forgive us for preventing the spread of the gospel. Forgive us our sins. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Because we were buried with Christ in the baptismal waters,
we are also raised to life with him.

Friends, believe the gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

RESPONSE #437 You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

THE PEACE

L: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

REFLECTION ON THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN #521 In Remembrance of Me

*In remembrance of Me eat this bread
In remembrance of Me drink this wine
In remembrance of Me pray for the time
When God's own will is done*

*In remembrance of me heal the sick
In remembrance of me feed the poor
In remembrance of me open the door
And let your brother in, let him in*

*Take eat and be comforted
Drink and remember too
That this is my body and precious blood
Shed for you, shed for you*

*In remembrance of me search for truth
In remembrance of me always love
In remembrance of me don't look above
But in your heart, in your heart
Look in your heart for God*

*Do this in remembrance of Me
Do this in remembrance of Me
In remembrance of Me*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION One Great Hour of Sharing, Supporting Local Businesses

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

L: What shall we offer for all God's goodness to us?

**P: Let us lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.**

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray our thanks together:

All: We cast these gifts before you, O God, as palms were cast before Jesus long ago. We lay them before you in praise, thanksgiving, and joy.

**Receive them back from our hands,
that they may become a greater blessing in your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

L: Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Holy God,

You alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars;

beneath the sea;

within each cell;

with every breath.

P: We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

Through the water;

By night and day;

Across the wilderness;

Out of exile;

Into the future.

P: We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

At the heart of human life;

Near to those who suffer;

Beside the sinner;

Among the poor;

With us now.

P: We thank you, God.

Remembering his love for us

on the way, at the table, and to the end,

we proclaim the mystery of faith.

According to Christ's commandment:

P: We remember his death,

we proclaim his resurrection,

we await his coming in glory.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:

in our gathering; within this meal;

among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,

through Jesus Christ, by your Spirit,

in your church, without end.

P: Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said,
“This is my body, broken for you.”

Later he took a cup of wine and said,
“This is the new relationship with God
made possible because of my death.
Take it, all of you, to remember me.”

He whom the universe could not contain,
is present to us in this bread.
He who redeemed us and called us by name
now meets us in this cup.
So take this bread and this cup.
In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

SHARING THE MEAL

All partake of the elements wherever you are as we sing the following hymn:

HYMN #501 Feed Us, Lord

*Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord.
In the broken bread, be revealed again.
Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.*

*Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord.
On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.
Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.*

*Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord,
with the bread and wine of the risen Christ.
Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.*

*Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord,
nourished here by Christ, given strength for life.
Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All: Lead us, O God, in the way of Christ.
Give us courage to take up our cross
and, in full reliance upon your grace, to follow him.
Help us to love you above all else
and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves,
demonstrating that love in deed and word
in the power of your Spirit.
Give us strength to serve you faithfully
until the promised day of resurrection,
when, with the redeemed of the ages,
we will feast with you at your table in glory. Amen.**

HYMN #541 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

*God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you;
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Holy Week | THE WILDERNESS IS A PLACE WHERE WE ARE BRAVE

First, we have to name it—
The heartbreak,
The addiction,
The shame,
The grief.

Whatever your wilderness is,
First we have to name it.

And once we've said those words out loud,
We let that truth hang in the air.
And we let ourselves feel what we feel,
For in this moment,
we are close to the surface.

And after a few deep breaths,
We begin the removing.
Piece by piece, we take our armour off,
For truth-telling days are
Soft skin kind of days.

And once we are armour-free,
Hearts on our sleeves
And tears in our throats,
We stand toe-to-toe
With the very hurt that wrecked us.
And we don't try to swallow that pain away.

And there,
In all our beautiful God-given honesty,
We say to that monster,
"I have love on my side,
And her name is God,
And no wilderness can separate me
From that north star."

And I believe
It will be the bravest thing you ever do.
And your knees might shake,
And you might lose your way,
But our God is a God of second chances,
So take my hand.
You are close to the surface.
Let's be brave together.