



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

March 22-28, 2021

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sermon Title: "A Strange Way to Save the World"

Notes from sermon on 3/21:

To pray for this week:

Family Focus Question

This story highlights the difference between coming into Jerusalem on a humble donkey versus a powerful steed. What are some contemporary examples of donkeys and steeds upon which we can ride today?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Jesus tells the disciples to speak to the owners of the colt saying, "The Lord needs it and will send it back to you shortly." What colt do you have right now that the Lord might need to borrow for a bit?
2. A key lesson of this text is that humility is the path forward and worldly power and fame is a false path to hope. This pandemic has been an opportunity for reflection. How will you move forward when we eventually rise up out of this? Does this story offer some guidance for you?
3. Tell a story of how you found power in the behind-the-scenes work as opposed to being on the stage.

Monday, March 22: Read Mark 11:1-11 (*PALMS TEXT*)

Much like the people of ancient Jerusalem, we are ready for a hero. We want someone to sweep in, riding a magnificent steed to deliver us from all of our troubles RIGHT NOW, and we want guarantees that we will never, ever have to go through this kind of pain and suffering again. Our culture celebrates these kinds of heroes, now more than ever. Yet this week, we celebrate the homecoming of a very different kind of hero. One who is humble, self-sacrificing, and ready to die to give us what we eternally need, not kill to give us what we immediately want.

How will we celebrate this kind of hero this week? How will we become more like him?

Tuesday, March 23: Read Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (PALMS TEXT)

There are so many quotable passages, sermon-worthy lessons, and powerful images in today's psalm, it's hard to know where to begin. When we read it paired with yesterday's gospel story, it becomes even more poignant. We can see Christ's entry into Jerusalem, opening the gates of righteousness for us all. We recognize Jesus as the stone the builders rejected, now the cornerstone of our faith and salvation. We bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord with a festal procession of branches. We know through our perfect hindsight what is coming for Jesus, what he will give in order for us to enter through the gates of the kingdom, and we "give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Wednesday, March 24: Read Isaiah 50:4-9 (PASSION TEXT)

How nice and easy it would be to skip over what comes next. The temptation is to jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Morning – from celebration to celebration – without descending into what came between. Our lectionary divides our readings into "Palms" and "Passions" texts, and the difference in them can make our head spin. Our GPS will not ask us to read Mark's account of the Passion (Mark 14:1-15:47), as is in the lectionary, but we will read supporting texts such as today's from Isaiah. Notice how counter-cultural the "suffering servant" in today's reading is. No fighting back, no self-reliance; just stoicism and faith.

Thursday, March 25: Read Psalm 31:9-16 (PASSION TEXT)

Some of us want to turn away from this psalm, because it reminds us that pain and suffering exist and we all go through it. Some of us draw close to the psalm for the very same reason. Our faith is not one that delivers us from all pain and difficulty; it is one that gives us support, love, and power through it all. Christ himself was not spared the physical or mental anguish of the crucifixion, nor the sometimes even more painful social ridicule that still exists today. Yet we read the words "I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God" and know the incredible power those words hold, exemplified by our savior and gifted to us to use through any situation we face now or in the future.

Friday, March 26: Read Philippians 2:5-11 (PASSION TEXT)

Today we are given very specific and very difficult instructions on how to go through life: humble and obedient. How do we feel about this? What inside us fights against it? We clearly recognize Christ in today's scripture, but do we recognize ourselves? What do we need to do to change that?

Saturday, March 27: Scripture Memorization: Psalm 118:22-23

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." (NRSV)

Sunday, March 28: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Gracious Lord, I must confess that all too often, I want people to see me. I want to take the path of recognition and glory. I don't understand the quieter path into Jerusalem. Forgive me for my pride and need for recognition. By your grace, remind me that you are enough and that your ways are better than mine or this world. Enable me to follow the path of palms that Jesus laid out for me so long ago. In his name I pray, AMEN*