



April 5, 2020
10:30 am Horizon Service
“The Garden: Risking Temptation”
Week Six of Lent Palm Sunday



GUESTS, Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs

If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, pastorkris@unionucc.org

Our next new member information session will be held on May 3 and 10. You will be welcomed as members in worship on Sunday, May 17. If you are interested in attending classes for new members let us know and we'd be glad to send you more information. Please contact Pastor Kris with any questions.

We believe in extravagant welcome. We believe in God's inclusive love. We start worship with a greeting that reflects that welcome and love.

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and on faith's journey

ALL: you are welcome here.

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PRELUDE

Praise Him, Praise Him

Chester G. Allen



The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

Inspired by Amy-Jill Levine's book "The Passion of Jesus" which our adult classes are studying. Ask Pastor Kris if you'd like a copy of the book.

THE GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- L** No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey
- C** You are welcome here

THE OPENING HYMN

Gold Hymnal #248 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

CALL TO WORSHIP

① During Lent, we have taken six weeks to move through one week—the last week of Jesus' human life. This has allowed us to expand time—to “freeze frame” important moments and dig deeper into our faith story, and our own stories. This morning marks the end of Lent and the beginning of our commemoration of Holy Week, and so let us speed up time a bit as we first remember the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Solo or Choir:

Enter
Enter the story
Enter the place you belong
Not just looking on
For this is *your* story
Enter the story

Enter
Come enter the story
Enter the place you belong
Not just looking on
For this is *your* story
Enter the story

LWe found our place in the parade and considered OUR place in the picture—our role as supporters of Jesus’ mission in the world. And then we found ourselves in the midst of the chaos and throngs of people in Jerusalem for the Passover. We stopped there... suspending the action for a moment, wondering how we could join Jesus in clearing out our own lives and hearts, our own places of worship, to make them a more welcoming place for the love of God to reside fully. We followed Jesus as he continued to teach in the city and among the people at the temple. His teachings filled our hearts as they filled those long ago, and we remembered the call to proclaim justice in the midst of injustice wherever we find it. We joined the disciples at a table of extravagant affection and overflowing love, and then another supper where all our assumptions about the way the world works were turned upside-down.

This week, we join Jesus in the Garden. Gethsemane is the moment when a chain of events begins that cannot be halted. Once Jesus is taken into custody, there is no going back. So we pause a moment with him in the garden just before his arrest, and we feel with him the temptations that arise when facing difficult circumstances—to run, hide, use whatever power we have to change things, fight it, perhaps even bargain with God. We walk among the sleepy disciples who just can’t grasp what is about to happen.

ALL (Sung):
Enter
Enter the passion
Enter the place we belong
Not just looking on
For this is *our* passion
Enter the passion

Enter
Enter the passion
Enter the place we belong
Not just looking on
For this is *our* passion
Enter the passion
Enter the story...
Enter the passion...
Enter his passion.

PRAYER

1 Let us pray together:

2 Here we are, Jesus. We find ourselves alongside you in a garden of grief or the violence so many of this world endure. We are tired. We don't know what to do next. And so we sleep sometimes, hoping to awake from a bad dream.

Forgive us, O God. Help us face this hour knowing you are always here. You only ask the same of us... to be present, to be awake. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

GOD'S GRACE IS FOR YOU

1 Know this: We can open to let the story remind us that no matter what we face, or how we fail to meet the demand of the moment, second chances are possible.

You are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved by a God who wants you to live fully.

Let us enter the passion of Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Welcome Song

ALL: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

DEPARTURE SONG

ALL: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

A Letter to the Early Christians Ephesians 6:11-17
(New Testament, page 195)

DWELLING IN THE STORY

(A dramatic reading and kind of “midrash” based on the artwork)
Mark 14:32-36

Solo/Choir:

Enter
Enter the story
Enter the place you belong
Not just looking on
For this is *your* story
Enter the story

ALL (Sung):

Enter
Enter the passion
Enter the place we belong
Not just looking on
For this is *our* passion
Enter the passion
Enter the story...
Enter the passion...
Enter his passion.



JESUS MAFA. Christ on Gethsemane, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

[http:// diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?](http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48391)

RC=48391. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

THE MESSAGE

The Garden: Risking Temptation
Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: (Sung)

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full on his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his wonder and grace

**ALL: 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,
for ever. Amen.**

ALL: (Sung)

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full on his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his wonder and grace

THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

MUSIC OFFERING

Let There Be Praise

Dick & Melodie Tunney

Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC

OFFERING ENVELOPES you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

ELECTRONIC GIVING This is a great time to try e-giving!

Choose a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out the form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and return it to the church office. financialmanager@unionucc.org

DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card

Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

AMAZON SMILE Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

DONATE, RECYCLE AND HELP YOUR CHURCH

As you are cleaning out closets, remember to bring your donations to the bin in our grove. You are also helping to save the amount of things that end up in a landfill. Items accepted include: clean and dry clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, towels, drapes, pillow cases and stuffed animals. Place all items in plastic bags. NO furniture, rags, pillows, toys, or household goods.

EASTER MISSION OFFERING

Make checks to Union UCC and place in your EASTER MISSION offering envelope from your packet or use any envelope with Easter Mission on the memo line or by donating online with the same note.

We are collecting financial donations now through Easter Sunday for these two missions:

The Rescue Mission in Allentown. They provide needed goods and services to homeless and impoverished men.

The American Cancer Society of the Lehigh Valley is on a mission to free the world from cancer.

*BLESSING

① Each week we invite you to take photos—to capture artful “life moments” through the lens of your camera and post to our church social media with the hashtag “#lifeframe” and “#[unionuccneffs]”. If you are not on social media, or rather not do this, we invite you to be mindful and aware of artful life moments through the week and hold them in your mind and heart.

So we have begun.
This season we will put a frame around a bit of life
we'll section off a scene,
we'll look long into a face,
to see what we can see,
to know what we can know.

Just as we have done with the art and story today,
zoom in your focus on the art and story of life all through
the week.

The Divine Artist offers us such poignant beauty each day
in our own stories,
in the stories around us,
in the heartbreak and pain and joy and awe
of a simple moment turned significant.

That's what happens when we put a frame around it.
We zoom in
for an existential close-up
and search for clues
for living this life with more
attention and intention.

May you be blessed by the sacred frames
that surround the moments of your life
that you dare not miss.
Amen.

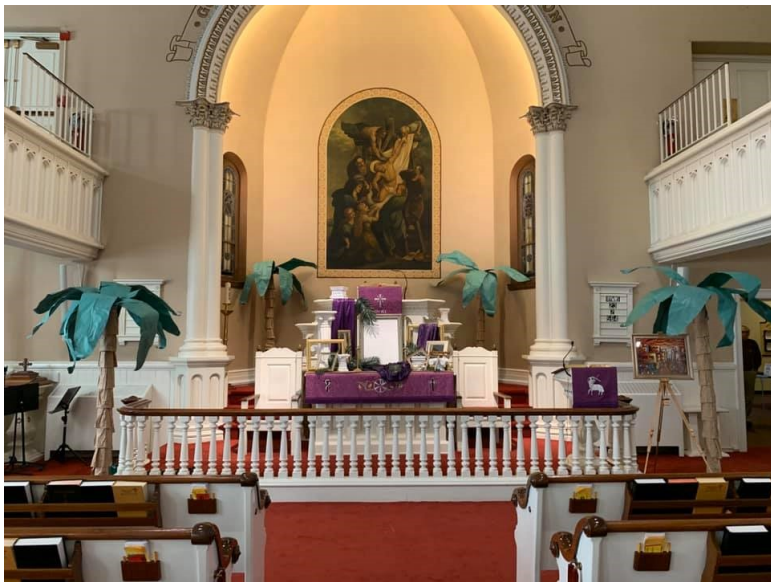
***Silent Prayer**

***POSTLUDE**

Agnus Dei

Michael W. Smith

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**Thank you to our Worship Decorating Team: Kathy
Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Pastor Kayli and
Pastor Kris**