



from "The Poet Thinks about the Donkey"
~ Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
The donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
the donkey stood and waited.

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Sunday School Children "Tis the Gift" *Old English Folksong*

Please rise if you wish and join us in this morning's Call to Worship.

Call to Worship

We set our face to this, our village -
and all the ones beyond us.
The donkey (there were two, maybe) are waiting...

"Untie them; bring them to me," Jesus says.

Bring us to you, as well.
However, we may ride.

Please remain as you are and join in singing this morning's hymn:

Hymn "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" NCH #215

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
O Christ, with brave humility,
On lowly colt, your road pursue,
as palms and cloaks are spread for you.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
As crowds of people come to see
And shout hosannas, lifting high
their praise for one about to die.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Ride on in humble dignity;
Behold the ones you came to save
from senseless life and endless grave.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
For you have set your people free
And we, remembering all your pain,
now meet again to hail your reign.

Please be seated and join us reading this morning's Unison Prayer

Unison Prayer "Say You, for Palm Sunday" by Joseph H. Gilmore

O you whose name we do
not, have never known:
on that day,
did he enter the spirit
of the parade?
Did he laugh at their
gesture,
unlikely prophet on an
unlikely animal
shuffling toward
an unknown destiny?

Say you.

Or did he look neither right
nor left, flint-faced,
eyes fixed
on some undetermined
distance, ears closed to the
merriment
of the bystanders?

Say you.

Did his heart race,
sensing danger,
but not knowing from
where? Did he wish
he had never prayed
for the coming of God
in his life with power,
and to his people
with power, love and
justice?

Say you.

Did he still own the words
he borrowed from Isaiah
for his first sermon...
"the Spirit of God
Is upon me,"
or, as he rode,
was he rehearsing
his last prayer...
"My God, my God,
why?"

You say, we beseech you.

He was a danger
and a delight
you know this,
and following in his way is,
ever,
more than we
bargained for.
He went up
in flames,
and there has been light
ever since.

Hosannah in the highest!
Blessed are those, who
like him
ride in to town
regardless.

Assurance of God's Love and Pastoral Prayer

Please rise if you wish and join us in singing:

Hymn

"All Glory Laud and Honor"

NCH #216

All glory, laud and honor to you, O Christ we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
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, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Passing of the Peace

Filled with this joy of togetherness, we share the Peace of
Jesus Christ; may it find its way into the hearts of all
around the world... Friends, with this in our hearts...

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace!

Please be seated.

Joys, Celebrations and Concerns

Friends, we now invite you to share your Joys, Celebrations and Concerns. Please wait for the microphone and respond with:

“God, hear our prayers.”

The Prayer of Jesus from The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earthmaker, Painbearer, Lifegiver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father, Mother, Guardian of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen

The Chancel Choir “Draw Nigh, O Lord”
by Erik Routley

Gospel Reading Matthew 21:1-11 (The Inclusive Bible)

As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mountain of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, "Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, 'The Rabbi needs them.' Then they will let them go at once."

This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet:
"Tell the daughter of Zion,
'your sovereign comes to you without display,
riding on a donkey, on a colt –
the foal of a beast of burden.'"

So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered. They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. The crowds – those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed – were all shouting,

"Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David!
Blessed is the One who comes
In the name of the Most High!
Hosanna in the highest!"

As Jesus enter Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, "Who is this?" And the crowd kept answering, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!"

The Chancel Choir "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"
Arranged by Mark Hayes

Holy Communion
The Invitation

God calls us to forgive, to build peace, and to share loving fellowship. Everyone may come to the table of reconciliation – which means all persons – all ages, cultures, sexual identities, abilities, religions, and diversities – those who affirm their elemental worth, and those who are yet to do so.

Let us hear these words of Holy Communion,
and then we will share the bread and juice.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
All who come to me shall not hunger,
and all who believe in me shall not thirst.

With Christians around the world and throughout the centuries, we gather around these symbols of bread and wine—simple elements that speak of nourishment and transformation.

Let us pray.
Loving God, we thank you that you are as close to us as breath, that your love is constant and unfailing.
We thank you for all that sustains life, and especially for Jesus Christ, who teaches us how to live out an ethic of justice and peace, and for the promise of transformation made manifest in his life, death and resurrection.

We ask you to bless this bread and this cup.
Through this meal, make us the body of Christ,
that we may join with you in promoting the well-being of all creation. Amen.

We remember on the night when Jesus and the Disciples had their last meal together, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying "This is my body, which is broken for you. Take and eat it, and as often as you do, remember me."

In the symbol of the broken bread, we participate in the life of Christ and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.

In the same way he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

In the symbol of the cup, we participate in the new life Christ brings.

Let us pray. We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

Partaking of the Bread and Juice

Today we will serve the bread and cup by intinction. Please come forward in the center aisles, break off piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat, and return to your seats by the side aisles. A server will bring the bread and cup to those who choose to stay in their pews.

Communion Hymns

"Let Us Break Bread Together" NCH #330

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

"As We Gather at Your Table" NCH #332

As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, hear our prayer. We thank you for inviting
us to this table where we have known the presence of
Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and let us show forth our praise for you in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Invitation to Give

We welcome your offerings at this time and invite you to place your prayer and information cards in the plate as we sing our Church Covenant.

Church Covenant

In response to God's love,
we covenant with each other...
to be faithful to the demands
and inspiration of the eternal spirit,
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;
to accept and respect each other
with love and concern
in our worship and witness;
to reach out with the courage
of our convictions
in the cause of justice,
liberation, and equality for all.
In this, we covenant to keep the
ultimate promise: "I care, I am with you."

Benediction

Rev. Jeanne Baum

Choral Blessing

"Communion Prayer"
by Allen Pote

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

"The Palms"
by Jean-Baptiste Faure
Bob Acker, soloist



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For more than a century and a half, Sayville's Congregational Church has served families on the South Shore of Long Island and has been a voice for the progressive Protestant tradition. A member of the United Church of Christ since it was established in 1957, today we continue to celebrate God's love, to advocate and act for the oppressed, and to welcome all those on their spiritual journey, from wherever they may come. Thank you for joining us. Please contact us at any time for more information about our congregation or with any questions you may have for us.

Today's Worship Leadership

Guest Preacher, Rev. Jeanne Baum

Music Director, Sean Cameron

Liturgist – Karen Maust

Soloist – Bob Acker

Ushers - Gini McLaughlin, Jerry Avolio,

Jessica O'Donnell & Robert O'Donnell

Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Casey Cunningham,
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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Today's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at

www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

*Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.
"Namaste"*