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April 5, 2020  
Vol. 47 No. 13

# Messenger



A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P. O. Box 444, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194



## **Palm Sunday: The Coming of the King**

Sometimes we may speak or shout the truth without realizing just how right we are. That happened on the first Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on, not a prize-worthy stallion, but a young, unimpressive, donkey.

Remember the roar of the crowd? "Hosanna (Save us!), Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord." They were waving palm branches, a symbol of peace, as they hailed Jesus as their king. Was Jesus a king? Jesus didn't deny it. When the Pharisees told him to rebuke the cheering crowd, he said, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Pilate, the Roman procurator and judge, taunted the Pharisees by saying, "Here is your king." That made the chief priests furious. "We have no king but Caesar," they protested.

Pilate turned Christ over to them, but he still wanted to taunt Jesus' insistent persecutors. John 19:19 says that Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. In three languages (Hebrew, Latin and Greek) it read: The King of the Jews. That enraged Jesus' enemies even more. They asked Pilate to change the wording.

"What I have written, I have written," the stubborn ruler answered.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of the Resurrection surely thought so. In Acts 17:7 we find that the first Christians were accused of "saying there is another king, Jesus." The writer of the book of Revelation envisioned the day when the whole world would understand that the risen Christ was not only Lord and Savior but also, as he put it, "Lord of lords and King of kings." (Revelation 17:14)



This coming week is Holy Week. Because of the current situation in the world with the Corona Virus we will have to celebrate Holy Week in a much different manner. Palm Sunday will be celebrated in a live stream service on Youtube.

Drive by the church, if possible, and see the palms that decorate the entrance of the church. Perhaps you could decorate your home with palms, as well.

Spend some time with Scripture this Holy Week. Take a passion narrative from one of the four Gospels and read a bit each day. Scripture suggestions for the week are as follows:

## Daily Bible Readings

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>5. Palm/Passion Sunday</b> | <b>Mark 15:1-47</b>         |
| 6. Monday of Holy Week        | John 12:1-11                |
| 7. Tuesday of Holy Week       | John 12:20-36               |
| 8. Wednesday of Holy Week     | John 13:21-30               |
| 9. <i>Maundy Thursday</i>     | <i>John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i> |
| 10. <i>Good Friday</i>        | <i>John 18:1-19:42</i>      |
| 11. Holy Saturday             | Matthew 27:57-66            |



At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his apostles' feet, an act of sacrificial love and service by which he gave meaning to what he would accomplish on the cross the next day. Washing one another's feet would be a great way for loved ones to recall the Lord's Holy Thursday mandate to love one another as he has loved us. Begin by reading the evening's Gospel passage, John 13:1-15.



# *Easter*

Even though we may not be together as a community to celebrate Easter, the Lord is risen! Let us rejoice, therefore, and be glad!

As you begin your Easter celebration, take time to read one of the Gospel accounts of when the tomb was found empty. This is the center point of human history and should take on that significance in our lives. Be sure to watch our church service online if possible.

We hope you will drive by the church, if possible, and see the Easter decorations that have been provided as we worship in a new and different way this year.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

**APRIL**



*Memorial Gifts*

*Margaret Jeanne Santmyer*

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dawkins

6. Martha Lyles, Charles Davis  
Carter Ketchum, Matt King
7. Hayes Kyle, Christy Vandevere  
Tate Potter
8. Luke Richards
10. Lois Gary, Bert Fennell

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Church office hours are from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. each day at the present time.



& Children

I know you all are doing your best to do your part to flatten the curve by practicing “social distancing,” but I also know it is not fun. We all miss seeing our friends and having time to gather together. I bet some of you even wish you could go back to school!! If nothing else, this situation has taught us to appreciate all the things that we usually take for granted.

Thank you to everyone who joined in to our ZOOM Bible studies last week. I know it is very different and a little more challenging than normal, but it was so good to see your faces and have a little time to talk with all of you. If you were not able to join, we will be meeting again this week. The Youth will ZOOM on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday at 6:30 p.m., and Planet 456 will ZOOM at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. I will be sending out the link again this week, and I hope you will join.