



~ **CLC Weekly Update** ~

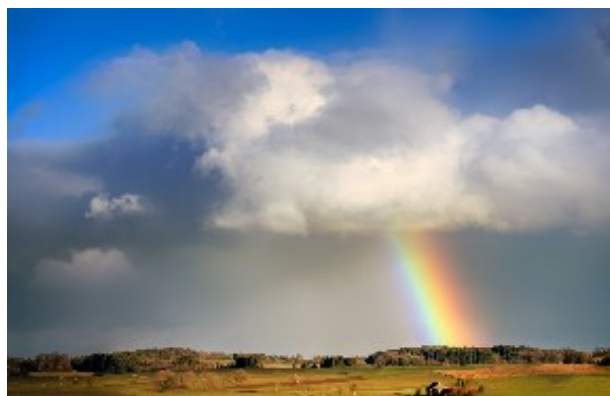
## **Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 28, 2021

### **WORSHIP WITH US!**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, March 28th at 9:30AM  
with John Curry preaching

or go to: <https://www.clcmillvale.com>



#### **PASSION SUNDAY WORSHIP** **Blessing of the Palm Branches** **Gospel of the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem**

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 51:1-12

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

**Gospel: The Reading of the Passion Narrative**  
**Luke: 22:14-23:56**  
**(interactive with the Congregation participating)**

John and Diane Curry leading Worship.

Hymns:

Processional Gathering Hymn: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

Hymn of the Day: "Behold the Cross"

Sending Hymn: "Jesus Remember Me"

#### **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MESSAGE** **UPDATE**

Our Palm Sunday and Easter Services will be **IN-PERSON**, both at 9:30 AM. Palms will be provided on Palm Sunday and we are hoping to have communion on Easter. We will continue to practice social distance and wear masks for the services. We hope to bring back our wonderful choir soon, but not at this time. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

## Blessing of the Palms

Congregations across the world were asked to refrain from worshiping in person during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to stem the spread of the deadly virus. For many, the loss was felt most sharply on Palm Sunday just as Holy Week services were scheduled to begin.

One congregation in Central Washington State worshiped in their homes that morning via conference call. They hadn't been able to distribute palms to one another, so pretending to wave imaginary branches in their own homes felt inauthentic and strange. Absent their usual practices, the pastor of the little church composed a non-traditional "Blessing of the Palms" for worship as they gathered in the safety of their homes. Instead of blessing palm branches on that Palm Sunday morning, the assembly was invited to bless the palms of their own outstretched hands.

The word *hosanna*, shouted by those witnessing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in Mark's gospel, can be translated, "Help, please, now!" With this very word on our lips, today we are invited to lay down more than coats and leafy branches at the foot of Jesus. We are invited to lay down our very own palms just as they are.

Imagine today that the palms laid out at the feet of Jesus today are the very palms of hands we meet every day in our own community and in the world. Some of these will be cracked, old, and tired with work; others will be sweating and nervous with worry; still others might be hopeful and open, excited or twitching with anticipation. Today we are invited to lay every one of those things that excite, demand, and trouble us at the foot of Jesus with a word of "Hosanna!" on our lips.~

Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](http://CLCMillvale.com)



Read here a little of the historical customs of Palm Sunday, contributed by congregation member Joe Imhoff . . .

### Palmarum

There was a time when many Sundays of the Church year were known by Latin names even after the common languages were used throughout most of the world. The names indicated the theme of the day announced by the first word of the introit in the liturgy, but Palm Sunday is different, it denotes an object of great significance.

In ancient times when an important figure entered a city it was customary for the population to greet that person by laying their garments or branches on the way much like to-day's ticker tape parades without the litter left behind or as a souvenir of the event. Also this person would ride a donkey signifying peace, for horses were considered animals for war.

So our Savior entered Jerusalem in peace on a donkey and was greeted by the expectant population with palm branches carried in procession and spread on his way, along with garments as a sign of respect for the King!

**Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824; Monday, March 29, 2021**

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

**John Donne, poet, died 1631; Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Pastor Mike Robinson is available for emergencies - you can call or text him at 412-260-4407 (cell). Please leave a message if he is not able to answer immediately. Thank you!