

April 2, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday

Hear

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find an donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ...A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." —Matthew 21:1-11

Silence

Be still and be aware of God's Word to each of us...  
"Elijah found that the Lord was not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in the...silence."  
—1 Kings 19:11-13

Together We Pray

Blessed Son of God, our hearts sing with the children when we see you ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. Our lips shout your praises, as you empty yourself to become

servant of all. Open our hearts to the depth of your love, that we might walk faithfully with you during the long week ahead. Amen.

Our Prayers of Thanksgiving...

Response: Lord, hear our praise!

Together We Pray

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, & the power, & the glory forever...

Scripture and Meditation

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. —Philippians 2:5-11

The Passion Story

Matthew 26:30-35; 26:47-58; 26:69 to 27:2; 27:11-54

Silence

Together We Pray

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.

Our prayers of Intercessions...

Response: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of holiness and righteousness, this day places a mirror before our faces. We would rather sing "Hosanna" with the cheering crowd, than stand up for the conviction of our faith in the face of an angry mob. We would rather dine with Christ at his table, than stand up for him in a courtyard of accusers. We would rather see ourselves and Christ's champions, than to admit to ourselves that we too are capable of betraying him, or deserting him, or denying him. Forgive our faith that is too often fickle, and heal our hesitant hearts. Merciful God, help us sit silently and feel the depth of your love. Settle our spirits, that we might know just how far you go to bring us the cup of salvation. In the midst of a week of betrayal and denial, help us forgive ourselves for falling short of your glory. And help us to know that in Christ's earthly suffering, we are ultimately relieved of our own; in Christ's divine love, we are forgiven and loved beyond earthly measure. It is in his name that we pray all these things. Amen.

## —Our Worship In The Morning—

April 2, 2023, 8:00 a.m.



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes,  
a United Methodist Church

67 Main Street

P.O. Box 133

Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918

1.207.495.3599

[unionchurchmaine@gmail.com](mailto:unionchurchmaine@gmail.com)

[unionchurchmaine.org](http://unionchurchmaine.org)

Rev. Eleanor Collinsworth, Pastor



**Our Mission** is to live our experience of God's love  
in all that we say and do...

**Our Vision** is to be a growing spiritual faith community in the  
manner of Christ, where all are welcome and cared for...

### Communion With the Body of Christ

Confession and Pardon (Hymnal, page 12)

The Lord be with you. **Response:** And also with you.

We lift up our hearts. **Response:** We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Response:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give our thanks to you, who sustains the weary, gives heart to the hopeless, and leads us in "The Way" we should follow. And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

**Response:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, who allowed himself to be broken on the cross, pouring out his life so that we might have life, and so that we might share it with a broken world.

**Response:** Lord make us instruments of your peace, hearts of your compassion, hands of your mercy.

And so we gather at the table of Holy Communion this day, remembering the Gospel invitation from Christ: "Take, eat; this is my body..." "...Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood..."

With gratitude, we share the food and drink that each of us have before us, remembering the many ways the wisdom of God is revealed to us in the breaking of bread and in the

sharing of the cup. As we have explored "Faces at the Cross," we share these gifts as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Response:** Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our gathering, and on these gifts of bread and the juice of the fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ in a world that is broken and in pain. To the One who gives us life, the One who breathes within us, the One who poured out life on the cross, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

### Sending Forth

Judas ended his own life after betraying Jesus. The disciples deserted him. Peter denied he ever knew him. Pilate washed his hands of him. The centurion proclaimed him to be the Son of God. Let us do the same. May today's worship prepare us for tomorrow's work. Our worship service is ended; our service to God begins anew. Let us go forth into Holy Week knowing that no matter who we are, or what we have done, or what we have left undone, Jesus Christ goes ahead of us to prepare the way to the Day of Resurrection.

### Passing of the Peace of Christ

**We Offer:** May Jesus' peace be with you.

**We Respond:** May Jesus' peace be with you also.