



Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.

A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of peace, relax the tensions of my body...Still the anxieties of my mind...Calm the storms of my heart...Let peace flow in me, through me, from me, the deep deep peace of God. David Adam

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our virtual worship service. We invite you to participate in the liturgy by joining the worship leader on lines printed in **bold**.

Illustrated Ministry has provided the attached materials for worshipping with children. We hope you will print them out and use them for participation in this service or for family devotions throughout the week. Westminster's educational offerings have also moved online! You can find information about this week's offerings at the end of this Order of Worship.

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the Weekly Word through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware>), or following us on Instagram (wpcdelaware).

Let us worship God!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold! Our Savior is coming – humble and riding on a donkey.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Lay your cloaks before him; spread palms to honor him.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Raise your voices. Lift your hearts. Rejoice – our Savior comes!

Hosanna in the highest!

HYMN No. 197

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Vs. 1 & 3

**Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful 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 CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Suffering God,
the way of the cross is a challenging road.

It is draining.

It is demanding.

It is fraught with danger.

You ask us to stay by your side
as you carry your heavy burden toward Calvary.
But weariness and fear overtake us.
Like the first disciples, we are quick

to betray you,

to deny you,

to abandon you.

Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead.
Give us courage to face the pain and suffering of this world
and to respond with compassion and to demand justice.

As the darkness gathers,

renew our faith,

fill us with hope,

and startle us with your grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON

"Love and Courage in the Midst of a Crisis"

Greg Jones

HYMN NO. 198

"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"

Vs. 1 & 4

**Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues its road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain;
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

LORD'S PRAYER

**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, forever. Amen**

**Were the whole realm
of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

BENEDICTION

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our time, our talent, and our treasure in service to God. One way we respond to Christ’s call is by giving our financial gifts to further God’s mission in the world. You may make an online offering to support the ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking “Donate Now” on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org).

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:27). We invite you to share signs of Christ’s peace with those with whom you are gathered, or to pass the peace virtually by calling, emailing, or texting siblings in Christ.

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Sharon Babcock, Interim Director of Music
Song Leader: Jason Berger
Videographers: Roger Reinicker, Baden Saathoff

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession were written by our own Associate Pastor, the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, and published in: “Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts,” Volume 53.1: Lectionary Aids for 2019-2020, Year A, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long (Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)).

We are grateful to Westminster John Knox Press for making available the complete list of public domain hymns included in the *Glory to God* hymnal and to Illustrated Ministry (<https://www.illustratedministry.com/>) for providing free resources for children of all ages to use during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This Week's Educational Offerings

Today at 10:10 a.m.

Podcast: Holy Week and the Humanity of God

Presenter: Chesna Hinkley

Presented by Westminster's Director of Christian Education, Chesna Hinkley, this podcast will look at key moments in Holy Week through the biblical text and theological themes of humility, incarnation, and grace. Check the [home page](#) of Westminster's website or visit our [YouTube](#) channel to listen.

The Week Ahead:

Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. OR Thursdays 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Bible Study

<https://zoom.us/j/4937200361>

Presenter: Chesna Hinkley

While Westminster is closed, the "Eat and Exegete" Bible study will move to Westminster's Zoom classroom at the above link! Visit the link at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays OR 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. This is a LIVE Bible study! Contact Chesna (chesnahinkley@wpc.org) with questions.

Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

Online Evening Prayer

<https://zoom.us/j/4937200361>

Presenter: Chesna Hinkley

Click the link above on Wednesday evenings for a short, informal LIVE prayer service. We will share a liturgy and some open time to pray for ourselves, our community, and the world. Use a laptop or smartphone for optimal experience with this technology.

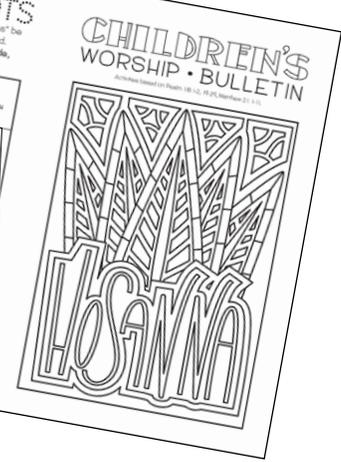
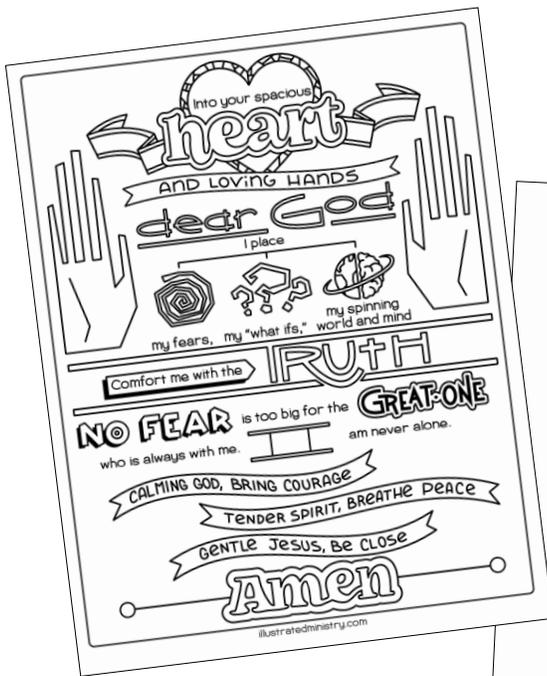
180 Activities

<https://zoom.us/j/4937200361>

High schoolers meet for small group on Thursdays at 5:30-6:30pm (text Molly or Tommy for the link). 6-12th grade meets at the link above Sundays at 11:30-12:15 for a quick chat, highs and lows, and prayer. Email Chesna (chesnahinkley@wpc.org) with questions.

- Follow us for more on Instagram @180youth_wpc

Faith Formation Resources for Palm Sunday





Resources provided by Illustrated Ministry, LLC. illustratedministry.com

Contributors: Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, Layton Williams, Corby Ortmann

Concept & Editing: Rebekah Lowe

Founder: Adam Walker Cleaveland

Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

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RESOURCES FROM ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY

As the world struggles to adjust to life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, necessary disruptions are affecting all aspects of our lives. Schools are closing, places of worship are canceling services, sports seasons are being suspended, and we are all adjusting to this new way of life. Illustrated Ministry hopes that these faith formation resources are meaningful and helpful to you.

We will be sending a weekly email during the COVID-19 pandemic which will include faith formation resources for all ages. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary, and most of the resources will line up with the appropriate texts for each of the Sundays. If this resource was forwarded to you, and you would like to sign up to receive the weekly email in your inbox, you can sign up at: illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve

The weekly resource consists of a variety of resources, including children's worship bulletins, devotionals, and coloring pages. There are a variety of different ways you could use these resources at home:

- As a family, put together an order of worship. You can use this as an interactive piece to the scripture reading and message/sermon.
- Use this as an individual or family devotional to reflect on throughout the week.
- Get a group of friends together, virtually, and color the coloring page and reflect on the scripture passage.
- While you watch your church's virtual worship service, your children can color the coloring page or do the activities in the children's worship bulletin.

We hope you enjoy this resource, and if you have any questions about it, you can always reach us at info@illustratedministry.com. If you want to connect with others and see how they are using our resources, you can also follow us on social media:

Facebook: fb.com/illustratedmin
Instagram: instagram.com/illustratedmin
Twitter: twitter.com/illustratedmin
Pinterest: pinterest.com/illustratedmin

Our Facebook Group is a growing community. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using this resource, you can request to join here:
fb.com/groups/illustratedmin

Peace,

The Illustrated Ministry Team

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PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 5

Describe an event, holiday, or day you remember or commemorate (have a ceremony for) and why it's meaningful for you to acknowledge/celebrate/honor it every year.

Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

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 a 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." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

*"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 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 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."

Reflection

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. His teachings have spread, and his following has grown. As he rides into the city, people greet him with cheers and fanfare. There is a sense of joy, relief, and hope among the people. Jesus brings good news for the hurting, sick, impoverished, outcasts, and all who are oppressed by people in power. All along his path, the people wave palm fronds and shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!" in celebration of his arrival.

This parade is also an act of rebellion. Jesus has already frustrated the people in power. His procession only angers them more. After this day of rejoicing, things change quickly. Jesus' message about God's kingdom uplifting the powerless made people who held lots of power feel threatened. Jesus knows hard things lie ahead during Holy Week, but for his followers, it was a sudden and unsettling shift. In a matter of days, Jesus' world and that of his followers turned completely upside down. He went from being cheered to jeered at by the people, from being supported to betrayed.

Jesus tried to prepare his friends for what was coming while they had one last meal together, and he washed their feet; it was very hard for them to believe it. Jesus was abandoned by his closest friends, perhaps because they were terrified of what would happen to them for their connection to Jesus. Joy, relief, and hope were replaced by fear, loneliness, isolation, worry, and uncertainty about the future.

We know something about the world suddenly changing right now because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are experiencing a significant shift - a shift from joy and community to fear and uncertainty and loneliness. As we go through Holy Week, we remember how Jesus and all who loved him experienced fear, loneliness, pain, and even death. Maybe it feels a little overwhelming to enter into the heaviness of Holy Week when there are already so many hard things happening all around us.

But there is also good news in Holy Week.

It reminds us Jesus has felt what we feel, and he is with us even when we feel scared and alone. In Jesus, we see the promise that no matter how hard things get, even in the face of death itself, there is still the promise of resurrection, of new life. Every year we celebrate Holy Week to remember that in ordinary times and in the most challenging times, God is present with us and at work creating new life.

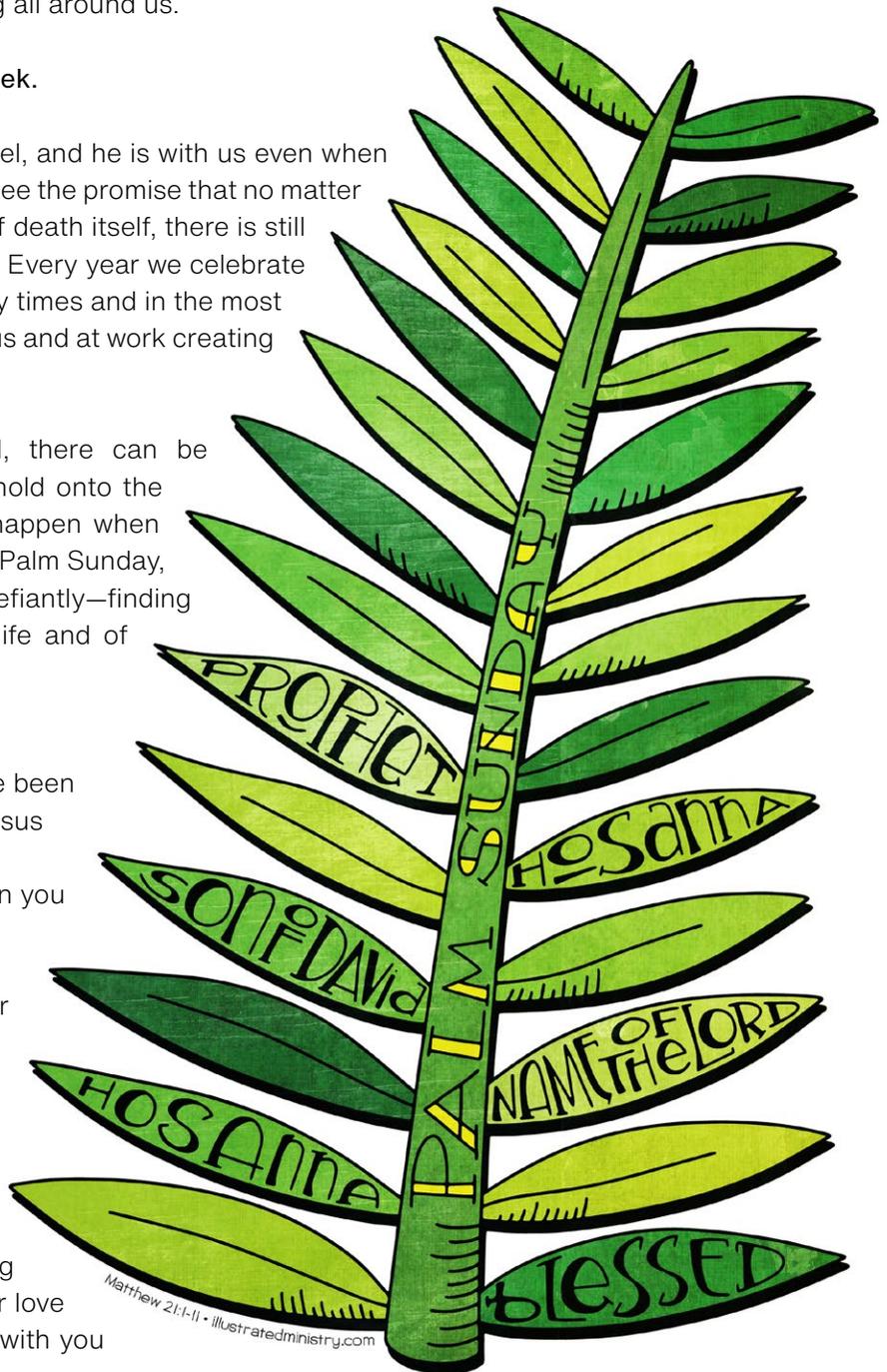
Things may look different afterward, there can be real loss, grief, and hardship, but we hold onto the promise of resurrection: new life will happen when the hard times have passed. So on this Palm Sunday, wherever we are, we wave our palms defiantly—finding joy and hope in the promise of new life and of Jesus with us.

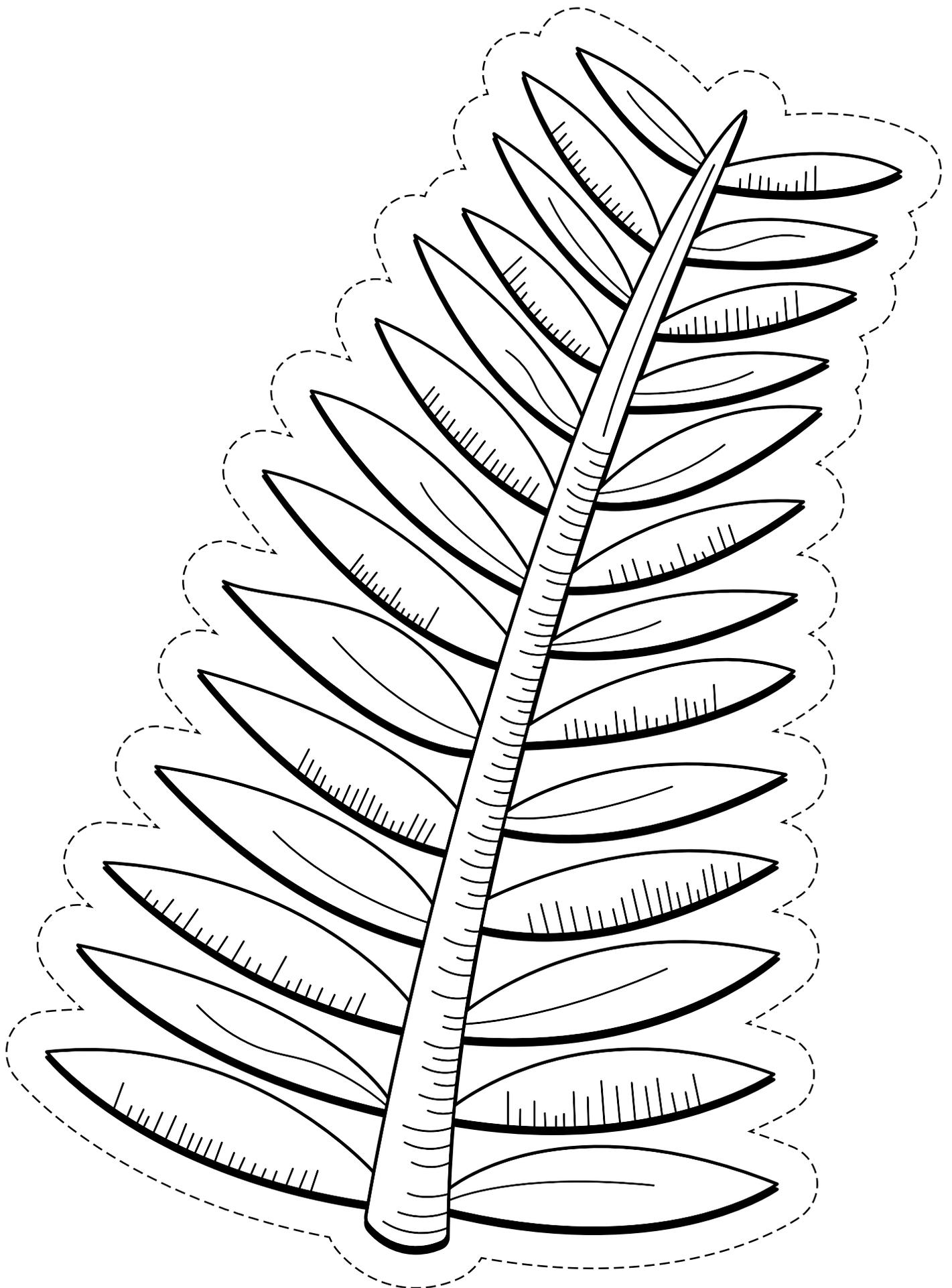
Discussion Questions

1. What do you think it would have been like to be in Jerusalem when Jesus came into the city?
2. What helps you have hope when you face a difficult situation?
3. What stories do you remember when you feel worried, afraid, or uncertainty about the future?
4. What good news do you see right now?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us so much and for coming to live among us in the world. Help us remember your love and the hope you bring as we journey with you during Holy Week. **Amen.**



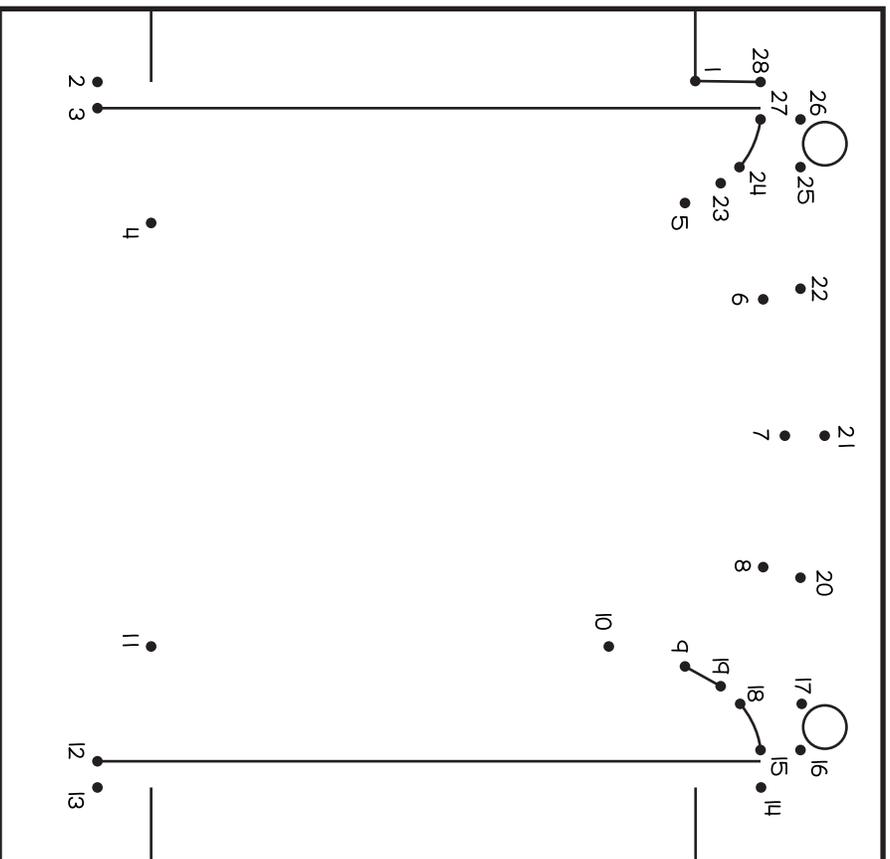


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CONNECT the DOTS

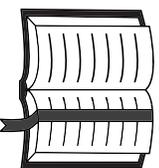
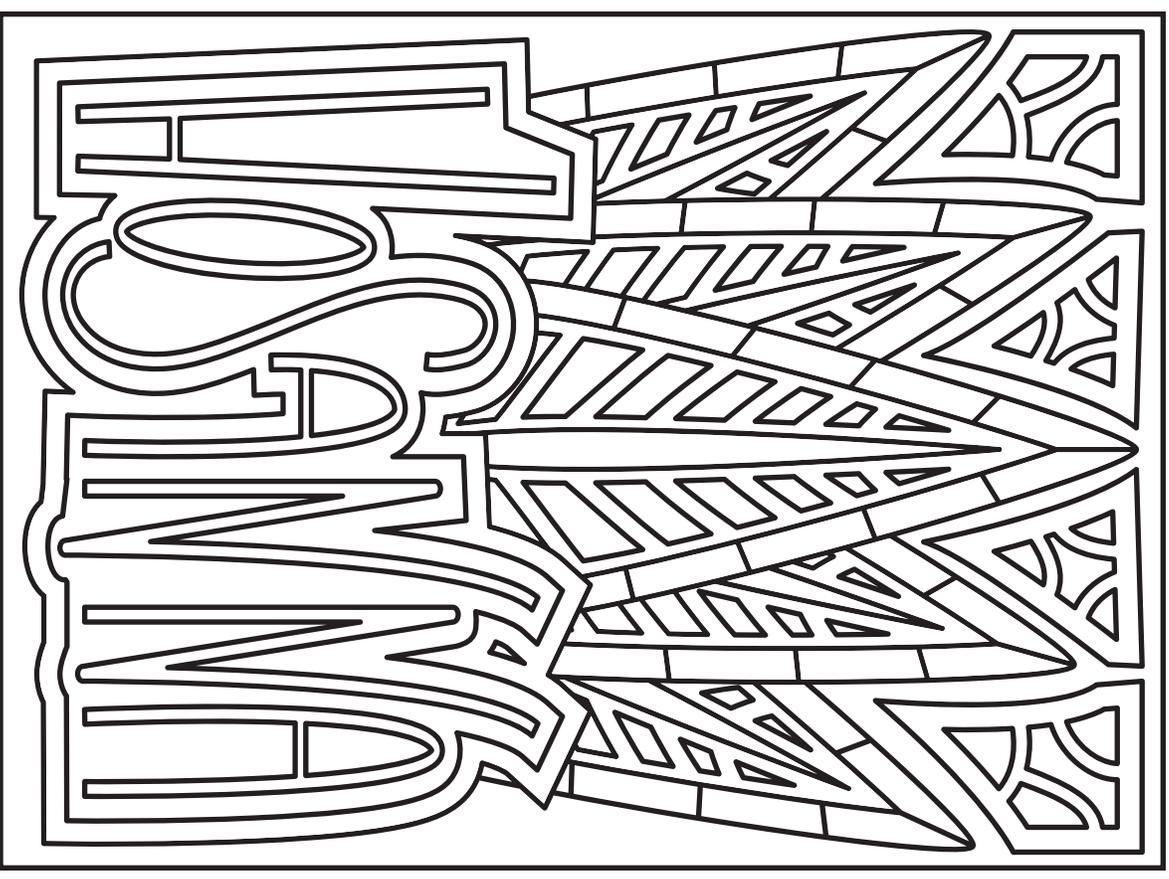
Psalm 118 asks that the “gates of righteousness” be opened so we may enter and give thanks to God.

Connect the dots to form the open gates. Inside, draw what you want to thank God for.



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11.



ILLUSTRATED
MINISTRY

Suggested for use on Psalm Sunday based on the RCL.

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WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Matthew 21 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

R G H Y N O H I N T U D L K Z
W V W W H C T C N N L W R S N
J E S U S K L U N R G O C C E B
M A C S M W O O M A P R W L M
R Q O H O M F E T D R C C P L
E T L O C S L F I H B B H I A
T H A U D A P V P L E O V C P
N P S T S G A R E Y S S G S K
E B Z U E D D S O A D O R I D
L C R I H T S R N P Z B Q D R
V E T Q E I X N Z I H X N O O
J N A W N I A D R C V E P S L
U V D G W G J Q L B Q I T O V
D Y E Y O R M T V A C D Y V G
S I D O N K E Y W X N H R T S

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| JERUSALEM | LORD | PALM |
| MOUNT | PROPHET | BRANCH |
| ENTER | DISCIPLES | HOSANNA |
| UNTIE | COLT | BLESSING |
| DONKEY | CLOTHES | SHOUT |
| JESUS | CROWD | DAVID |



DRAW IT

Imagine you are with the crowds as Jesus rides into town on a donkey. What does Jesus look like? What would you want to shout as you praise Jesus and your love for him?

Into your spacious

heart

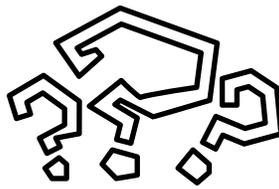
AND LOVING HANDS

dear God

I place



my fears,



my "what ifs,"



my spinning world and mind

Comfort me with the

TRUTH

NO FEAR

is too big for the

GREAT ONE

who is always with me.



am never alone.

CALMING GOD, BRING COURAGE

TENDER SPIRIT, BREATHE PEACE

GENTLE JESUS, BE CLOSE

Amen



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

ARIANNE BRAITHWAITE LEHN is a mother, one half of a clergy couple, writer, and ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a South Dakota native, Arianne originally planned on Law School until God called her to Taiwan where everything changed. She later graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago). She and her family live in Wilmette, Illinois. Arianne is the author of *Ash and Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos and Grace of Daily Life*. You can connect with Arianne and her writing at her website ariannebraithwaitelehrn.com.

CORBY ORTMANN is a digital illustrator and animator, whose work includes caricatures, graphic design, children's books, and animated commercials/music videos. He currently lives in Fargo, North Dakota with his wife and daughter, who help him to step away from the art table every so often. You can find more of his work at www.corbyortmann.com.

LAYTON WILLIAMS is a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister and a writer based in Charleston, SC. She serves as the Director of New Dawn Ministries at Sunrise Church on Sullivan's Island, and she is the author of *Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us*. She received her M.Div from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and previously served on staff at Sojourners in D.C. and Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Prior to ministry, Layton worked as a nonprofit educator for middle and high school students.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

REBEKAH LOWE, a local of Kansas City, Southern California, and Austin, Texas, earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies with a minor in Leadership Studies and a minor in Hebrew at Azusa Pacific University and served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Brentwood Presbyterian Church (USA) in Los Angeles, California, for over five years. She resides in Austin, Texas with her husband and their two daughters.

ABOUT ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY'S FOUNDER + CEO

ADAM WALKER CLEVELAND is an artist, pastor, pastor's spouse, and father of four (two living). Adam is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and after doing youth ministry for over 15 years, he founded Illustrated Ministry, LLC. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin with his wife and children.