

**Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ**  
**Order of Worship for April 5, 2020**  
**Palm Sunday**

*Our tendency in the midst of suffering is to turn on God. To get angry and bitter and shake our fist at the sky and say, 'God, you don't know what it's like! You don't understand! You have no idea what I'm going through. You don't have a clue how much this hurts. The cross is God's way of taking away all of our accusations, excuses, and arguments. The cross is God taking on flesh and blood and saying, Me too.'*

~ Rob Bell

**Call to Worship**

ONE: The way has been prepared.

**MANY: For the crowds it is the way of celebration.**

ONE: For Jesus it is the way of completion

**MANY: Amid shouts and waving palm branches, he comes into the Holy City.**

ONE: Open your hearts this day to receive the Savior.

**MANY: We open wide our hearts and spirits to receive Jesus the Christ.**

**Hymn #216**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Triumphal God, you rode in on a donkey to shouts of Hosanna! We long to hear the shouts of others as we isolate in our homes. As we gather to sing your praise, let us remember that crowds are not only forbidden at this time, but proved to be deadly for Jesus. As we praise you from our homes, let us remember that whether in person or via technology, you are with us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Scripture**

Matthew 21:1-11

Our God is still speaking.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Entering a Tumultuous City

**The Pastor's Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, as we remember Your Son's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we confess that all too often we have been part of the crowd. When things go our way we believe our lives are good because we worked hard; when things do not go our way we blame others for our troubles. God, help us to take responsibility, not only for our own lives, but for the lives of our neighbors. Forgive us of our faults, and renew in us a sense of Your love, justice and mercy. Guide us in ways we might live out Your commandments more fully in our lives. Help us to seek Christ in the suffering in this world, and guide us as the body of Christ to be Your hands and feet. In Your Son's Precious Name we pray. Amen.**

## **The Sacrament of Communion**

### **Communion Prayer**

**Hosanna, King Jesus, Hosanna! You are truly blessed, for you come to us in the name of God. On that Palm Sunday long ago, you made a claim and a challenge to be the king of peace. As we gather together to eat and drink together in communion from our homes, we accept for ourselves the claim and challenge that you made; we affirm the covenant that you offered. Bless us with your Spirit. Amen.**

## **Blessing of the Elements**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Hosanna to God our creator! Hosanna to the one who was willing to walk into Jerusalem, knowing what the week ahead would hold. As we leave this table, may we feel nourished by the love of Jesus Christ, into the unknowing that awaits us in the week ahead. And may we share that love with our neighbors. Amen.**

## **Hymn #213**

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

*Call to Worship from Worship Connection at [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com); Prayer of Confession adapted from [rev-o-lution.org](http://rev-o-lution.org); Communion prayer adapted from Fed by God's Grace by Michael E. Dixon and Sandy Dixon.*

