

WOLCOTT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
WORSHIPPING AT HOME, APRIL 4-5, 2020

(Clicking on the text underlined in blue will take you to Youtube videos.
Most are songs, except for the Sermon, "Parade of Hope")

All Prayers are from the *Book of Common Worship* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018) and *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive Christian Resources and Baker Books, 2013)

Pray: We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Sing or Listen: Traditional: [All Glory, Laud, and Honor](#)

Contemporary: [Hosanna \(Praise is Rising\)](#)

Confess: Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted "Hosanna: 'Save us now!'" On Good Friday they shouted "Crucify!" We confess our praise is often empty. We sing "Hosanna," but cry "Crucify." As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.

Be: Sit (or stand) in silence for one minute.

Be Assured: Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118: Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

Read God's Word:

Psalm 102:12-17 (New Revised Standard Edition)

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God,

and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,

up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

Mark 11:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will

send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Listen to the Sermon: [Parade of Hope](#)

Think or Discuss: What’s your best memory of a parade, processional, or street festival? What was meaningful about it? Who did you honor? Was it a big crowd? How did it feel to be a part of such a crowd?

Do: Gather up some greenery and have your own mini Palm Sunday Parade! Walk safely around the house or neighborhood with your palms, and sing some of your favorite songs.

Pray: Use this time to pray, silently, at first, and then for others who need your prayers.

Finally, pray the Lord’s Prayer. (Our Father...)

Sing or Listen: Traditional: [Rejoice ye Pure in Heart](#)

Contemporary: [Heal Our Land](#)

Bless and Be Blessed: May the God of Peace and the Peace of God be with you always.

AFTER WORSHIP, OUR SERVICE BEGINS...

Serve: (Safely) Many folks have taken to making noise and celebrating at 8PM outside on their porches to honor healthcare workers and other essential workers. Many hospitals and organizations need our help and donations in other ways. Reach out to a local hospital, healthcare facility, homeless shelter, or nursing home to find out if there's other ways to donate or help out.