

## Sunday, April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday Order of Service for ACC

**Music prelude:** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGz081QDiwE>

Welcome! Today, we have prepared an order of worship for you. You may pray and sing alone, or you might join with your household or (very) small group to worship together. These are suggestions, including links to music and the scripture texts. A few options are included for families with children.

**Prayer:** God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who came in your name  
and turned the lonely way of rejection and death  
into triumph.  
Grant us the steadfast faith  
to enter the gates of righteousness,  
that we may receive grace to become worthy citizens  
of your holy realm. Amen.

- Gathering hymn: Hosanna (Praise is rising) MP 1221 – with movement for kids [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSBR-r9B\\_94](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSBR-r9B_94)
- [Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#) – Read together aloud
- Hymn of praise: Hosanna, hosanna (MP242) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgzvvRGe7tE>

### The Word

Bible reading: [Matthew 21:1-11](#)

- Children's story: "God's story: Palm Sunday" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTmbTuutBgg>
- Questions for reflection:
  1. When you hear the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem, what surprises you? What questions do you have?
  2. If you had been there in Jerusalem, how would you have responded to Jesus?
  3. What do you learn about who Jesus is in this passage?
  4. What is God inviting you to do or to change through this scripture?

Hymn: Ride on, ride on in majesty (MP580) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MD9rMkIS1yw>

**Prayer of Confession** (taken from UMC Discipleship Ministries, [https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prayer-of-confession-for-palm-sunday\\_](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prayer-of-confession-for-palm-sunday_))

Let us come together to a moment of confession. Imagine Jesus entering our presence just as he entered Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. Envision the palm branches, the donkey, the shouts of "hosanna." Understanding who he is and knowing who we are...

Leader: ...we pray together...

**All: O God, you know us well. We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to live it fully. We shout "hosanna" as Jesus approaches, as did the people of Jerusalem many years ago; but we do not want him to come too close -- not close enough to really see...**

*Silent Confession*

Leader: And we pray together...

**All: O God, you know us well. We are quick to claim faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior; but, like the throng who greeted his entry into Jerusalem, we are fickle, slow to live fully and everywhere as faithful disciples. We know where we fail...**

*Silent Confession*

Leader: And we pray together...

**All: O God, you know us well. We are quick to want the blessings of faithfulness; but, like the Twelve who spent the last week with him, we are slow to accept the pain and suffering of authentic Christ-like living. Forgive our weakness and fear...**

*Silent Confession*

### Words of Assurance

Leader: The Lord is God. The Lord brings light to those in darkness, forgiveness to those who truly confess, and pardon to all who seek to follow Jesus. Rejoice that the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever and ever. In the name of Jesus the Christ, receive the love that never dies and never fails. Amen.

- [Philippians 2:5-11](#) – have one family member read this hymn of praise to Jesus

### The Response to the Word

- **Offering:** you may still choose to give your tithes and offerings using the ACC MPESA number +255 755 992 394 in the name of Nasieku Mollel (ACC Administrator's last name)
- **Prayers for the church and world:** you may pray as you wish together, or you may use the prayer printed below. Close with "Our Father."

#### *Ponder Anew ... Prayer for the World*

from Carol Penner

Great God,  
you are an ever-present help in times of trouble,  
and that's why we're praying now.  
We are troubled and we're worried things  
are going to get more troubling.  
This virus is spreading around the world:  
so many are seriously ill  
or will be seriously ill,  
so many health care systems are stretched  
or will be stretched.  
Be with front line medical workers,  
give them courage to do their work  
and keep them safe.  
Be with public health officials  
as they make decisions for the common good,

and politicians as they roll those decisions out.  
Help us to be kind to one another,  
because anxiety can make us snappy.  
Help our communities to be resilient  
and expansive as we reach out to help  
all who are isolated and afraid.  
In these times of shutdowns and slowdowns,  
when travel is restricted or banned,  
as routines are disrupted and we spend  
less time together or more time together,  
help us zero in on what is essential.  
Thank you that love is also contagious  
and stronger than any virus.  
You will be with us,  
and we will be with each other  
in sickness and in health.  
Amen

**Sending hymn:** Father, we adore You (MP139). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0g4cj\\_aybT8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0g4cj_aybT8)  
Pray the Grace together to close.