



"Entry into the City" by John August Swanson.

# Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH** OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, pastor  
and Matthew Lawrenz, musician

[www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)

In this fifth week after the Pentecost event, we continue our sermon series, UNordinary Times, with an exploration of Zechariah and Matthew's Gospel. This week's reading from the prophet Zechariah speaks about the return of the King who comes in God's name. Many Christians recognize this scripture's use from Palm Sunday as it is used to describe Jesus's "triumphal entrance" into Jerusalem. Instead of a warhorse – the "King" from God is humble and rides a donkey. This is the King who brings peace and ends violence. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus refers to the generation of his time, but he could just as easily have addressed our generation in the unordinary times we find ourselves living in today. Jesus compares his message and its reception to John the Baptist. Jesus concludes by saying that those who know him know God. His yoke is easy and his burden is light. Through him, people will find rest for their souls.

**Words of Welcome**

**A Song for Today**

**Largo**

arr. Dvorak  
**Musician, Matthew Lawrenz**

**Opening Litany**

**UCC Worship Ways (Matt 11:16-19)**

**Leader:** Jesus says Come to me – Everyone! When I play a joyful tune  
**People:** we'll dance!

**People:** When I sing a lament  
 we'll weep!

**People:** When I chant for justice  
 we'll sing along!



"Church Goin' Mule" by Marshall Blevins.

**Prayer for Today**

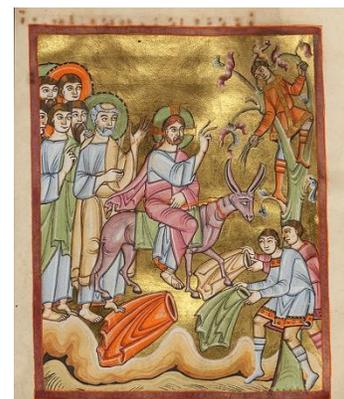
**Susan A. Blain**

Come to us, Holy One,  
 And immerse us in the beauty of life with you!  
 Come to us, Holy One,  
 And enliven our community with the intensity of your love  
 Come to us, Holy One,  
 And embolden our community with the urgency  
 of your justice  
 in the name of the One who calls us to play and to work in community,  
 Jesus, our beloved.

**Old Testament**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

This week's reading from the prophet Zechariah paints the image of the entry of the king that comes in the name of God -- but not as Zechariah's audience would expect. This reading is a post-exilic prophecy of hope, written after the Israelites returned from Babylon under the edict of King Cyrus of Persia. The Prophet imagines the return of a triumphant but humble king to Jerusalem. This



"Entry into Jerusalem" from Getty Center.

is the king who would do establish the reign of God in very *unkingly* ways – by ending violence and bringing peace.

### Prayer of Confession

Romans 7:15-25 (*The Message*)

Leader: I know that all God's commands are spiritual,

**People:** but I'm not.

I decide one way,

**People:** but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise.

I decide to do good,

**People:** but I don't *really* do it;

I decide not to do bad,

**People:** but then I do it anyway

I truly delight in God's commands

**People:** But the power of sin sabotages my best intentions

My decisions to good don't result in actions:

**People:** Sin is there to trip me up.

I've tried everything ...

**People:** Who can help me?

### Assurance of Pardon

Susan A. Blain

The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does help us.

He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions

where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind,

but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

He calls us: Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened.

I will share your yoke and make it light;

I will lead in the Way you desire to travel.

### Contemporary Reading

The New Colossus

Emma Lazarus



*"Statue of Liberty" by Brandon Mowinkle.*

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

[Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30](#)

**New Testament**

In this brief Gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus speaks of the faithlessness of the people around him. These people rejected John the Baptist, saying he was possessed and was out of his mind. John came out of the wilderness and preached against the ways of the world, calling the people to repent. Jesus, who preached and proclaimed the same message of John, was called a glutton and a drunk. Jesus says those who know him know God. He speaks with the voice of Wisdom, calling the people to come and learn from him. Jesus tells those around him to hand over their burdens to him. His yoke is easy and his burden is light. In Jesus, we find rest for our souls.

**Homily**

**UNordinary Times: Rest for Our Souls**

**Rev. Dan Stark**

**Song of Response**

**Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

**arr. S. Temple  
Soloist, Richard Gaeth**

**Prayers of the People  
The Lord's Prayer**

**Passing the Peace**

Although we cannot be physically close to one another at this time, we can be relationally close. This Sunday morning, you are invited to pass the peace with your church family and loved ones by taking a moment to text, write, call, or message the people in your church family to let them know you are thinking of them. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Closing Song**

**arr. O. Chuckerbutty  
Musician, Matthew Lawrenz**

**Sending**

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You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ  
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