



"Halleluiah" by Mike Moyers.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Matthew Lawrenz, Musician

www.uccmke.org

In this eleventh week after the Pentecost event, we continue our sermon series, Emerge, with an exploration of two scriptures about expectations. In the scripture from Zechariah, known to many Christians for its use on Palm Sunday, we hear about an imagined future king's triumphal return to Jerusalem. This king was a humble, cunning, and a powerful leader who would rescue his people through military force. On the other hand, the gospel lesson from Matthew recounts Jesus' return to Jerusalem after his descent from the Mount of Olives. A far cry from the conquering hero in Zechariah's prophecy, Jesus' "triumphal" entry into Jerusalem may have been a disappointment for those who put their hopes in him as a military hero. As we continue to emerge and return to places and spaces we have not experienced since the pandemic began, we may find ourselves scratching our heads like the people who expected to see a warrior king but instead got a prince of peace. This week will explore shattered expectations and disappointed hopes.

Prelude

Offertoire-Lemmens

Blessing

**A Prayer for Worship Leaders
(Wondering if People Will Come Back)**

Molly Baskette

Opening Hymn

Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him

Opening Litany

*Please recite aloud the words in bold

All: How long, Lord...how long?

One: ...will we have to keep this up? Temp checks. Sign ins. Signage. Ushers ushering. This is your pew; this isn't my pew!

All: How long, Lord...

One: ...will we have to keep this up? Elbow bumps. Six feet spacing. No handshakes and hugs. I miss Canfora's donuts!

All: How long, Lord...

One: ...will we have to keep this up? No coffee hour swigging. Hands clinging to our little bottles of sanitizer. The pastor muffles through his mask!

All: How long, Lord...

One: ...will we have to keep this up? Prepackaged communion. Host wrapped in cellophane. Just not the same!

All: How long, Lord...

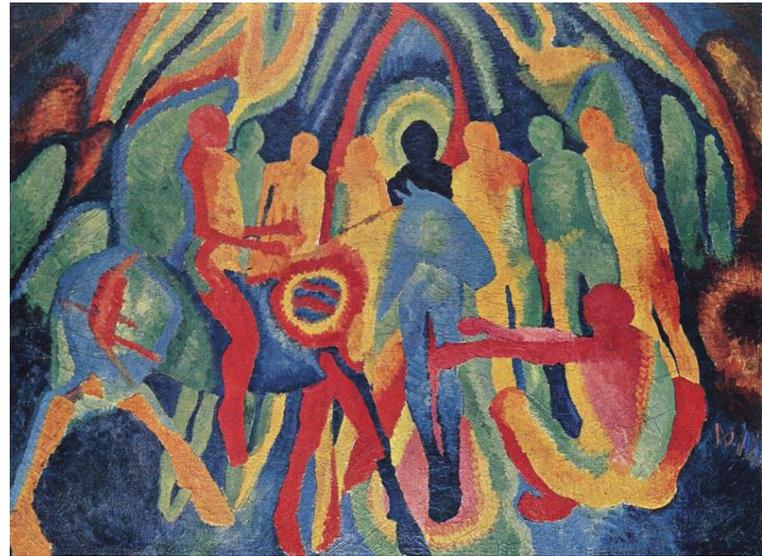
One: ...will we have to keep this up? Will this ever end? Not what we expected. Not what we hoped for!

All: How long, Lord...how long?

The Gloria

Old Testament [Zechariah 9:9-12](#)

The prophet Zechariah paints the image of the entry of the king that comes in the name of God. 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 is the king who would establish the reign of God in very *un-kingly* ways - by ending violence and bringing peace.



"Entry of Christ into Jerusalem" by Wilhelm Morgner.

Litany for When We Start to Forget

Mary Luti

New Testament [Matthew 21:1-11](#)

Matthew's Gospel is particularly concerned with the identity of Jesus as teacher and messiah. In this reading, Jesus enters Jerusalem when people were celebrating him as the coming Son of David (Davidic King). The theme of "letting go" is front and center in this reading, as people let go of palm branches, lay down their cloaks, and even give up their donkey. In addition to giving up some of their possessions, the onlookers also offered up their hopes and dreams to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Some of the people were probably excited about seeing him for the first time. Others were likely disappointed or let down when they realized he was not the "Son of David" who was imagined as a strong military hero.

Sermon

Emerge: Jesus Returns to Jerusalem

Rev. Dan Stark

Song of Response

Hymn of Promise

Prayers of the People

Spirit of the Living God

Prayer Song

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to Communion

Telling the Story

Blessing the Elements

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Closing Song

Lead Me, Guide Me



"Entry into Jerusalem" at Getty Center.

Sending Blessing

*As we stand at the church doors and city gates,
with shattered expectations and disappointed hopes,
not quite sure what to think anymore...
May we have the grace to recognize the one we proclaim,
even when it goes against our ways,
even when it leads us where we do not want to go.*

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently gathering in person for worship with safety and sanitation protocols in place.
Learn more here. <https://www.uccmke.org/covid-19>

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ
Church,
915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

