

This Palm Sunday is a celebration and special day in our church. It has been over three years since we have had any sort of choir, yet thanks be to God, we are having a cantata! We have a mixture of new as well as familiar faces singing to give glory to the suffering servant, King Jesus. Each week it has been a joy to watch this group practice before worship, and on Sunday it will definitely be a celebration as we begin Holy Week!

Each year in the Christian calendar, we mark this special holy day as we recall our Lord and Savior riding into Jerusalem. Traditionally, one version of this Gospel is read as we recall the crowds shouting hosanna in the highest. Also, we arrive on this day to numerous of Pastor Zach's and his neighbors' most prized palm branches spread over the sanctuary. (FYI-even my neighbors just expect this by now). Worshipers can



suspect to find one of the most traditional service orders, including singing *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*, reciting a call to worship or litany with the phrase "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, and let's not forget the triple reminder (a pre-worship slide, verbal announcement, and fine print on the bulletin) concerning the upcoming Holy Week Service(s). Hopefully on Palm Sunday you leave on a high, signing up for your Easter lily or two, and humming in your vehicle as you call it a meaningful morning!

At the same time, I want to push back and invite you to use your imagination regarding the night of Palm Sunday or maybe as the humming comes to a halt. In particular, when the parade and crowds left as well as the cloaks and palm branches were picked up from the dust off the ground. The reason we must use our imagination is that Mark quickly moves us from the crowds celebrating to the next verse which is Mark 11:11 "Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve". Pause. The end of the evening. Subsequently, our Gospel writer continues with verse 12 "The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry..." (taken from NIV) Just take this in for a moment and reflect. Once again, I'll pose our question directly to you "What do you imagine Jesus was doing that evening in Bethany? Praying by himself, with his disciples, or possibly with his friends Mary and Martha? What might Jesus had been feeling or thinking, and on and on? Did Jesus have any questions, concerns, or worries? For instance, a few days later Jesus would be in a garden with some sleepy disciples praying "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want" (Matthew 26:39).

Perhaps Jesus was remembering glimpses of his early childhood story and how his family had to flee Bethlehem and be on the run like refugees searching for safety in Egypt. As tempted as Jesus might had been to neglect God's will and run for his own self-preservation, the Gospels proclaim what happen next. Even if Jesus was pacing back and forth, wrestling with thoughts and questions with his disciples, hundreds of years later congregations still gather because they heard what happened next. This time there is no running nor hiding, Jesus knew this was his hour and his time. According to the Gospel of John, we still gather together because Jesus was ultimately glorified!

As we begin Holy Week, let us not overly romanticized the days leading to Easter Sunday and remember Jesus' full humanity. Remember Jesus had feelings of pain, sorrow, and concerns just like you and I. This will not decrease our faith, instead, enable us to be more in awe and love of Jesus as we approach the cross. Furthermore, you might find yourself with even more depth and confidence confessing "Truly this man was God's son" (Mark 15:39).

## Prayers and Praise to God from February

**Linda Lee and Family**, in the death of Roman, Linda Lee (great grandson)  
**Jean Taylor**, back home from Healthpark hospital, Church Family  
**Pam Williams**, undergoing chemo related to lung cancer, Church Family  
**Ray and Linda Schneider**, Ray is currently in rehab at Ambassador Healthcare, Church Family  
**Bob Skaggs**, after recovering from COVID is back in rehab at The Preserve, Church Family  
**Sue Fink**, upcoming major hip surgery on April 11, Church Family  
**George Neal Jr.**, in the hospital, Ann Chisholm (grandson)  
**Rita Azer and Asya Teruni**, praise as both recovered from COVID, Church Family  
**Family and Friends of Ronnie Brown**, in the death of Ronnie, Hidden Harbor (beloved friend)  
**Roger Ward**, chemo related to a stage 3 cancer, Linda Lee (Purdue Young Group Leader)  
**Pastor Kathy Frumoff**, stage 3 breast cancer and spinal cancer, Dean Brown (Katie's pastor)  
**Kate and Mya Seitz**, lung appointment on April 4 & scar procedure April 5, Church Family  
**Mackenzie**, awaiting results from egg, Linda Lee (granddaughter)  
**Paulette Idol**, mini stroke but back home from the hospital, Church Family  
**Shirley Fizer**, in the sudden death of her cousin, Jeffery Church Family  
**Nicki Schneider**, 20 year old with fluid around her heart, Dean (daughter's prayer request).  
**Nancy**, in hospital with difficulty breathing, Ron and Betty Johnston (sister/sister-in-law)  
**John Blasi Sr.**, recent back procedure and awaiting surgery, Church Family  
**Kenny Runyon**, a recent fall, Church Family



Easter is the most glorious day in the church year and let's have our sanctuary reflect it. If you have not order an Easter Lily yet, please signup on Palm Sunday. We are asking for donations of \$15 per lily.

### **Outreach Corner**

This past month we hosted students from Purdue University in our fellowship hall for 5 days. They came down to help at the Gladiolus food pantry and at New Beginnings in Cape Coral. They also helped take care of cleaning out many of the garden beds.

During the week I helped out in the kitchen with serving breakfast as well as supper and became very attached. They were a lot of fun and quite a blessing to be around. If you get a chance to spend a week with a group of young people, do it because you will feel so much better for doing so. They will not make you younger, but you sure will enjoy it.

Remember the love offering for Kate and Zack for upcoming health travels. If you have any Easter candy for Gladiolus food pantry also turn it in by April 2nd. **–Linda Lee (Outreach)**

### **April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*(Name Missing? Email the office.)*

Donna Fielding	Apr 6
Kathryn Hamm	Apr 9
Elaine Maley	Apr 10
John Battazzo	Apr 14
Ron Bly	Apr 15
Anna Comer	Apr 16



### **Good Friday Service**

It's exciting to share that Ricardo Rivera will be back with us for another meaningful Good Friday Service. Nicole and Ricardo will be leading the music with Dr. Asya. This year the service will be at 3pm. on April 7.