

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

March 19-25, 2018

*Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.*

### BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Mark 11:1–11 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=383637415>).

Other readings are: Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47; Psalm 51:1–12; Hebrews 5:5–10; John 12:20–33

The theme is: Love Arriving.

Churches around the world will recreate the Palm Sunday parade in ways that warm peoples' hearts. Palm-waving children will sweetly sing "Hosannas." In some cases, donkeys will even be recruited to re-enact the celebration. Yet, according to many biblical scholars, the images we bring to life are only half the story. According to scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, there were two parades that day. The one that we celebrate was a peasant procession that entered Jerusalem from the east. The peasants were cheering Jesus, a man who taught about the kingdom of God. But there was another parade that day that was entering Jerusalem from the west. Led by Governor Pilate, this other parade put soldiers and military might on display. It was an imperial procession that declared the power of empire. It was no accident that the two processions occurred at the same time. Imperial processions were customary during festivals, such as Passover, as a warning to the faithful who were entering Jerusalem. Trouble would not be tolerated! Jesus, too, was making a deliberate statement. He was bearing witness to an alternative kingdom. He was making a bold political statement as well as a religious one. The conflict that was demonstrated by these two different processions was one that would drive the events of the week ahead – the week known as Holy Week.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

*"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.*

**What does this information about two conflicting processions bring to your understanding of Palm Sunday and Holy Week?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 18:

**Listen for words of hope.**

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