

# Sunday Gathering

Bless the King! Luke 19:28-40  
- Bradley Bell

April 2, 2023

Luke: Upside Down (Spring  
2023)

## Call to Worship - Luke 19:38

Happy Palm Sunday! Kiddos, we have the palm strips for you on the side table for you. You can fold them into a necklace or a bracelet or a cross, as a way to celebrate the palm branches being laid before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

Here at the beginning of our worship gathering, let us remember that in the beginning of all things—Jesus was there. He knew the joy of meeting with Adam and Eve, and the glory of walking through the perfect world he created. He knew what it was like to enter into a space that worshiped his very presence.

He later experienced a small echo of that glory as he entered Jerusalem for the last time. Palm Sunday begins what is known as Holy Week, when Jesus makes his triumphal entry into the city, knowing full well that his death is to come. He still enters their presence.

So today let's share our own celebration of Christ's very presence in our midst. What would it be like for us to leave here today knowing that Christ felt the echo of that same glory he experienced in the beginning, when all was as God designed it?

Join me in readying our voices to praise the one who came, died, rose again, ascended to heaven, and will return again to make all things new (let's say this together):

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Luke 19:38

## *Our Great God*

### Confession - Zechariah 9:9

It is often our nature to read a Bible story and put ourselves in the shoes of the hero. We read stories like David and Goliath and immediately picture ourselves as David with sling and stone in hand.

When we read of Jesus's triumphal entry, we may see ourselves as the rejoicing crowd, praising the coming King. Or perhaps we go as far to say we're like Jesus, boldly entering the place of those who wish us harm.

But if we're honest, we may be more like the Pharisees than we'd like to admit. The Pharisees tell Jesus to rebuke his disciples, for insinuating that he's the promised King from God. But Jesus assures them that if his disciples were to be quiet the very rocks would cry out. Take a few moments to consider this:

How have you been so concerned with your own problems, busyness, and agendas that you've left it to the rocks to give Jesus the praise he deserves?

My friends, there is joy on the other side of confession, because there is a humble Savior for sinners. Scripture tells us in Zechariah 9:9,

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

Even in our greatest trials, Jesus offers his outstretched hand as a place of respite. All that he asks is that we take it and join all of creation in praising the One who saves.

### *Lord Have Mercy*

Mention the very difficult events that happened in Nashville.

### *Speak O Lord*

### Child Dedication

### Sermon - Luke 19:28-40

### Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

### *How Deep The Father's Love For Us*

### *Now Why This Fear*

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## **Benediction - John 3:16**

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

### Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

1) Missionary Care Team - MCT meets this Thursday at 7:00 PM at the Groces home. Antioch sends many missionaries (whom we call distributed members), and each distributed member has an advocate. MCT is the gathering of those advocates, but everyone else is invited to attend. If interested, please see pastor Robbie.

2) Prayer and fasting - Our call to church-wide prayer and fasting during the season of Lent concludes this week. There are print copies of this week's devotional on the side table if you need them, and we will also post them daily on our Facebook page.

3) Good Friday and Easter Sunday gatherings - Speaking of the end of Lent, coming this week is the most climactic moment of the Christian calendar:

Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Our Good Friday gathering will be at 6:30 PM. This is a bittersweet celebration of the crucifixion of Jesus, including songs, candlelight, artwork, and Scripture reading. Childcare will not be provided, but all children are welcome and the gathering will be no more than an hour.

Easter Sunday will be at our normal time. There will be no 9 AM classes beforehand. We want you to come ready to celebrate big, and also to invite friends and neighbors. We have placed an invitation in your chair, and there are more on the side table. But rather than organizing an all-family group outreach, we encourage you to think "Who's your one?"—who's one person God has put on your heart to invite? Along with that, we encourage you to consider hosting a lunch or dinner on Easter Sunday to invite friends and neighbors.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship, and we end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing. I invite you to hold out your hands in a posture of reception:

Church, God loved us so deeply that he sent his only Son to suffer and die for us, and to be raised again in glory on the third day. He deserves all our obedience and worship. So let us leave here expectant of our coming King, and found echoing his praises along with all creation when he comes. Based on John 3:16

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

We are sent.

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