

April 2, 2023

6th Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday: "Back in The Saddle Again!"

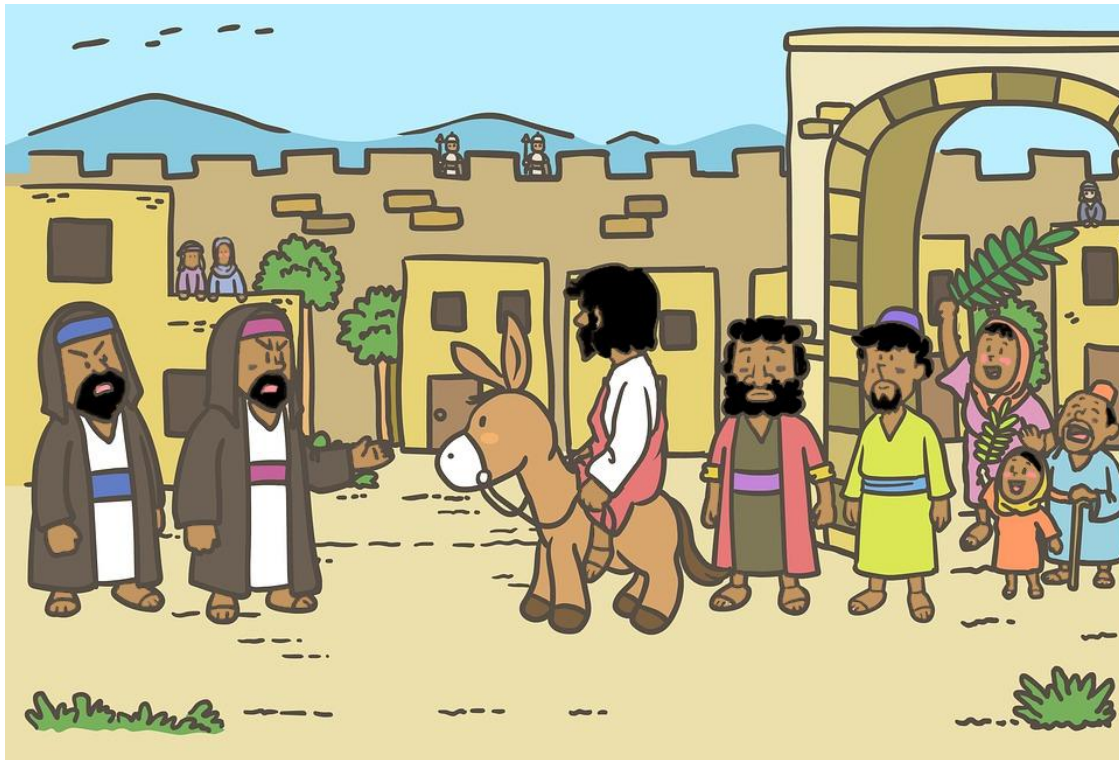
FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



LENT 2023: AUTHENTIC HUMANITY

Becoming authentically human is first and foremost about what God is doing. But we need to ask ourselves, what does it mean to be images of the God who created us? What does it mean to be reshaped into the image of the Son of God who, with unparalleled authenticity, lived, died, and lives anew in our true humanity? We are surrounded by a host of pressures that would squeeze and contort us into less-than-human. Lent is a season to release that pressure and to repent (turn from) all that would distort and reduce our humanity.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Geoff)

Call to Worship (Cathy)

Opening Prayer (Cathy)

Congregational Singing (Geoff)

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

- **Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.
- **People:** And also, with you.
- **All:** Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

"Letting go helps us to live in a more peaceful state of mind and helps restore our balance. It allows others to be responsible for themselves and for us to take our hands off situations that do not belong to us. This frees us from unnecessary stress." — Melody Beattie

"Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset." — Saint Francis de Sales

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-17

1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them back ASAP."

4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread

them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil... 12 Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

13 He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of thieves." 14 The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them.

15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did... they became angry and told him to disband the crowd. 17 He then turned his back on them, left the city for Bethany...



SERMON: "Back in The Saddle Again!" (Steve)

The sixth Sunday of Lent is typically called "Palm Sunday," which is really a misnomer. Now there are many things about "Palm Sunday" that most Christians get very wrong. I've been to Jerusalem and there are very few palm trees. But there are lots of olive trees and so the tree branches the crowds threw at Jesus would most likely have been olive branches – a symbol of peace, which seems much more apropos. Steve will dramatize what might actually have happened.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Geoff)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Geoff)

Sending - #1065 (Steve)

Whatever wilderness the Spirit
Has brought you to:

Walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God;
Walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High;
Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. — Amen

"Whatever we are waiting for - peace of mind, contentment, grace, the inner awareness of simple abundance - it will surely come to us, but only when we are ready to receive it with an open and grateful heart." — Sarah Ban Breathnach

"Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come."

— Henri Nouwen