

MARCH WORSHIP

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of March. As of the time of going to print, Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, claim the promises for you and your family.

This is a time of testing, but I know it will pass, and through it, we will become stronger, together. - Pastor Viv.

New Leaf Ministries

“When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

In a break from the usual front page introduction in this worship guide, I would like to introduce you to a local ministry I believe in, and would like to see be part of our Cherryvale outreach.

New Leaf Inmate Ministries is what has grown out of the bible study classes taught weekly at the Middle River Regional Jail. Using the Firm Foundations 26 week course written and arranged by Clint Webb in 1991, lives at their turning point are being taught, that a forever change is possible. Inmates are flocking to this class. Weekly attendance is always near or at 100%. The waiting list of inmates wanting to get into the class is so long that MRRJ, is trying to find extra class times and space so that Mr. Webb, and friends that make up New Leaf Inmate Ministries, can teach the class to more inmates.

Clint believes that he and his team are the ‘Physician’s helpers’. Being arrested, hand-cuffed and placed behind bars provides the very best opportunity for a person to view themselves for who they really are. The façade is gone. No point in lying to yourself anymore. Trying to hide the truth from the law, from friends, family and everyone else is an ongoing activity. But being alone with one’s guilt and shame can be, and should be, heart breaking. A self broken heart is probably the most intense pain a human being can experience. There is no one to blame. It’s a self inflicted wound. Praise God, there is a Physician who can heal this wound. The Physician begins by sending in a helper to tell the broken hearted, “you know, you haven’t been too bad to be forgiven.”

Inmates are almost constantly being moved. Some move from jail on into prison and some go home, either because they have reached the end of their jail sentence or they are released by the court system. As one moves out of the weekly class, someone on the waiting list is allowed to take their place. But the ones leaving the class aren’t just left hanging in the middle of the course. They continue taking the course by correspondence. As a result, New Leaf Inmate Ministries not only has the opportunity to minister to the men in jail, they are also reaching inmates all over the state. As an inmate is observed taking the course, other inmates become curious and they are encouraged to write to New Leaf Inmate Ministries and ask for the course. The course is provided free of charge to anyone who wants to take it.

Firm Foundations is the course that has led many inmates to accept Jesus as Savior. It teaches how to turn lives over to Jesus and walk with him, not just behind bars, but when back on the streets as well. This is the course that is producing less recidivism than any it has been compared to.

Why? The answer is simple. A life dedicated to following Jesus, a life consecrated to God, has a far better chance of not returning to jail or prison than any other. With an emphasis on getting well acquainted with God and developing a close and personal relationship with Him, the course reveals biblical solutions for human problems such as depression, worry and anxiety, feelings of rejection, inadequacy, worthlessness.

This last year has seen a shift to 100% correspondence teaching to comply with the MRRJ restrictions. Clint tells me he is mailing around 100 lessons a week, plus personally writing letters and answering questions in letters that he receives: and this number is growing as a second jail has agreed to allow the course to be taught, and a third is in the works. You can find out more about the ministry at www.newleafministries.org, as well as read testimonies of how God is at work and changing lives. Please join me in praying for Clint and his ministry. - Pastor Viv

March Worship

Worship March 7 - Third Sunday in Lent

Scriptures to read and meditate on

1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; John 2:13-22

Thought for the Week

“It is better to speak wisdom foolishly, like the saints, rather than to speak folly wisely, like the dons.” - G.K. Chesterton

Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, O God, that we don't like being made fools of. Why can't we hold positions of power in your kingdom, or be like everyone else? Why can't we have what our contemporaries have, when the world's power and wealth are being distributed? We brush aside what we don't like about the life of discipleship to which we are called, substituting worldly wisdom for holy folly. Forgive us for our pretensions, we pray. Teach us to adjust our priorities, so that what we say and do becomes a mirror of your own holy folly; under the mercy of him who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call To Worship -

The heavens are telling the glory of God. God's wonders are known in creation's magnificence. The Law is telling the perfection of God. God's commandments are the rarest of precious gifts. Beside you, O Lord, we learn humility. To you, O Lord, we lift our souls. We honor and praise you, O God, as we worship. May the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

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Worship March 14 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scriptures to read and meditate on

John 3:14-21; Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10

Thought for the Week

“We know no Gospel without salvation from sin.” - John Wesley.

Prayer of Confession

If the sin has a name, we've committed it – as you well know, all-suffering God. We know, in your grace, that you have set before us a clear path to follow your Son, but we persist in leaving that road, enticed by the promised pleasures of the undergrowth, far happier to pursue our own devices and desires than to stay beside Jesus. Forgive us, we pray, for our pernicious straying. Hold your Son's cross ever before us, that we may learn anew the height and depth and breadth of your love for us; under the mercy of him who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call To Worship -

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good. God's steadfast love endures forever. Some wandered, far and near, and cried out for help – which came from God. God's steadfast love endures forever. Some sat in darkness; some rebelled; they cried out for help – which came from God. God's steadfast love endures forever. We come now to worship the God who saves through love: God's steadfast love endures forever!

March Worship

Worship March 21 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scriptures to read and meditate on

John 12:20-33; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10

Thought for the Week

Finding life in the midst of death

Prayer of Confession

The closer we draw to Jerusalem and to his final confrontation with earthly powers, the less we like what we see in Jesus, O God. He's saying dangerous things about death and life, and we certainly don't want to be around when the reckoning with the authorities comes – as it surely must, not only in Jesus' day, but also in our own. Forgive us, we pray, for our insistence upon following the rosy cross of our fantasies, rather than the executioners' cross of your Son. Help us to find new courage and strength, new life amid death, and to take up whatever our cross may be; under the mercy of him who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call To Worship -

Our God is a God of mercy and love. Our God is a God of mercy and forgiveness. Our God's forgiveness washes us free from sin. Our God's washing from sin cleanses heart and spirit. Our God opens our lips, that we may declare God's praise. Let us turn to God, with broken, contrite hearts in gratitude and in worship.

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Worship March 28 - Palm Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

Thought for the Week

"The cross brings not only judgment on our cowardice, but also forgiveness that leads to courage.

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, as Gethsemane approaches, the shadow of the cross lengthens and we become aware of all that we are not. We are not as courageous as you call us to be. We are not as loyal as you want us to be. We are not as faithful as the world needs us to be. Forgive us for our failures, O God. Renew us with your forgiving love and strengthen our resolve to follow you so that we may take up our crosses, in confidence, without fear, trusting that your love is enough to sustain us now and forever. In Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Call To Worship -

We trust in you, O God. You are our God. Our times are in your hand. You are our God. Let your face shine upon your servants; save us in your steadfast love. We trust in you, O God. You are our God

Represent Him Well

When we are born again, we are no longer mere humans, we are a new creation, a new race of spiritual beings. In Acts, the followers of Christ began to be called Christians (“little Christs”). In his first letter to Corinth, Paul chastised believers for acting like “mere men” (3:3). We are not merely human; we are daughters and sons of the Most High God, filled with His Spirit and anointed by Him to steward the earth and serve people.

On a wall near the main entrance to The Alamo in San Antonio, Texas is a portrait with the following inscription:

James Butler Bonham – no picture of him exists. This portrait is of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom.

No literal picture of Jesus exists either. He can be seen, however, in the lives of His followers, the Church. The big question now centers around whether or not we will walk in our role of revealing Christ and partnering with God on the earth. Will we allow Him to move us back into His original plan of stewarding the earth for Him, or do we think we are saved just to one day get to heaven? Let’s ask Him for a better understanding of what Jesus meant when He said He would build his Church, His *ekklesia*.

Bill Johnson a missionary, shares the following report of an outreach to Tijuana, Mexico. It’s so incredible, it’s almost hard to believe, but Bill is a man of great integrity so enjoy this wonderful testimony:

The team met at 6PM on a stage set near the most desperate part of the street, which houses prostitutes, gangs, and rampant drug trade. They began with a time of prayer during which the team became completely filled with His presence. The surrounding people were being drawn to the spectacle, just as in the book of Acts when people gathered around the people of God to see what was happening. However, the rain that had been threatening to pour all day, started to fall shortly after ministry began. One of our leaders ran up to the microphone, knowing that if the rain continued, it would take away from what God wanted to accomplish that night. He told the crowd that God was going to stop the rain. As he spoke, and then prayed a quick prayer, the rain stopped, leaving all amazed and wondering how this could have possibly happened! News of the miracle spread and even more people came out of restaurants and shops to see what was happening. People couldn’t help but be drawn in. One look at the nationals’ faces revealed their desire for God’s presence and a deep longing for a revelation of His love.

For six hours, the team preached, received and released words of knowledge, led people to the Lord, and saw numerous miracles of healing. It was as if what was occurring had a

momentum of its own; it was beyond comprehension. The team was co-laboring with God; the Gospel was coming to life! There were at least six altar calls. Over one hundred people received Christ into their hearts, including five prostitutes, an immigrant from Iran, and a man whose eye had been gouged out in a fight! Many experienced miraculous healings in their bodies. One girl had a tumor in her throat that completely dissolved. An alleged hit-man fell to his knees and repented of murdering people and trading drugs. A woman listening from her fifth-story window across from the outdoor stage cried out for Jesus, as she sensed God's presence.

Stories such as this should be the norm for Christ's Church. We should release the Kingdom authority of Christ, and leave the mark of changed lives everywhere we go. Our prayers and representation of Him should make a difference. Since we cannot "force" Christ and His ways on people, our conclusion often has been to assume we can make very little difference in our world. In fact, the prevailing mindset has been to place all hope for change in God's sovereignty – a belief that when He wants and chooses to, He will bring situations in accordance with His will. If this concept of God's sovereignty were true, however, it would mean that places, cultures, and lives are devastated, suffering is occurring, and people are going to hell simply because God is not yet motivated to do something about it.

The problem lies with us. We are the church, the *ekklesia*, and we are to represent God on the earth. We must ascertain His will, then implement it through prayer and other spiritual weapons. We love and serve people, ministering Christ's salvation – binding satan's plans and schemes. This is the role of the *ekklesia*. As the true Church continues to arise, heaven will gain increasing influence on earth, while hell's influence will decrease.

Pray this prayer:

Lord, You modeled what You wanted Your *Ekklesia* to be when You were here on earth. You loved, served, taught, and healed people everywhere You went. And You moved in Your authority over the powers of darkness. Freedom, life, and blessing followed You everywhere. This is surely what You intend Your church to release. Give increased understanding to us regarding this.

We desire to represent You appropriately, as You deserve. We want people who do not know You to be born again. And we want to see people free from oppression fear, disease, sin, and despair.

We continue to pray for our community, our towns & cities, our state and our country. We pray for the great outpouring of Your spirit You have spoken of. We pray for millions of people to come to salvation. We pray for a return to our calling as a nation, that we will be used in this hour to be a voice for You to the entire world. We bind every principality and spiritual power attempting to stop this and trying to move this nation away from You. We declare that their plans will fail, in the name of Jesus, amen.

Passover and Easter

(read and study ahead for Holy week, March 28 - April 4)

Most of us have seen a picture of ‘The Last Supper’, it is a late 15th-century mural painting by Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci and is of the Western world's most recognizable paintings. But have we ever considered, what exactly Jesus was doing at ‘the last supper’?

This year the Jewish celebration of Passover will begin on Saturday March 27 and end Sunday, April 4. The proximity of these two religious holy days is nothing new. It reminds us that Jesus was crucified during Passover, and that as a Jew he had come to Jerusalem to celebrate it. But is that just a coincidence? Did Jesus just happen to die during Passover?

The biblical answer is no. The reason he came to Jerusalem that final time wasn’t just to celebrate Passover, but to become our Passover. As the apostle Paul says plainly in 1 Corinthians 5:7, “Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.”

But what does that mean? To see the answer, we need to begin at Exodus 12, the story of the first Passover. There we’ll see why the Passover was necessary and what it meant. Having learned Passover’s meaning, we’ll then look at how Christ became our Passover.

Exodus 12 and the First Passover

The setting is Egypt, and the mood is chaos. Egypt has just been devastated by a series of nine plagues. And this isn’t just a string of tough luck—God is judging Egypt. More than that, God is keeping a promise (Ex. 2:23–25). He has sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their children would have the land of Canaan for an inheritance (Gen. 15:18–21), yet they’ve been stuck in Egypt for centuries. It’s time for God to get them out and bring them home.

But first, there is one last plague, the most severe of all. With all (or at least most) of the previous plagues, Israel has been exempted. Their cattle didn’t die (Ex. 9:6). Their crops weren’t hailed on (Ex. 9:26). Even their land didn’t go dark (Ex. 10:23). They haven’t done anything to avoid these other plagues; God has simply aimed away from them.

The final plague will be different. God will be aiming at everyone this time. Apart from some unforeseen provision, God is going to strike down all the firstborn in Egypt, including the firstborn of Israel. Why? Because despite the fact that Israel is God’s chosen people, and despite the fact that they’ve been oppressed for centuries, the truth is they are sinners, too. Ezekiel 20:4–10 tells us they’d even been worshipping the false gods of Egypt! God can’t simply ignore that sin.

The message of the 10th plague is that God is holy and just. But the message of Passover is that God is also merciful. On that first Passover, God devised a way in which he could be both just and merciful at the same time. We might call it salvation through substitution.

God’s provision is simple: take a lamb. A mature male one-year-old and without blemish (Ex. 12:3–5). Examine it for four days to ensure there’s no flaw in it (12:6). And finally, on the 14th day of the month—the night the death angel kills the firstborn—kill that lamb. Then apply its blood to your doorposts (12:7), and when God sees the blood, he will pass over you (12:13).

That’s the meaning. God spares Israel’s sons, not because they are better than Egypt’s sons, but because a spotless lamb dies in their place and its blood covers their door.

Salvation through substitution. And, according to New Testament, the message of Passover is also the message of Good Friday.

Good Friday and the True Passover Lamb

If you wonder how an animal could substitute for a human, the answer is that ultimately it couldn't (Heb. 10:4). How God could pass over human sin because an animal died was a problem still demanding resolution (Rom. 3:25). Good Friday is when God finally resolved it.

Just as even Israel stood exposed to God's wrath in that 10th plague for their idolatry, so we all stand exposed to God's righteous wrath for our idolatry. All of us have sinned and fallen short of his glory. And apart from some provision, every last one of us was going to perish eternally under God's wrath in the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. Because God is holy and just.

But in his infinite love, God devised a way to be just and merciful at the same time. Salvation through substitution. The Passover was meant to paint a picture of that, but it wasn't the real thing. But when we get to the Gospels, the true substitute is here. In the words of John the Baptist, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

As with all typology, Jesus is greater than the Old Testament type. This time God didn't ask us to provide the lamb—he provided the Lamb himself. And this Lamb was no beast—he was fully God and fully man—like us in every way except sin (Heb. 2:17; 4:15).

And yet as with all typology, Jesus corresponded to the Old Testament type in many ways. Like the Passover lamb, he was a mature male (Luke 3:23), none of his bones was broken (Ex. 12:46; John 19:36), he was thoroughly examined and found spotless (1 Pet. 2:22), and he was slain for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3; Rev. 1:5). We boast that we've been redeemed, "not with perishable things like silver and gold—but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Pet. 1:18–19).

That's what Paul means when he says that "Christ our Passover has been sacrificed." Our salvation comes through his substitution. That's why God can say to us, "When I see his blood, I will pass over you."

Which leaves one question : Is His Blood Applied to You? Are you covered by the blood?

Recall what Exodus 12 says. Strictly speaking, it wasn't enough for the Passover Lamb to be slain. In order for God to pass over them, its blood had to be applied to their door. If they'd omitted that, the lamb wouldn't have done them any good. In the same way, John Calvin once noted that "as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race will remain useless and of no value for us" (Institutes III.1.1).

You must look on the Lamb who was pierced for you, and embrace him by faith as your only protection from God's wrath. Faith is the instrument by which his blood is applied to you personally. If you knock at his door in humble faith, you'll find there is plenty of room in his house for you. And when God sees the blood of Jesus covering you, he will pass over you.

Salvation through substitution. This is the message of Passover. It's the message of Good Friday. And it's the hope of all the world.

In the April issue of the 'worship guide' we will take a more in-depth look at the Passover celebration and how Jesus is revealed in it.

Palm Sunday Word Search

C E V L E W T P U D M E L A S U R E J S P P N Z Z T W I O W
K O Y V N U Y O I T J S F Y J U J T E Z T E U N C H L H J H
I K M E D X A S U F H I L D G Z H V L R W O O C Z R E X R V
P H X I V A C B E S P E P F O E I S H W I C W P U E X G N A
U J I V N I E E Q M K I L M D L D E T U O H S T L W D G K S
S Y D G P G B R Z I H A C O O I V E D O K B N N H E Q N W J
B J W L H L K U P R Z Q O F R E Q I X S Q B F Y C F Q J M Q
L E E H E E Z I O S F B O L V D V T M N Y E Z O E P N M I U
P S T S C U S Y N Y Z T E L C A Y S K J U T V D S A B Q I R
C V S M X N D T K G N K Y T D Q G Y F C Q H V V X U G U P I
L E L U E A W Z H U D T J R H O W H G L J P T N Q F S L V D
D K C X J X I U O E E O E F U A M O A S E H C N A R B E Z D
H R E U M X J M K A A H M Q J R N A N G M A U X D P O D J E
A P P R O A C H E D T V A P Q K Y Y N O M G R M O E E B A N
V Z M R V H T K A A G H E B V C N I Z E Q E V O R N T Z V D
Z V A C Q P M P F R V R D N R Z D T E M P L E C O U R T S Y
N S P V S Z W G D S G B Y Z S N S I Z O B D V R X A I N G H
G Z C O R X E N E E D S I T A A E B F I E L D S H O B R S A
C Q L L C T S Y Z M X L P T U C P P H L Y Q I H W W N M G G
O T K M C C C D W X B Q S Q V B H W T H R V Z O F O E T B P
T V J M T H E G K L V Q W L G R K M O M R K O I Q T R A B R
V Y C V I R D T Y T C L G F L P V O B V W Y N L L I B R P E
T I B M E I S L V H H S V S H B Q R X S Y R A O V O Z U B B
J S L W P S X U I O S R X D A R D S E J B N C U I K J A L R
R O S L G J I X Y S I J Z N Y Q V H T T L U O I Y S E M S U
U N K L A H J Q J A Z J R X E V Z R N N N W B H V P X X R E
A Z H J R G D Q O N V J Y A W R O O D G V E U M L X T N I Z
G S A H F K E R I N X S O S W A L U E A T E O V X O A T D W
U N T Y I N G O X A C K O O D Z P X O A H Z W Z G T N X T N
E S Q N K L L E Q I O K L M H T S D R I G L Q C M U Q W I H

Find the **34 bold** words or phrases from Mark 11: 1-11

¹ As they **approached** Jerusalem and came to **Bethphage** and **Bethany** at the **Mount of Olives**, Jesus sent **two** of his **disciples**, ² saying to them, “Go to the **village** ahead of you, and just as you **enter** it, you will find a **colt** tied there, which no one has ever **ridden**.

Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord **needs it** and will send it back here shortly.’”

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a **doorway**. As they untied it, ⁵ some people **standing** there asked, “What are you doing, **untying** that colt?” ⁶ They **answered** as Jesus had told them to, and the **people** let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to **Jesus** and **threw** their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people **spread** their **cloaks** on the **road**, while others spread **branches** they had cut in the **fields**. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed **shouted**,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of **the Lord!**”

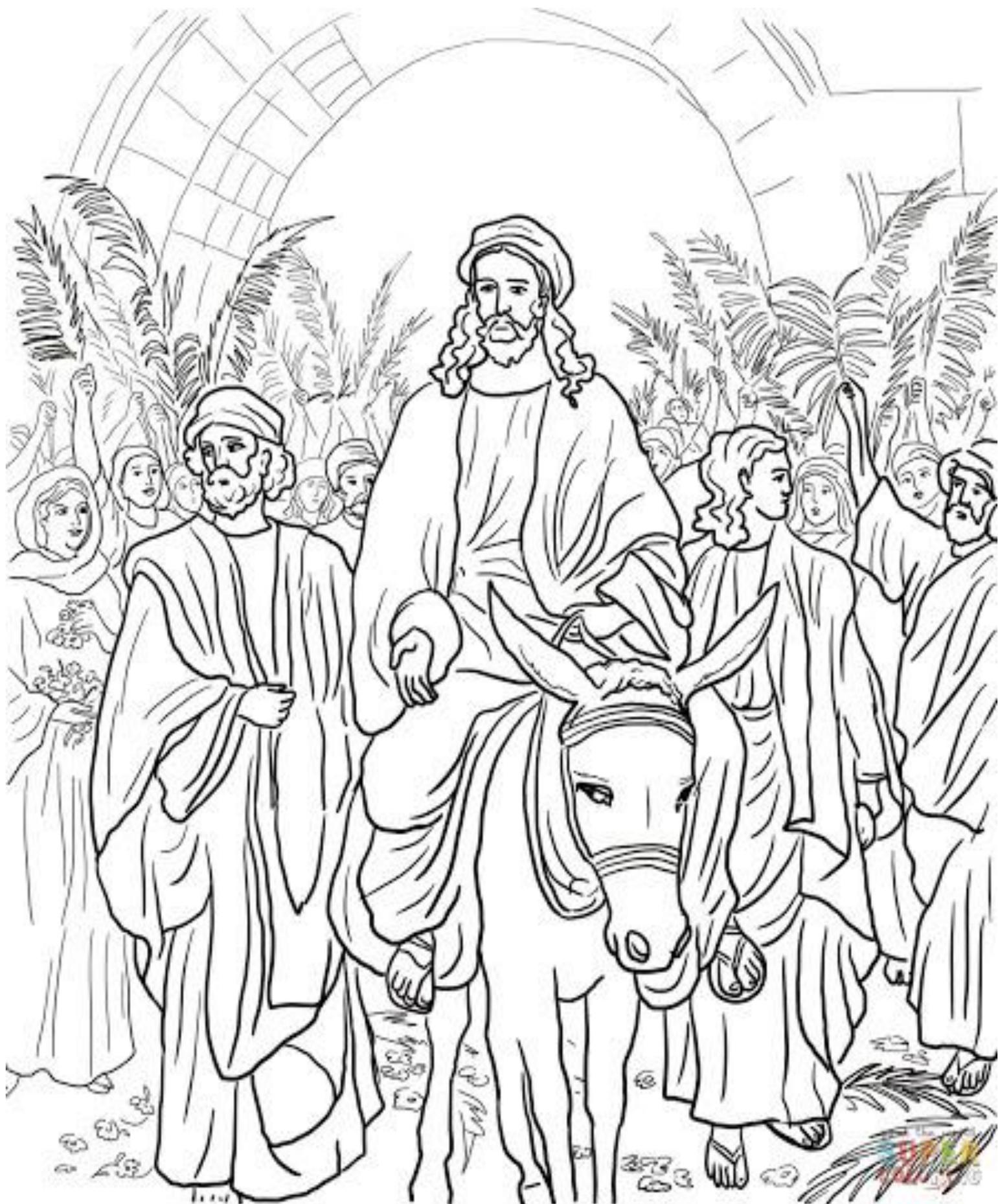
¹⁰ **“Blessed** is the **coming kingdom** of our **father David!**”

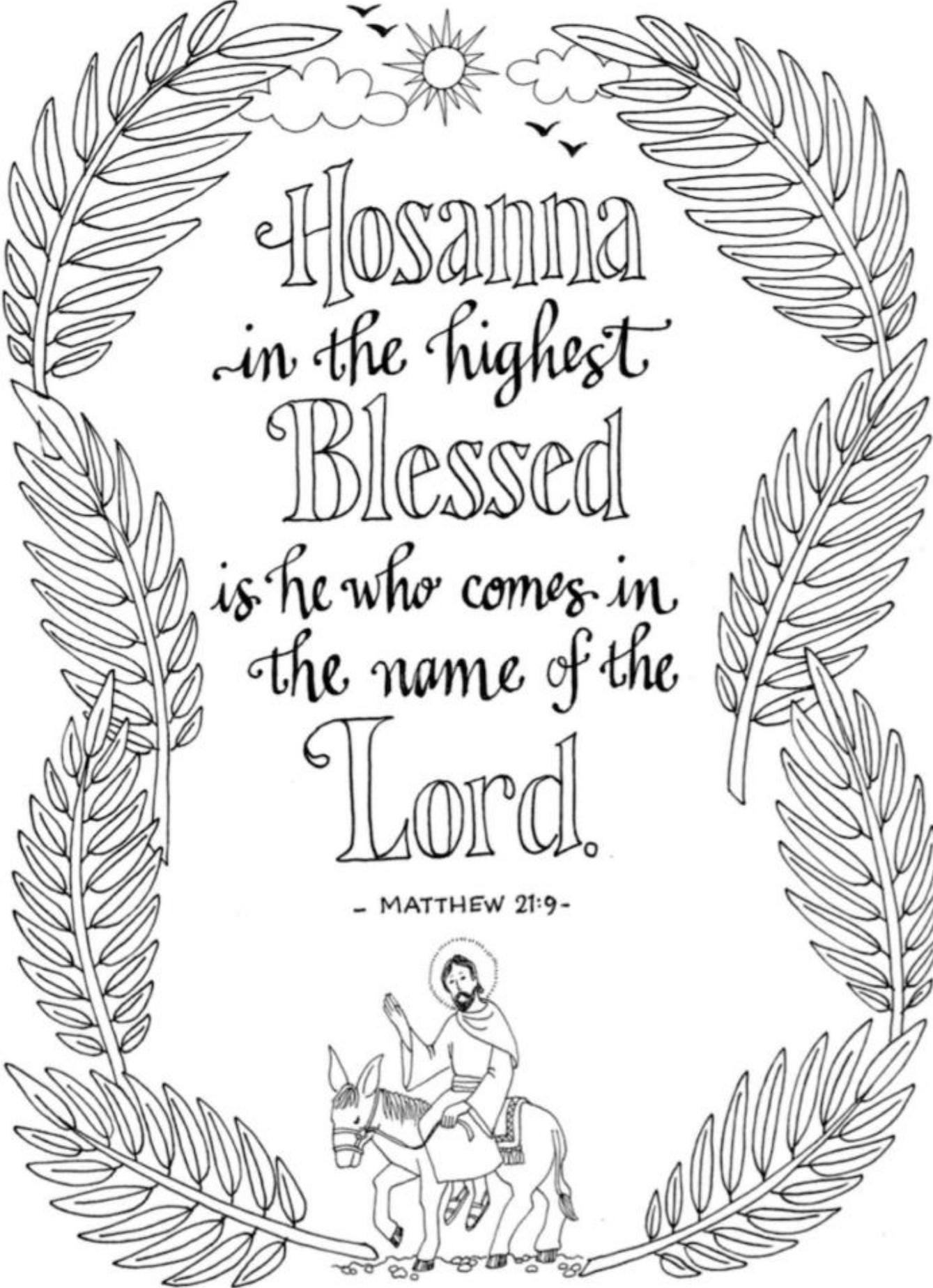
“Hosanna in the **highest heaven!**”

¹¹ Jesus entered **Jerusalem** and went into the **temple courts**. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the **Twelve**.



Coloring is not just for kids. It is proven to have calming and therapeutic effects on grown ups too. Or, use these pages as a teaching aid for your young disciples.





Hosanna
in the highest
Blessed
is he who comes in
the name of the
Lord.

- MATTHEW 21:9 -



Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.
Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

March - canned fruit

April - mac 'n' cheese

May - canned meat, tuna, spam

June - canned soup

July - staples, rice, beans, pasta

August - cereal

September - peanut butter

October - canned veggies

November - canned 'thanksgiving'

December - Pot Luck



The following list was shared by a food bank volunteer.
There are some excellent suggestions if you are ever unsure what to give,
or if you see these items on sale.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Sunday Service is now available on a DVD. If you would like a copy delivered to your home, please call the church office and we will take care of getting one to you.