

◆ **Melrose Vision** ◆

To respond to God's call by being a people of faith who open our hearts and minds to the true power and love of Jesus Christ.

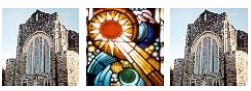
To live our faith by providing within our changing community a welcoming environment which encourages all people to care for and accept one another.

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

We are focusing on Psalm 118 for our first Scripture. The words "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it, form the basis of two of our beloved hymns- Voices United 412 This is the Day, a beautiful bouncy hymn of praise and 175 - This Is the Day That God has Made - in the Easter hymn section.

One of the scholarly writings says, "there is no need to break new ground on Palm Sunday. Wave the palms. Tell the story. Sit down." The author is right. The story speaks for itself. Everything else is just window dressing. We join the excitement; we wave the palms; we share in the excitement; we don't ever want it to end. But like everything in our lives, eventually reality kicks in, the music stops, our mouths hang open, we pause, we regroup, and then, we begin again. That is the lesson of the resurrection.

Tough Times Never Last Tough People Do - by Dr. Robert Schueller - a mighty positivity thinker. It was our lifesaver after our son, Andrew, died at age 22, from a rare form of cancer. It taught us that bad things happen, you face them, you walk through them, and you find a way to live in the void in a new way of being. His book was filled with tragic stories with wonderful outcomes. A bit like God sitting back, watching things crumble around his creatures, then finding a way to make something good come out of it.



Life and Work At Melrose March 29, 2020

Hold fast. Have faith. God is with us in our despair. We will get through this. You have my word that life is precious and good, in spite of moments when I could not have said that in my darkest hour.

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Our Worship Committee had decided to hold this Sunday exclusively as a praise/celebration service rather than the usual combination of Celebration/Passion. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and two Easter Services will still be forthcoming by print and video, or print alone.

I have to ask you to use your imagination to create the pomp and ceremony of the ride in to Jerusalem. Palms waving, people cheering, children on parents' shoulders before the unusual spectacle of a Holy Man riding on the back of a donkey, with its colt running alongside. "Here comes the King" would more often be accompanied by men on horseback with trumpets and carrying banners, and a King astride the most beautiful black or white steed. Jesus' choice was not to make a grand splash, but most certainly to make a statement. Everything about this King bespeaks humility.

It is clear that Jesus is respected and beloved by the crowd. Many in this crowd who await expectantly have already been the recipient of his miraculous healing, or been part of a family member who has recovered, or have heard about these wonders and come to see for themselves. Perhaps, they had hoped to receive new life by just being in his company. Most are unaware of what is to transpire a short time later. We have difficulty making that transition ourselves for we are not given any information on how to make the leap from hero to fallen and despised. But that was not the intent of living in this moment of celebration. We, who are on the far side of this last approach to Jerusalem, know the outcome, and must not give it away to those who are like people who are sitting down to watch a good movie.

We await the sequels like the old time weekly movie series. We are just at a critical point – Stay Tuned - come back next week!