

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on April 10, 2022:**

**"The Triumphal Entry
(Luke 19:28-44)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman, at church in the Y, shows us in Luke the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which represents a spiritual celebration rather than a physical one.]

Welcome: (Fred Stevens)

- Good morning everyone, and welcome to the beginning of a very special week, a most amazing week.
- It's probably the most important week in all of human history.
- It commemorates Jesus' installation as King!
- And yet it's a week filled with great disturbing events and also a week with great joy.
- Things happened that no one expected to happen in that way.

Romans 6:3 (NIV), Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. 4) We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- So, this week is the beginning of that new life.
- We will have three services this week – one today for Palm Sunday, one on Thursday for Maundy Thursday and of then course, Easter Service next Sunday.
- They will keep us focused on what this week commemorates.

- And we will also receive an e-mail each day this week with some kind of reminder or suggestion or prayer or psalm to help us stay focused and avoid the distractions that so easily turn us aside.
- So then, what about today?
- Today is Palm Sunday, which is that time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the crowds shouted, "Hosanna" meaning "save us, deliver us."

- And we're reminded here in Philippians 2 that we should have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:6, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7) rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature or form of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

- And as the crowd shouted "Hosanna, deliver us, they were hoping Jesus would deliver them from the Romans, we come today to praise and honor Him because He isn't just delivering us from the Romans, He's delivering us from ourselves.
- Welcome to Palm Sunday.

The Reason We Celebrate Easter: (Linda Morgan)

“We celebrate the resurrection
and hail the risen Christ.
We kneel before the rugged cross
where Jesus gave His life.”

‘We lift our hands in total praise
and give thanks to God above
for the great sacrifice, He made
to declare His unfailing love.”

“If we look back to Calvary
Where Jesus was crucified,
we can see His nail-pierced hands
and the wounds In His side.”

‘We marvel at Christ’s suffering
And give thanks for His sacrifice
‘cause it was for us that Jesus died
So we could have eternal life.”

“But God raised Jesus from the dead!
And with gratitude, we can say,
“Our sin debt has been paid in full,”
So we celebrate Resurrection Day!” (By Lenora McWhorter)

Pastor Craig:

- Welcome to Palm Sunday!
- We begin this week with a triumphal entry and we end the week in a magnificent way.
- The crowd thought this was Jesus’ triumphal entry because they thought He was there to conquer Roman rule.
- But, as we say, God doesn’t do anything just halfway.
- Instead, Jesus conquered death itself.

- Now, one of the reasons we use the Revised Common Lectionary because it’s tied to the Liturgical Christian Calendar.
- The Liturgical Christian Calendar has shown us that we’ve just passed through the six weeks of Easter preparation, also referred to as Lent.
- This is not just a Catholic lectionary, but rather it’s a lectionary common to Christians for quite some time.

- Now, it reminds us continually where we’re at in our Christian walk.
- When the Liturgical Christian Calendar was put together, they didn’t have Safari or Google; they didn’t have scripture in abundance like we have with Bible Gateway.

- So, now, let’s be reminded of just what the Holy Week means.
 - Sunday – Jesus enters Jerusalem.
 - Monday – Jesus enters and cleanses the temple.

- Tuesday – various controversies with Jewish leaders.
 - Thursday – preparation for the Passover (Last Supper held that evening) (Today we call it Maundy Thursday).
("Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words "I give you a new commandment.")
 - Friday - Last Supper, arrest, trial and crucifixion.
 - Saturday – Jesus lies in the tomb (Friday night until Sunday morning).
 - Sunday – Jesus is resurrected early in the morning.
- We need to remember that scripture was put together to remind us of who we are and what we represent.
 - This life is not just all it is.
 - We're not just living a "Schlitz" moment as the commercial used to say.
 - We shouldn't go around once in life, but twice.

Luke 19:28 (NASB), After Jesus said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

- Now, what are these things that Jesus has said?
- Interestingly, Jesus just talked about "the parable of the nobleman."
- This nobleman went away and left certain "talents" or "pounds" which were portions of his wealth to others and asked them to reproduce with it.
- He gave 10 pounds, 5 pounds and the famous 1 pound.
- So, this nobleman went away and then came back.
- Now, we have Jesus, who has arrived, but will be going away.
- But, we know He will be coming back!

29) When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mountain that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples,

- Now, most of the time, Luke is pretty circumspect in his details.
- But here, he gives us a general description, because we really don't know who these two disciples were.
- Now, today, these two disciples are you and me, as Luke invites us into the Holy Week story.
- Luke invites us into the triumphal entry with Jesus – we are in this story, today.
- You and I are the disciples.
- So, what does Jesus tell us? He says go, which is one simple message.
- Now, in this case, Jesus sends two disciples to serve Himself.
- And, notice where He sends them – He doesn't send them half-way across the world, but rather to the next village.
- You see, when we are sent by Jesus to serve Jesus, He sends us to the person next to us, to the person next door, to a co-worker, to a family member.
- Jesus also sends us to others who don't have a relationship with Him.

30) saying, “Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here.

- This colt, or baby donkey has never been broken in, which represents Jesus, who is being sent to untie those who have been enslaved.
- Jesus is going to unleash the captives.

31) And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’”

- Now, the disciples had to remind themselves that Jesus really owns this donkey.

32) So those who were sent left and found it just as He had told them. 33) And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” 34) They said, “The Lord has need of it.” 35) And they brought it to Jesus, and they threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

- Notice that the owners raised the question, but once they got the answer, they apparently didn’t put up much of a fight to keep the colt.
- Perhaps the owners knew what they were participating in what this meant.

36) Now as He was going, they were spreading their cloaks on the road. 37) And as soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen,

- So, this week begins with a huge party – it begins with worshipful and praise-filled songs and shouting and worship.

38) shouting: “Blessed is the King, the One who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39) And yet some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!” 40) Jesus replied, “I tell you, if these stop speaking, the stones will cry out!”

- Now, worship is mandated and if we don’t worship, God can raise up stones to worship.
- But, you know, He doesn’t do that, but rather he allows us to participate, because he calls us into participation of that extravagant worship that we learned about last week.

41) When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, 42) saying, “If you had known on this day, even you, the conditions for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

- Now, Jerusalem had come to be known as a dark city, because there was challenge there.
- But, we know from Revelation that the new Jerusalem will be different.

43) For the days will come upon you when your enemies will put up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, 44) and they will level you to the ground, and throw down your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

- So, the audience of that day was challenged, because they didn't have a clear picture of exactly what Holy Week meant.
- They didn't know that at the beginning, the triumphal entry would represent a celebration which would end in a much different fashion.
- We have the advantage of rehearsing this once a year, every year, letting it change us.
- So, we remember this week as we read and study and worship and have time in devotion, what this means not only in the Christian calendar, but what it means to us for our transformation.
- This is a transformative week.
- Now Ron Morgan will come up to lead us in communion and to recognize what it means to participate in the elements.

Communion by Ron Morgan:

- We're getting ready to participate in communion and we, as the church, are seeking spiritual perfection, but, however, we are physical beings.
- So, before we can get to spiritual perfection, we actually have to do physical things.
- When Jesus entered into Jerusalem and then had supper with the disciples – those were physical things that led up to something very spiritual.
- Now, we have to be very careful that we are not slipping and falling prey and victims to everyday living.
- Do you remember when we used to dedicate a whole day as the Sabbath where you couldn't do certain things from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday?
- We've gotten away from that because the Sabbath is not our salvation, Christ is our salvation.
- So to get to a spiritual point, we have to realize that we are physical beings and have to do physical things.
- Traditions will not save us, Christ saved us, but traditions have value.
- And when we lose all those traditions, it makes it very difficult to get to that spiritual place.
- We have this service we're going to partake of to remind us about the sacrifice of Christ.
- Now doing this is for us to remember Him, but remembering Him is actually for us to keep on track and to keep us filled with hope.
- Christ is our unifying factor as he tells us to remember the sacrifice he made to give us the opportunity to be unified.
- Now, when Christ gives us instructions to do communion as the church, we have to remember that the church is bigger than Grace Communion in Monrovia.
- So, we're going to do communion this morning, which keeps us connected with the body of Christ.
- The Google definition of communion is, "The sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level."

- Unfortunately, we're not going to meet a lot of people on a spiritual level today, because so many have gotten away from the source and that source is God, the church and the power that brings to a person's spirit.
- So, now, we going to look at 1 Corinthians 11 to set up communion today.
- But first, we'll take a look at some of the things Paul was addressing before we get into the instructions about the communion service.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV), Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 2) I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. 3) But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

- Now, most women would have a problem with the man being the head if the man was right.
- The reason we don't have a problem with Christ being the head, because Christ is right.
- So let's go to verse 12.

12) For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

- Unfortunately, people in the streets today, don't think about that everything comes from God because they believe you have to make your own rules.
- Now, God has a plan for everyone and it's pretty fair.

17) In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18) In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19) No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. 20) So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, 21) for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. 22) Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

- Now, communion is the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level.
- This is what we want to do today, not just a church here in Monrovia, but hopefully one day as a church overall, because Christ died for all.

23) For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,

- So, now, if you have your bread, we're going to take it together.
- It's a physical act about a spiritual thing.

24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

- If, we don't do this often, we're going to forget about why Jesus came here.

- Now, tradition doesn't save us, Christ saves us, but He does use tradition for us to remember Him and what He's done for us and to move us to a spiritual level.
- So, let's take our bread and eat it.

25) In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- Now, let's take the cup and drink it.
- As we do this, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes, which He will do.

33) So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together.

- This brings about unity – it's not about Catholics or Protestants, it's about the death of Jesus Christ who died for us all.
- Now, if we are worried because we don't have everything all together and don't have all the answers, Jesus tells us in verse 34:

34) And when I come I will give further directions.

- So with that, we don't have to worry.
- In conclusion, we need to enjoy this season and need to pass on what this season is all about to our neighbors.

Closing Hymn