

Mennonite Church of Normal

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

Deep in the current: Called to deep Hope

Worship Focus: As we follow Jesus into Holy Week, we sense the rush of the crowds and seek the deep, steady current of God's steadfast love, calling us to deep hope in the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude: Adam and Caleb Augspurger

Welcome/Congregational Life Wayne Hochstetler

Call to Worship Wayne

One: In the current of life, God calls us to deep hope.

Many: God wakens my ear, and I turn to God.

I do not turn toward those who strike me.

I do not hide my face from insult.

One: God helps us, so let us stand up together.

Many: Save us, O Lord! Bind the festival procession with branches. You are our God.

We give thanks, for you are good, and your steadfast love endures.

One: Many shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!"

Many: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus, who humbled himself
and became our hope.**

All: We call out to you, as you call us to deep hope.

Opening Prayer Wayne

Praising God Together

Songs of Praise VT 621, My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less ...
VT 312, Jesus Is Coming!

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story: Annette Harnish

Invitation to Listen: Meditation with VT 405, "Listen to the Word"

Scripture Reading: John 12:12-16; Psalm 118: 19-29

Sermon: ""

Adam Reiman
Holly Zehr

Receiving God's Grace

Response Song: VT 605, My Life Flows On

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Wayne

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

One: We confess the rapid pace of life that sweeps us off our feet
into whirlpools of expectations,
into eddies of busy distractions.

We confess our need for a steadfast stream of your grace
enduring forever,
saving us.

(Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep hope.)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep hope.

We come to you, God.

Response Ritual: Stone of Deep Hope

Wayne

- How is God calling you to deep hope?
- What steadies you when life rushes onward?

Affirming our Faith VT 701 You are All We Have

Sharing Joys & Concerns; Prayer

Wayne

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Sending Hymn VT 49, All Who Are Thirsty

Benediction

Wayne

Through the current of the crowd, Jesus came. The shouts swelled, blurred, and hurried, but he remained calm. It is easy to be swept up in a changing current. May we see the current for what it is and be **centered in deep hope**. Go in the knowledge that the current of the crowd was not the end of the story, but led to a new beginning. May **hope** in the kingdom of God be with you always. Amen.

Postlude: "Hosanna", by Children's Choir from a prior year