

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY

Deep in the current: Called to deep hope

FOCUS STATEMENT

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.

PRELUDE As I Went Down To The River VT 453 YouTube video

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP AND PRAYER Sherri

CALL TO WORSHIP Schumachers

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

Many: God awakens 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.

HYMN All Glory, Laud, and Honor VT 315 YouTube video

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE Schumachers

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 2:5-11

LuAnn

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Jim

THEME SONG Your Love Is Washing Over Me VT 166 YouTube video

SCRIPTURE READINGS in Mark connecting with Old Testament passages

Mark 11:1-2	Bernette
Zechariah 9:9	Sherri
Mark 11:3-8	Bernette
2 Kings 9: 12b-13	Sherri
Mark 11:9-11	Bernette
Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Marilyn

REFLECTIONS

Sherri

HYMN	Ride On, Ride On In Majesty	VT 316	YouTube video
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RESPONSE RITUAL

Rocks

Sherri

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

HYMN	My Life Flows On	VT 605	YouTube video
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OFFERING PRAYER

Sherri

SHARING OUR JOYS/CONCERNS/PRAYER REQUESTS/CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Jim

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim

HYMN	My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less	VT 621	Sherri organ
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SENDING BLESSING

Sherri

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.