

Bethel

Sunday, April 14, 2019

WELCOME TO BETHEL

PALM SUNDAY

It's still early in the week.

The props and players for the drama are in position. Six-inch spikes are in the bin. A crossbeam leans against a wall. Thorny vines are wrapped around a trellis awaiting the weaving of a soldier's fingers.

The participants are nearing the stage. Pilate is concerned at the number of Passover pilgrims. The High Priest is anxious over this Nazarene. Judas views his Master with evasive eyes. A centurion is exercising, awaiting the next crucifixion. Disciples are excited but confused.

Players and props. Only this is no play. This is a divine plan. A plan begun before Adam felt heaven's breath. And now all creation waits and watches.

Commonly clad. Uncommonly focused. Jesus leaves Jericho and walks toward Jerusalem. He doesn't chatter. He doesn't pause. He is on a mission.

Even the angels are silent. They know this is no ordinary walk, no ordinary week. For hinged upon this week is the door of eternity.

Jesus knows the end is near. He read the last chapter before it was written, and heard the final chorus before it was sung. Observe how He spends the final days.

Feel His passion. Laughing as children sing. Weeping as Jerusalem ignores. Scorning as priests accuse. Pleading as disciples sleep. Feeling sad as Pilate turns.

Sense His power. Blind eyes, seeing. Fruitless tree, withering. Money-changers, fleeing. Religious leaders, cowering and plotting.

Hear His promise. Death has no power. Failure holds no prisoners. Fear has no control. For God has come. He has come into your world to take you into His World.

The triumphal entry is of vital significance in understanding the messianic mission of Jesus. Prior to this moment, Jesus has refused any public acknowledgment that He is the Messiah.

But today, it's different. He accepts the joyous shouts of the crowd. He condones the waving palm branches. He does not quiet the multitude as they acknowledge Him as "the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord". Instead, He states their declaration is necessary.

Creation rejoices as the King of Glory enters His Holy City. It is a moment of fulfilled prophecy. And Heaven watches to see the reactions of all the players involved.

Today we celebrate that triumphal entry. Each of us has a role to play in this divine drama, this perfect plan. Will you scoff with scorners, complain about the commotion, or will you cry out with joy and abandon, "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

He is coming to His people today. What will your response be?

Hosanna

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Lee Stoneking



Sunday, April 21, 2019
12:00 Noon

Bethel

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **YOUTH CONGRESS 2019**
First payment due TODAY
- **MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY & COMMUNION SERVICE**
*This Thursday – 7:45 PM
(No BYG or TGIT Classes)*
- **SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL**
This Friday, April 19th – 8 PM
- **RESURRECTION SUNDAY**
*Next Sunday – 12 Noon
Speaker: Evangelist Lee Stoneking*
- **NYMD HOLIDAY YOUTH CONVENTION**
*April 24th – 26th
Melville Marriott, Melville, NY*
- **REVIVAL SUNDAY**
*Sunday, April 28th
Charles Robinette
Missionary Evangelist*
- **DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES**
Sunday mornings – 10 AM

Events are listed in the online calendar at www.BethelUPC.org.
Like us on FACEBOOK @
"Bethel United Pentecostal Church"

COMMUNION SERVICE



this
thursday
7:45 pm

QUOTE

"No pain, no palm;
no thorns, no throne;
no gall, no glory;
no cross, no crown."

William Penn