

## **From Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021**

### **Scripture: Mark 11: 1-11**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’”

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### **Sermon Title – The Lord Needs Me**

As they drew near to Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of his disciples to enter a village on the way and untie the colt they found there. (11:1-2) Some versions say donkey, but a young male donkey is referred to as a colt. It would be no more than four years old.

Our scripture goes on to say, “if any or anyone questions or challenges you, tell them “The lord needs it” (11:3). The disciples did just as he said and things happen just as he said. The colt would be one that had never been sat or ridden. That it was unused would make it naturally unwilling to receive a rider. Add to that, Jesus was a full grown adult, not a child, so his weight could have been a burden. But its submission demonstrated Jesus’s authority over creation.

When Jesus rode on the colt, people honored him by spreading clothes and leafy branches before him on the road. Some historians say the roads in the city were

cobblestone, so the clothes and leafy branches would have protected the colt's feet as well as honored Jesus.

Mark makes it clear that Jesus's actions in this scene were a fulfillment of messianic prophecy.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Welcoming Jesus as the Messiah, the coming King, they cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! (11:7-10)

"Hosanna" is The Greek transliteration of the Hebrew phrase that means, "Please save!" Passover week was beginning. Thousands of Jewish pilgrims were arriving in Jerusalem, and already things were becoming chaotic because of how people were responding to Jesus.

So where does this put us on this Palm Sunday in 2021? Just as Jesus needed the colt that day he rode into Jerusalem, He needs us today to finish out the mission he started. I'd like to use the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-12 to show you what he wants us to do:

He needs us to be with the poor in spirit to uplift them and help them see there is a brighter day.

He needs us to be with those who mourn for we are there to stand in at that time for him.

He needs us to be with meek for there are those who are imposed upon and need us to not only stand up for but with them.

He needs us to see that those who are hunger and thirsty for righteousness find that fulfillment because we are willing to walk that road with them.

He needs us to show mercy because you have been granted mercy.

He needs us to be pure in heart, to have no hypocrisy, no guile, no hidden agendas, but to Love, as he has loved.

He needs us to be peacemakers because we are the children of God.

He needs us to know that we will be persecuted because we believe in him and at the time it will be falsely accused, but we will not conform to the godlessness of a sinful world.

He needs us to rest assured that we can be rejoice and be glad for our reward is in heaven and that we have not only each other but him as well throughout our journey.

So I say to you Northgate and all those who are within the sound of my voice that through our Mission, "Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples", we can fulfill our Vision: Be the hands and feet of Christ. We, too, can answer just as the colt did - because the Lord needs you and me.

And the church says: **Amen.**