

Sermon Title: **“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus”**

Bible: **Philippine 2:5-11 & Mark 11:1-11**

Where & When: at Gilroy UMC on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

Audience: about 30 YouTube Viewers

Opening Prayer

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Help us! Deliver us! Save us now! We need you. We want you. But please do it according to your way, not our way. We want to follow not only you but also your way. Please be with my lips and mouth in your love and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

1. Hosanna!

Today is Palm Sunday. Can we shout out Hosanna? Hosanna! (I cannot hear you.) Hosanna! (waving palm) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna means “help, rescue, and save.” Like those who were in Jerusalem, we really wish to welcome Jesus and shout out, “Save us now! O Lord!” We might be at the end of this long tunnel of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I want to shout out more and more, “Hosanna! Save us now!” We witness racism, gun violence, wildfires, climate change, sexism, homophobia, homelessness, poor healthcare. I wish to take off my coats and spread them on the road, and welcome Jesus, our Savior, right now!

2. God's Way

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was different than what people expected. The people might expect Jesus to march through the streets like a conquering general. They might expect

that Jesus came as a King who had powerful weapons of war. But His way was not by violence, but with peace. They might expect Him to change the whole world right away. But He started His ministries with a small number of disciples and followers. Jesus entered Jerusalem unarmed and rode a donkey, a colt in the Gospel of Mark. He might know the suffering and the betrayal of His disciples. But He followed God's way.

The reading of Philippians also comes from today's lectionary. This reading describes this Holy Week. Jesus, who is God, emptied Himself. He humbled Himself, and became obedient to the point of death on the cross. He was tested by many people, rejected by His enemies, betrayed by His disciples. He was alone. Just like us, Jesus experienced all of our suffering.

We should remember that no one emptied Him. When there is oppression or injustice, we should speak up against it. But not in the same way as that of oppression or injustice. We cannot defeat the darkness with another darkness. We can defeat the darkness with the light. It looks like an impossible process or at least a very slow one. But, we can overcome evil with good, because Jesus shows us God's way through His life, especially through this Holy Week. In the darkness, we cannot see. In the face of death, we feel frustrated or afraid. However, we know that darkness or death is not the end.

3. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus

Sometimes, being a Christian or a follower of Jesus Christ is not that simple. Following Jesus might be joyful or exciting, because there might be a lot of healing, and many miracles. But following Jesus' way, and having Jesus' mind in us might be challenging. It is very hard to have the same mind that was in Jesus Christ. That's because Jesus' way could not be what we want.

Please remember that no one can force us to empty ourselves. But also, please remember that Jesus Christ is in us. Jesus, who is God, emptied God-self and became a human, just like us. This humble and living God is in us. God gives not only the world, but also God-self to us. Because we are God's beloved ones. God wants not only to pour out God's love and grace upon us, but also to live within us. God's love and grace comes down like rain. Furthermore, the fountain of God's love and grace is in us. When there is a raining down of God's love and grace, please accept them fully! When God calls you to empty yourself, I hope for us not to hesitate to do it. Because we have a fountain in us, the fountain that does not dry out. We might be able to empty ourselves, in order to fill our cup and other cups. There could be a time for us to empty ourselves. There could be a time for us to choose not what we want, but what God wants. We might be surprised at our unexpected choices. Don't you want to be surprised at this, having the same mind of Jesus Christ in us?

Closing Prayer

O Lord, we remember your love and grace. Sometimes, we misunderstand your way, but please guide us to follow your way. Please help us to open our minds to accept your love and grace fully. Please open our eyes to see who is in us. When you call us, please lead us to empty ourselves. In Jesus' name. Amen.