

A close-up, blurred photograph of palm fronds, showing the intricate patterns of the leaves in shades of green and brown. The text is overlaid on this background.

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023

We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Men's Chorus – "Alpha & Omega"

Covenant Partnership – Mitch Wedel

Praise Singing

"We Believe"

"Great Are You Lord"

"Cornerstone"

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God's Word

Children's Message – Jackie Tenpas

Message – Pause...It's Palm Sunday

Scripture – Luke 19:28-44

We Respond to God

Prayer

"Make Room"

Benediction



Meet Mitch Wedel! Mitch is joining us as a Covenant Partner. He lives in Randolph and works as an Interventionist at the Dodgeland School District. He and Jessa Ter Beest are engaged to be married on July 1, 2023. Mitch accepted Christ at a young age, but fully/truly accepted Him about 9 years ago. He stated that this decision made him feel happier and at peace. Welcome Mitch!

Sermon Notes: Pause...It's Palm Sunday

Key Scriptures: Luke 19:28-44

2 Examples of Old Testament Teaching Through Remembrance:

Sacrifice of the firstborn male livestock - Exodus 13:11-16

12 Stones - Joshua 4:20-24

God Placed Significant Importance on Pausing for Sacred Jewish Festivals 7 Times a Year! (Leviticus 23)

Passover, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, The Feast of Firstfruits, The Feast of Weeks, The Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Tabernacles.

We Pause Each Year for Holy Week.

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then conclude the following Sunday with Resurrection Sunday!

Application

1. Join us to commemorate the events of this week.
2. Read Leviticus 23
3. Watch these further resources:
 1. What are the different Jewish festivals in the Bible?
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jewish-festivals.html>
 2. The 7 Festivals (Teaching from the Bible Project). This video is 1 hr. 7 min. <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/seven-festivals/>

Upcoming Events

- Apr 2** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Palm Sunday, Pastor Kevin, Men’s Chorus, Covenant Partnership
10:45am – Sunday School
Manitoqua Mission Trip group heads to Camp Manitoqua
- Apr 3** 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study
8:00pm – High School Band
- Apr 4** 8:00am – Prayer Meeting
7:00pm – Elder Meeting – *If you are interested in baptism or membership, please contact Pastor Kevin.*
- Apr 5** 9:30am – Golden Lifers
5:30pm – Hospitality Team Meeting
6:00pm – Intermediate Praise Team
6:30pm – Mixed Choir
6:45pm – Sonshine Singers
7:00pm – Mass Choir
7:30pm – Men’s Chorus
- Apr 6** 7:00pm – Maundy Thursday service, Communion
- Apr 7** 1:00pm – Good Friday service
- Apr 8** 8:00am – Outdoor Church Cleanup
- Apr 9** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Easter, Pastor Kevin, Sonshine Singers, Mixed Choir, Men’s Chorus, Mass Choir

To view the church calendar, go to www.altoreformedchurch.org

Communion Statement:

Regarding whom may and should participate in Communion... “We welcome all those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, but who nevertheless trust that their sins are pardoned and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life. Hypocrites and those who are unrepentant, however, eat and drink judgment on themselves.” (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 81; 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 11:26-32)

Paul challenges believers to participate in communion in a manner that is sincere and authentic. He writes to the church in Corinth...

“Eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in the right way. Don’t do it in a way that isn’t worthy of him. If you do, you will be guilty. You’ll be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone should take a careful look at themselves before they eat the bread and drink from the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:27-28 NIRV)

So, we welcome any who are trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins to participate in the Lord’s supper. If your child understands the above statement, they too are welcome to the table. As well, we want to urge those who trust Jesus to join with us in ministry as Covenant Partners.

Youth News

Youth Ministry – We're off for spring break this week! Families are encouraged to read through the Holy Week stories together (Matthew 21 and 26-28) and attend Maundy Thursday service at 7pm and Good Friday service at 1pm.

Opportunities to Get Involved

Pinewood Derby Family Night – Join us at the Alto Community Center on Monday, April 17th from 5:30-7:30pm for a fun, free night. We'll have a meal at 5:30pm and races will start at 6pm. Sign-up and grab a car kit with instructions at the Children & Families Resource Center by April 9th. Classes range from 1st grade to adult. Want to check the weight of your car? Stop in by Lynnae or Megan. Don't want to race a car? Join us anyway.

VBS Volunteers Needed – We are looking for volunteers (incoming 6th grade-adults) to help with VBS June 19-23 at 9-11:30am. Please sign up at the Children & Families Resource Center. VBS registration will open for 3 year olds – incoming 5th graders in May.

Bulletin Board News

Offering may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby, may be given online, or through autopay. For more info or to set up autopay, please contact Megan. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 4/2 The Union, 4/9 Missionary Salary, 4/16 Waupun Food Pantry, 4/23 Brandon Food Pantry. If you feel led to give specifically towards the ceiling project, please put your check in a separate marked envelope in one of the offering boxes. The deacons are keeping track separately of what has been contributed towards the project, which will be shown on the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

Holy Week – Join us on April 6th at 7pm for the Maundy Thursday service, on April 7th at 1pm for the Good Friday service, and April 9th at 9:30am for Easter.

Men's Chorus Program – Join us for the Men's Chorus Program on Sunday, April 16th at 7pm.

Donations Needed for VBS – Over the next few months we will be collecting large cardboard to use for VBS decorations. We are also looking for water bottle caps, yellow, orange or red tissue paper, new colored plastic tablecloths and new/used pool noodles. Donations may be placed in the tote by the Children & Families Resource Center.

P - praise R - repent A - ask Y – yield

Praise: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. We praise you, Jesus, for coming to earth, revealing God’s love, speaking truth, dying for our sins, and rising from the dead as our King.

Repent: Father, forgive me for at times, just following the crowd shouting “hosanna,” but not understanding who you really are. Look into my heart and show me where I am lying to myself. Change my heart.

Ask: Holy Spirit, move in me. Stir my heart to praise you with all I am and all I have. Move in our church as well, that we together honor you in all we do.

- Restore peace to our world and strengthen the oppressed, especially Christians in Ukraine and around the world.
- We pray that you would work to place a godly leader on our State Supreme Court who will support life, liberty, and justice for all.
- We ask that you raise up biblically minded voters on April 4 to elect godly leaders to our school boards.
- Bring healing, strength and peace to those listed below as they face challenges each day.

THIS WEEK... Pray for Rich Kamphuis as he goes through cancer treatments.

Renew their hearts, minds, and bodies to continue to live faithfully in this world.

Yield: Lord Jesus, I submit to you as the King of all creation. I will maintain a life of prayer, study your Word, participate in the Lord’s supper, gather with believers regularly, use my spiritual gifts and financial resources to further the mission of Jesus through the local church, live a life pleasing to you and

accept the spiritual guidance of the church leadership.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Betty Daane, Cal Flegner, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Kevin Harmsen, Sharon Harmsen, John Hoekstra, Faye Janey, Isabel Kastein, Rich Kamphuis, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jodi Vande Berg, Carl VanderKooi, Jake Vande Zande, Ron Vande Zande, Connie Wiersema, and Silas Willey.

Military Personnel: Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in Las Vegas; Sebastian Hoenisch, deployed on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder; Mitch Miller, US

Shut-ins: Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen
Charleston House: Brian Hemp
Beaver Dam Memory Care: Cora Hemp
Christian Home: Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Junice Vande Zande, Kay Vande Zande
Home: Margaret Hoekstra, Julie Medema, Marion Tolsma, Marilyn Westerveld
Christian Homestead: Betty Bruins
Maple Meadows: Arlene Henning
Marvin’s Manor: Eleanor Loomans
Prairie Ridge: Annice Hopp

Missionaries: Bob Abel – Remember Nhu, Steve & Amanda Bialy – Converge, Chris Briggs – CCCD, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Randy & Wanda Potratz – SIM, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ