

**Sacred Heart Church in Plainville**

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!"*

Palm Sunday marked the beginning of Holy Week, the reliving of the final seven days of Jesus' earthly ministry. On this day, we recall the triumphal entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal Mystery: His Passion, death, burial, and resurrection for the salvation of all mankind.

Sunday's liturgy began with a procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Jesus rode into the city on a donkey as the crowd laid their cloaks and palm branches on the road before Him, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest!"

His entry on a donkey sets Jesus apart from all the other pilgrims walking into Jerusalem for the Passover. It is a royal entry, but also a humble entry

because Jesus is a king riding a donkey, not the magnificent steed one would expect of a king. Jesus entered Jerusalem, not in power, but in humility. He came riding on a donkey, bringing peace, not war, love, not judgment.

The people laid their cloaks and palm branches on the ground ahead of His entry, much like a royal procession. They showed submission, recognizing Jesus as King. They sang "Hosanna" because it was a customary pilgrim song as they entered Jerusalem and because they recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

The liturgy continued with the Passion from Matthew 26:14-27:66, which we re-enact in our services through Holy Week, a journey of love, sacrifice, and hope. From celebration to betrayal, from suffering to silence, from the cross to the empty tomb... God was working even when it didn't look like it.

When the people chose

SEE SACRED, 14A

**First Christian Church of Plainville**

First Christian Church welcomed Aaron Cunningham this Palm Sunday to deliver a message of hope and deliverance leading into Easter Sunday. The message focused on the trial of Jesus in Luke 23 before his crucifixion.

Jesus' trial was actually a series of hearings, carefully controlled to accomplish the death of Jesus. The verdict was predecided, but certain "legal" procedures were necessary. A lot of effort went into condemning and crucifying an innocent man. Jesus went through an unfair trial in our place so that we would not have to face a fair trial and receive the well-deserved punishment for our sins.

Aaron focused his message on the Roman governor of Judea, who was Pontius Pilate. When the Jewish leaders had Jesus in their power and wanted to kill him, they had to obtain Pilate's permission. So it happened that early morn-

ing, Pilate found a crowd at this door demanding a man's death.

Pilate's relationship with the Jews had always been stormy. His Roman toughness and fairness had been weakened by cynicism, compromises, and mistakes. On several occasions, his actions had deeply offended the religious leaders. Jesus' pending trial was just another episode in Pilate's ongoing problems.

The Jewish leaders had to fabricate new accusations against Jesus when they brought him before Pilate. The charge of blasphemy would mean nothing to the Roman governor, so they accused Jesus of three other crimes: (1) encouraging the people not to pay their taxes to Rome, (2) claiming he was a king—"King of the Jews," and (3) causing riots all over the countryside. Tax evasion, treason, and terrorism—all these would be cause for Pilate's con-

SEE CHRISTIAN, 14A

**United Methodist Church of Plainville**

*How Do You Receive Jesus When He Enters Your Life? Matthew 21:1-11*

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem occurred during Passover, a Jewish national festival, when the city was crowded with pilgrims. This was not a sudden decision; rather, Jesus deliberately arranged His entry in advance. He chose a moment when the city was filled with people whose hearts were stirred with religious expectation.

The time had come for Him to present Himself as King. He sent two of His disciples into a nearby village to obtain a donkey and a colt. He instructed them that if anyone questioned them, they were to say, "The Master needs them." The owner immediately allowed them to be taken. Jesus then rode the colt, which had never been ridden before, emphasizing the sacredness of the occasion.

Before considering the people's response to Jesus'

entrance, let us first reflect on two things about Jesus. First, He demonstrated courage. He knew He was entering a hostile city. The Jewish authorities hated Him, and He was aware that He would soon die. Yet instead of acting with caution, He entered Jerusalem in a way that deliberately placed Him at the center of attention. Nothing could turn Him away from His path of perfect submission to the One who had sent Him. In the same way, we must be courageous in fulfilling God's will.

Second, Jesus showed that His kingship is characterized by peace rather than earthly power. He came humbly, riding on a colt. In those times, a king who rode on a donkey signified that he came in peace, whereas one who rode on a horse signified war. Jesus did not come to destroy, but to love; not to condemn, but to save; not with force of arms, but with the strength of love.

SEE METHODIST, 14A

**First Southern Baptist Church of Plainville**

Palm Sunday" was the message taken from John 12:12-19. The Palm Sunday crowd treated Jesus like a political messiah, waving palms and shouting "Hosanna." They wanted liberation from Rome, not forgiveness of sins. Their cheers were real

but misplaced, based on what they wanted Jesus to do rather than what He truly was.

We live in a world that is obsessed with self-promotion, but Jesus models influence through humility. We often approach Jesus with our own agendas. We want God to fix our problems our way.

Palm Sunday reminds us we have to surrender our expectations and accept salvation on His terms.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Passion Week, which is the most important week in all of human history. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, there was a crowd, a celebration, but by Thursday, Jesus was

arrested. By Friday morning, Jesus was forced to carry His cross to the place of the skull and was crucified there with two other prisoners.

From John 12:12-13 we read the crowds honored Jesus by laying clothes or palm branches on the road. It's not just tradition, and not about religious

souvenirs. Instead, it's about genuine commitment and praise. There are just two groups of people in the crowd: true believers and those who merely profess to believe. Everyone in the crowd waved palms for different reasons, yet Jesus accepted their praise, knowing their motives were mixed.

Authentic devotion is what Jesus calls us to.

From Verses 14-15, it says Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. There are some reasons for that. It fulfilled the prophecy of Zachariah 9:9. The donkey was symbolic of humility: an anti-

SEE BAPTIST, 14A



# Church Service Directory

We Invite You To Attend The Church Of Your Choice This Week

**Farmers National Bank**

306 S. Cedar St. | Stockton  
785-425-7007

**Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home**

723 N. First St. | 785-425-6761

**Kiser Ag Service LLC**

1120 Hwy 183 | Stockton  
785-425-6728

**Central Veterinary Services**

1981 Hwy 24 | 785-425-5100



**The Joy of the Resurrection**

*Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.*

— Luke 24:31 (NIV) —

As Easter Sunday approaches, we should take a brief moment to reflect on the reason for the holiday's celebration. In reflecting upon Christ's Resurrection, we can learn much about the nature of human perception. As Luke's Gospel tells us, Christ would walk alongside two of His disciples unrecognized on the Road to Emmaus. While the disciple Cleopas and his companion would mourn the death of their teacher, Christ would ensure both of them that the Messiah would enter the Kingdom only after suffering. Importantly, the

two disciples would travel the road in sorrow when they would soon recognize that their Savior stood beside them. In some ways, we may assess our own situations in a similar light. While we may simply accept hardship as a part of life, we may also ignore the joy of our conditions in being overcome with our struggles. In looking at the story of Christ's Resurrection, we see a display of His presence enriching others' hearts, even as He stands as any other humble traveler.

—James Stone

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Do you believe this?"  
— John 11:25-26 (NKJV) —

**Stockton Pharmacy**

402 Main St. | Stockton  
785-425-7172

**Hamit Land & Auction, Inc.**

104 N. Walnut St. | 785-425-6585

**Smith Monuments**

110 S. Cedar St. | Stockton  
785-425-6762

**Solutions North Bank**

123 N. Cedar St. | Stockton  
785-425-6721

**Garrett Insurance**

416 Main St. | Stockton  
785-425-6734

**Stockton Dental Center**

624 S. First | Stockton  
785-425-6269

**Sentinel-Times**

414 Main St. | Stockton  
785-425-6354

**Solomon Valley Vision**

418 Main St. | Stockton  
785-425-6381

**Wilkins Manufacturing Tarps Unlimited**

1480 Hwy 183 | 785-425-7070

**Cikanek Law Office**

405 Main St. | Stockton  
785-425-6731

**THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES WELCOME YOU TO ATTEND THEIR SERVICES:**

**RIVER VALLEY CHURCH**

120 S. Spruce Street  
Worship Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Sarah Rudd

**ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

722 Main Street  
Mass: Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
Mon. 5:30 p.m. | Wed. & Thurs. 7:30 a.m.  
Priest: Fr. Michael Raj Kothalamuthu

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

305 N. Spruce Street  
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.  
Roger Cooper :1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays  
Chance McKinney: 2nd & 4th Sundays

**STOCKTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

507 N. Seventh Street  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.  
Contact: Mike Reed

**MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**

602 Main Street  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. (all ages)  
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

**STOCKTON METHODIST CHURCH OF RESTORATION**

204 N. Elm Street | 785-425-6562  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00 am & 5:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study: 1:00 pm  
Sunday Worship Service: 8:45 a.m.  
Pastor: Ted Stapleton | Methodist Church