

Sharing our Bible Story for Today

We know today's story is important because we can find it in all 4 gospels. We have provided one retelling of the story. You could also find it in your Bible at home or online.

(Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16 or Mark 11:1-11 or Luke 19:28-40 or John 12:12-19)

Jesus said and did many unexpected things! He often surprised people with his teachings and his actions. Today's story includes a lot of questions! What kind of leader is Jesus? What does it mean to live in God's way of peace?

Have you ever been part of a parade or a big group of excited people? Before you read the story imagine the sights, sounds, smells, and feelings people might experience.

Watch for this new one word prayer in today's story. *Hosanna* (God save us now) is a good prayer for humans, and a good prayer for the earth.

Jesus Goes to Jerusalem

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Thinking and Talking about the Story

I wonder how Jesus felt when he realized some of the people expected him to be a fighting leader not a peaceful leader?

I wonder how people felt when they saw Jesus come into their city in a peaceful way?

What are some of the ways you can solve problems in a peaceful way rather than by fighting?

I wonder if it is harder to follow a way of peace or a way of fighting?

Jesus always worked with a team. His team was called the disciples! If we want to follow Jesus in the way of peace, we can find other people to be on our team too! Think of an adult or adults and some other children and youth, in your family, at your church, at school, who are learning to live in God's way of peace. How can you work together to make your home and community peaceful places to live and learn and play.

Putting the Story into Action

1) Sometimes we call this day Palm Sunday, and it begins a week we sometimes call Holy Week, and it leads us to Easter Sunday. We can start to get ready for Easter by

planting a little garden today! Here are the instructions. If you don't have the supplies call your church!

Planting a Resurrection Garden

Plant your resurrection garden the weekend before Easter, on or around Palm Sunday. Choose a shallow container and fill with soil. Sprinkle the oats (wheat or barley would also work well) on the soil, spacing the kernels about a finger width apart. Press the kernels gently into the soil and cover with a thin layer of soil, about 1-2 cm. Keep the soil moist (but not soggy wet!) and place in a sunny location. Watch for signs of new life!

2)PRAYING: Hosanna is one prayer in today's story. Jesus often took time to pray. You may have received a pocket prayer from Carman United Church. We hope it will remind you that we can talk to God when we are happy or sad and when we see other people or places that are happy or sad or hurting. We can ask God to help us be peacemakers like Jesus. Did you know that pretzels were first made by people who wanted to teach children how to pray? Think of the way a pretzel crisscrosses and imagine folding your arms to pray, like a pretzel! We call that a pretzel prayer – just one more way to pray and talk to God! You might enjoy making pretzels (recipe is posted on our websites) together this week!

3)Make your own palm branches from recycled newspaper. Simply lay out the **newspaper** pages from end to end and tape them together. Then roll it up at a diagonal, starting from one corner, and pack it into a compact tube. Use tape to keep the tube intact. Use the scissors to cut vertical lines half way down the **newspaper** tube. (Or look on the internet for lots of other options!)

4) Spend time outdoors and "*Take a Sacred Pause*". Many people find peace in the beauty of the natural world. And spring is a great time to enjoy the change of seasons and all the promises of new life right outside our door! What signs of spring and new life do you see when you are outside this week?

5) Have fun singing the song (and making up some great actions!) "I've got peace like a river" (you can find it online or in *Voices United* # 577)

6) Do you have a question about the story? Send us an email and we will respond! We love questions – the harder the better! And I still haven't received any questions!

7) Did you explore this week's story in another way – by acting it out or drawing pictures or some other creative idea, or by doing some research and learning about a justice issue that matters to you? We encourage you to share what you are learning with your church family! We miss being together in person!

Carman United Church and St. Andrew's United Church families - to share your responses to this week's story visit Carman United Church Face Book page or email the church office Karen.mcgill@crossroadsunited.com. Visit www.crossroadsunited.com and see Sunday School At Home to view previous lessons and stuff people are sharing.

Immanuel United Church families –If you are willing to have your art shown before or during worship, please ask your grown-ups to take/help you take a picture of your drawings and send the picture(s) to Ha Na to be shared before or during the service on Sunday.

Praying at Home

May the God of hope go with us everyday,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.
(424 in *Voices United*)

Sunday School at Home Resources for the season of Lent and Easter Sunday (2021) prepared collaboratively by Immanuel United Church in Winnipeg and Crossroads United Pastoral Charge (St. Andrew's United Church in Elm Creek and Carman United Church)

PLEASE NOTE – this coming week is Holy Week and includes Good Friday and then next Sunday we will celebrate Easter. We have some special activities to suggest for this week and for Easter but you will want to check on our church website to make sure you have the recipe ingredients and the Easter egg craft supplies!