



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 31st, 2024 – April 6th, 2024

[www.calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://www.calvaryumcmohnton.org)

*Connect with God.  
Connect with each other.  
Connect with the community.*



## Maundy Thursday

**March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM:** An experiential service in Calvary's lower-level Social Hall (handicap accessible), including scripture, hymns, sharing Holy Communion, special music, and reflection.



## Good Friday

**March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM:** An evening service in Calvary's sanctuary recalling & reflecting on the passion and death of Christ through readings and hymns. All are welcome.

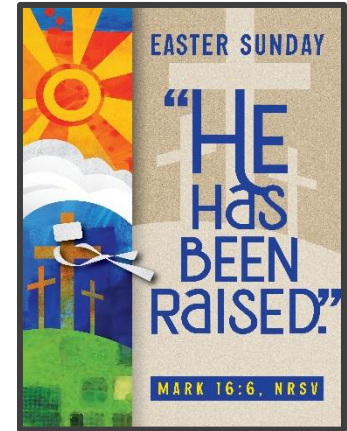


## Easter Sunday

**March 31st @ 10:30AM:** Join us for a joy-filled service rejoicing in Christ's triumph over the grave. The bell choir and senior choir will present special music, and we will share in the fellowship of Holy Communion. The service will also be livestreamed & available through Calvary's website & Facebook.



For centuries many faith traditions observed the Sunday after Easter as a "day of joy and laughter" to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The custom was rooted in the idea that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. **Holy Humor Sunday on April 7<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30AM service**, with children & youth participating.



**March 31st, 2024**

NO Sunday school

10:30AM – Traditional

Purple Theory Series: Worship  
Pastor Nova Preaching

The traditional worship is available via  
livestream through Calvary's  
website homepage.

Go to: [calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://calvaryumcmohnton.org) or  
click on the link below.

**CTRL + CLICK HERE  
SUNDAY LIVESTREAM**

## CHURCH COUNCIL MTG.

Church Council will meet on Monday, April 1st @ 6:30PM for Bible Study (pls. read *Anatomy of Peace*, Chpt.3, *Peace in Wartime*) & be prepared to discuss the reflection questions. Starting at 7PM, the regular meeting will be led by Pastor Matthew. Watch for the agenda via email.

➡ Pastor Nova will be on vacation from Monday, April 1st through Sunday, April 14th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Matthew at 717-917-5342 or [christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com](mailto:christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com).

## Creating a "5<sup>th</sup> Gospel" Devotional Booklet



With all the wonderful sharing that's been happening during our Lenten 8:30AM and 6PM Prayer Challenges, Pastor Nova is extending an invitation to ALL Calvary members to write your own devotional to share with others, similar to the style of *The Upper Room*.

Pray about what God may be calling you to share about as an encouragement/message to others. We are looking for submissions in the following format:

- 1) Choose a scripture that speaks to your personal story.
- 2) Write a brief personal story (200-250 words, max.)
- 3) Conclude with a short, written prayer.
- 4) Include your name.
- 5) Please submit your devotional via email to the church office (administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net). Include in the email subject line "Shared Devotional".

**Submission deadline: October 31st, 2024. Our Calvary 5th Gospel Book(let) will be published in time for Advent.**

Questions? Please contact Janet in the church office (610-777-8441; administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net)

## 6th Sunday in Lent ~ Sermon: Silence...Listen to the King

TEXT: Mark 11:1-11 and Mark 14:32-41

Many churches are celebrating Palm Sunday today, but it is also Passion Sunday. In fact, Palm Sunday is just the beginning of Passion Sunday, when we remember the final week of Jesus' life, the period of suffering leading to death ("passion" is from the Latin "patior," "to suffer, endure, bear"). In contrast to Palm Sunday, with loud praises of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem, the passion story is much quieter and more somber. This last week of Jesus' earthly life was the greatest time in history; it changed the world.

3 Important things:

- Jesus made time for a silent prayer to listen to God's voice.
- Silence gives us the opportunity to see Jesus' Kingship.
- Silence your heart and Listen to the King.

### Jesus made time for a silent prayer to listen to God's voice.

Jesus intentionally takes time away from all the busyness of the Passover holiday and tense conversations with his disciples (see John 14:1-31) **to be in silent prayer with God**. This is a common practice of Jesus, we might even say a spiritual discipline, throughout the gospels (see, for example, Mark 1:35, 6:30-32, Matt 14:13).

We all have a relationship with silence, whether we've thought about it or not. Some of us enjoy silence. Some of us wish we had more silence in our lives. On the other hand, silence makes some of us uncomfortable. We feel the need to fill our time with "noise" - whether literal or metaphorical. **Moreover, some of us have been unjustly silenced.**

During Jesus' quiet time, he asks God that, if possible, could he be spared the suffering that is to come but then turns it back over to God, "yet not what I want, but what you want" (14:36). It is in creating the space and silence to *listen* for God's will that Jesus hears and finds it.

In order to truly listen, we must practice being silent. **Because silence reveals the voice of God.**

### Silence gives us the opportunity to see Jesus' Kingship.

As we ponder the events of this coming week, we ask, "What kind of king is Jesus?"

### QUEEN FOR A DAY

From 1956 to 1964, a successful contest show aired daily on national television. It was called "Queen for a Day." The host, Jack Bailey, would interview four women who spoke of their needs and hopes. The audience then voted, and one woman was chosen as queen for the day, receiving both praise and prizes.

Some think Palm Sunday is a similar event. Jesus was crowned "king for a day" by the crowds who showered Him with praise. Then, just as in the daily television show, the audience quickly lost interest in Him the next day.

But in reality, Palm Sunday was the heralding of Jesus' eternal kingship. His reign continues undeterred by popularity ratings.

### Is He the King in your life, or simply a king for a day?

Our scripture today talks about Jesus sending two disciples atop the Mount of Olives to fetch a donkey that would be waiting for him. Throughout the gospel, there is no record of Jesus riding a donkey. It's interesting that Jesus walked 90 miles from Galilee to Jerusalem, but with only half a mile to the temple, why would he ask for a donkey?

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 3

~Sermon cont'd from pg. 2

Riding a donkey is a richly symbolic act, one that goes back to King David, the prototypical Jewish King. The royal animal David rode was not a steed but a donkey, which was more sure-footed on the rocky, hilly terrain of Palestine and able to travel on less water. The donkey was also a humble beast, reflecting David's identity as the shepherd king. Zechariah 9:9: *Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you.* King David is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey's colt. Likewise, Jesus, riding a donkey, was openly proclaiming himself as the true Messiah.

It is traditionally thought that Jesus' public ministry, from baptism to crucifixion, was roughly 1,000 days. While the gospel writers attempt to summarize the entire period for us, they clearly believed that the final week, the 7 last days of Jesus' life, was the most significant. We call this Holy Week. Matthew devotes 30% of his gospel to it, Mark around 40%, and Luke around 62%, including the journey to Jerusalem. John around 47% describes the last week. Jesus was hailed, however briefly, as a king. Yet the events that followed made it clear he was a very different king than the crowds, and even perhaps his disciples, had hoped for. The crown he would wear was a crown of thorns, with his enthronement occurring on a cross.

### **Silence your heart and listen to the King.**

As Jesus rode toward Jerusalem, the people began to wave palm branches. Since the beginning of time, palm branches stood for goodness and victory for Jews and Romans alike, often used on coins or in public artwork. In the Old Testament, King Solomon decorated the temple with carvings of palm branches, and the book of Revelation describes a great multitude of people from every nation raising palm branches in reverence of Jesus. But most commonly in the church, the palm is recognized as part of Palm/Passion Sunday. In this scripture, a large crowd, that came to Jerusalem for the Passover festival, took the branches of palm trees, and as Jesus rode a donkey, they were shouting Hosanna, meaning "To Save" or "Save us now."

Two other royal processions entered Jerusalem that day. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, would have entered the city from the west, coming from Caesarea by the sea and bringing with him 1,000 Roman soldiers on chariots, on horseback, and on foot with all their weapons and regalia. The show of force was designed to suppress any thoughts of rebellion during the Passover.

Pilate's procession was a show of force meant to remind the people of Jerusalem who were in control.

Another procession was that of King Herod Antipas, who entered from the north with his own entourage and royal soldiers. Antipas ruled over Galilee and Perea, north and east of Judea, and he, like Pilate, knew how to use violence to suppress the people. It was he who beheaded John the Baptist. Antipas was the son of King Herod the Great. His supporters lined the streets as he entered the Holy City, cheering as he arrived.

Two of the three rulers entering Jerusalem in parades on that Palm Sunday were iron-fisted men known for their cruelty. They were willing to kill in order to hold power, and they used impressive shows of force to demonstrate that fact.

Jesus, on the other hand, had no soldiers. He led a ragged band of followers who waved palm branches as he passed by on a donkey. Wisam Salsaa, a modern-day Palestinian historian, describes Jesus' parade as history's first nonviolent demonstration. This demonstration was for a king and kingdom built upon a radical desire to love God and a commitment to love one's enemies. As Jesus rode the donkey, he looked out over Jerusalem and began to weep. He knew that despite the cheering crowds, he would soon be rejected as king, but this was not the reason why he wept. He wept because he knew that the crowds would reject his call to love their enemies, to pray for those who were persecuted and to do good to those who did wrong. On Palm Sunday, Jesus wept because the people of Jerusalem did not embrace the "things that make for peace."

What kind of king is Jesus? He is the King who does not use force to hold power. He is the king who does not use violence to suppress the people. He is the king who does not kill people. Instead, he offers up his life so that people might have eternal life. He is the king that will not suppress us but protect us. He is a king that wanted people to love their enemies.

### **Silencing our hearts is a sign of humility and the only way to see what kind of King Jesus is!**

Friends, 3 things of importance:

- Jesus made time for a silent prayer to listen to God's voice.
- Silence gives us the opportunity to see Jesus' Kingship.
- Silence your heart and Listen to the King.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

# Easter

Special Offerings

THANK YOU to the following persons and families who contributed to the work and ministries of Calvary Church with special gifts in honor/memory of loved ones in celebration of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. A total of \$374.00 was donated.

## A gift has been given to adorn the altar with Easter Lilies

by Chuck and Joyce Wills in memory of loved ones.  
by Tony and Michelle Tomczak in honor of Marianne Garrett.



## A gift has been given for the Pastor's Contingency Fund

by Danny & Gloria Hutzell in honor of their grandchildren: Paige & Lillyanne DeLoretta and Zayn el Samahy.  
by Ron and Diane Anderson in loving memory of Shea Anderson.  
by Geraldine M. Postetter in loving memory of her husband, Richard Postetter, and their parents: D. & E. Postetter and L. & M. James.  
by Craig and Joyce Caltagirone in loving memory of Franklin & Marilyn Caltagirone and Richard & Betty Villforth.  
by Chuck and Joyce Wills in memory of loved ones.  
by Bill and Lisa Ruth.  
by Lyle and Cheryl Neal in loving memory of Cheryl's parents, Raymond & Gloria Renninger.  
by Shannon and Andrew McBride in honor of Pastor Nova and Pastor Matthew for the many blessings they bring to Calvary.

## A gift(s) has been given to Safe Berks

by Ron and Diane Anderson in loving memory of Debbie Fernsler and Betty Rider.  
by Geraldine M. Postetter in loving memory of her husband, Richard Postetter, and their parents, D. & E. Postetter and L. & M. James.  
by Bill and Lisa Ruth.  
by Tony and Michelle Tomczak in honor of Marianne Garrett.  
by Lyle and Cheryl Neal in loving memory of Louanna Wagner.  
by Shannon and Andrew McBride in loving memory of our grandparents: Arthur & Shirley Givler and Robert Steffey, Sr., and our uncle, Mike Steffey.

## A Gift has been given to support the Mifflin Community Food Ministry

by Bill and Lisa Ruth.  
by Tony and Michelle Tomczak in honor of Marianne Garrett.  
by Lyle and Cheryl Neal in loving memory of Lyle's parents, Frank & Irmgard Neal.



## Happy Birthday!

- 1 - Candy Dodson  
11 Harry Ave.  
Reading, PA 19607
- 4 - Dorismarie Rowe  
1411 Farm Crest Dr.  
Ephrata, PA 17522
- 5 - Mark Brumbach  
404 Lyncrest Rd.  
Shillington, PA 19607

