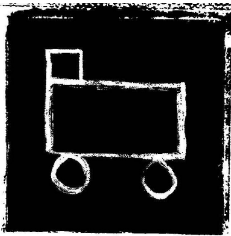


Next Sunday: Palm Sunday Worship and Brunch: Worship will be back in the Sanctuary next week. Plan to stay for Brunch in the Fellowship Center.

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am: Bring your chair (and blanket) and join us for Easter Sunrise Service with Communion at the Peru Boat Launch. Watch the sunrise over Lake Champlain.

Thank you Bell Choir for sharing your gifts with us this morning!



Peru Community Church
Rev. Peggi Eller, Pastor
March 17, 2024
5th Sunday of Lent: Riding the Rails

PRELUDE

"I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME" SPIRITUAL ARR. LABENSKE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: This week, our Lenten journey takes us to the Temple.

PEOPLE: The temple is the great House where we humbly bring our lives to God.

Leader: Yet sometimes our humility turns to selfishness and greed.

PEOPLE: We are prone to judge one another for what they have or don't have.

Leader: Help us to recognize that we are easily corrupted and led astray.

PEOPLE: Fill us with wisdom to guide our steps. Open our hearts to the healing, restoring love of Jesus. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes" Insert

COMMUNITY PRAYER (in unison)

Patient Lord, we clutter the "temples" of our lives with so many unnecessary things that they block out your call to love one another. We are keenly aware of our blessings yet spend too much time focusing on what we want. Remind us of your promise to provide in abundance. Help us to be confident in your mercy and transformational love. Today, open our eyes to what is truly important in this world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

"WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS" HAMBURG

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25



Worshiping every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
www.perucommunitychurch.com
office@perucommunitychurch.com
518.643.8641
Office Hours: M/W/F 9am – 3pm
Celebrating Over 200 years of Ministry

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

***HYMN** “God of Grace and God of Glory” #577

GOSPEL READING John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

REFLECTION ON THE SCRIPTURES Bonnie Black

***HYMN** “Wellspring of Wisdom” #506

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY with LORD’S PRAYER

SHARING GIFTS, TITHES AND OFFERINGS "TRUST AND OBEY" TOWNER ARR. RANEY

***DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” 95

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (in unison)

Generous God, all we have comes from you and has been given to us as stewards that we might live and love as your beloved children. As we bring our gifts this morning, we realize what a small sacrifice we allow ourselves to take. Help us to be wise in the ways we give so that others may experience life-giving change. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***HYMN** “Help Us Accept Each Other” #560

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS" BENNARD ARR. PETHEL

*Indicates to stand if you are able CCLI #3093702

LENTEN TOOLBOX ITEM OF THE WEEK: I Am Not Judge and Jury
Pray this prayer daily this week:

O God, heal my endless itching to be both judge and jury of other’s deeds. Seal my lips with the cross of Christ so that they will never speak judgment of others. Amen. (Hayes, E, A Lenten Hobo Honeymoon, 1999, p 93)

One Great Hour of Sharing:
During Lent, we will be collecting for a Water Project in Malawi thru Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. I encourage you to set aside the cost of a cup of coffee each day so that we can help others with a source of clean, accessible water. Just imagine what a small sacrifice on your part can do to change the lives of others.

(over)