

PALM SUNDAY— April 5, 2020

John 3: 16 (ESV)

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only **Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

1. The **HOPE** of God's **LOVE**.

Ephesians 3: 18 & 19 (NLT)

*And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how **wide**, how **long**, how **high**, and how **deep** his love is. ¹⁹ May you **experience** the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

2. **HOPE** in God's **GIFT**. ... that he **gave**...

Romans 5: 6 (NLT)

*When we were **utterly helpless**, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.*

Romans 3: 23 – 25 (NLT)

*For **everyone has sinned**; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his **grace**, **freely** makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For **God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin**. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.*

3. The **HOPE** of God's **OFFER**. ...that **whoever** believes in him should not perish...

Romans 3: 22 (NLT)

*We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for **everyone who believes, no matter who we are**.*

Titus 2: 11 (NLT)

*...the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to **all people**.*

Colossians 3: 11 (NLT)

*In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. **Christ is all that matters**, and he lives in all of us.*

4. The **HOPE** of God's **PROMISE**. ...should not perish but have **eternal life**.

Romans 8: 23 (NLT)

And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

1 Peter 1: 3 - 5 (NLT)

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. **Now we live with great expectation**, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance — an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.*

SERMON QUESTIONS:

1. Take a few minutes to REFLECT back on your salvation experience
 - *What was it that drew you to Christ?*
 - *Who were the people that played a role in your salvation story?*
 - *How are you different now that Jesus is Lord of your life?*
2. Take a few minutes to RECOGNIZE how far you've come in your walk with Christ.
(I used to be _____ but now I am _____)
(I used to believe _____ but now I believe _____)
(I used to struggle with _____ but now _____)
3. If possible, take a few minutes to share your personal salvation story with your group.