

God's Glory Garden

'Lil Sprouts

Faith Church Nursery News

Happy
Easter

April 2011
Parent Edition

Palm Sunday Children's Parade: Reflect & Prepare

By Connie Martin, Nursery Coordinator

As Jacob asks the congregation to sing "Hosanna" one more time on Palm Sunday, and all the children of Faith Church—infants through grade six—parade through the sanctuary waving palm branches, one might take a moment to reflect on what it must have been like to be in Jerusalem awaiting the arrival of Jesus, riding on the back of a donkey. Probably most of those celebrating His entrance into the holy city were wildly enthusiastic, singing and dancing, shouting His Name and running alongside the procession.

Can you see and hear the happy turmoil? Some of those might have been recipients of Jesus' healing touch, or saw in Jesus the fulfillment of Scriptures that parents and grandparents had taught them.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. [Zech 9]



Others, the leaders, collected in quiet, nefarious little groups. They knew this Man from Nazareth had certainly fulfilled many prophecies, but He also threatened their very existence as powerful, influential leaders of the Jewish nation. So, each individual on that first Palm Sunday made a personal decision to accept or reject this Man riding into their lives—an eternal decision.

Everyone makes a personal decision about Christ. Jesus told the parable of the soils, and readers of it today can see how

it applies to those who greeted Jesus—and how it describes people today who hear the Good News. To some, Jesus is a fad or someone who can be easily dismissed: seeds fall on the wayside and the devil snatches them away. Those on rocky soil shout "Hosanna" but fall away when temptation arises. Still others want to be a follower but are distracted by weeds—the cares of the day. And, a few, representing good soil, hear the Word and let it take root, nurturing it with prayer, study, and service. They are the ones who recognize the fulfillment of prophecy and who secure their own salvation by accepting Jesus as Savior.

As our own rather quiet procession winds down, and children return to their classrooms, we return from our reverie, knowing "the rest of the story": Jesus triumphed over the grave and is alive today. In fact, He has promised to return, as the Bible foretells. Additionally, today's news stories reiterate what Jesus told his followers in Matthew's Olivet Discourse:

Continued on back:

Newest 'Lil Sprout

Loden James Hammar March 16, 2011

Birthday Blessings to...

Lucas Homan April 4

Nathaniel Heidenreich April 10

Mikaela Healey and Brayden Stout April 11

Lilyann Foertsch and Isabelle Nunez April 21

Hunter Keebaugh April 22

Matthew Belcher April 27

Reid Bauman and Alex Phillips April 28

Getting to Know Glory Gardener...

...Eileen Herzog

Leaving New Jersey and newborn twin granddaughters to come to Cincinnati was not an easy transition for Eileen Herzog. Knowing that she would suffer from "empty arm syndrome," Eileen quickly volunteered to serve in our nursery and

has never looked back! That was in January 2007. Now whenever she and husband Jim are in town, Eileen makes herself available to help wherever she is needed most and is just as comfortable with the two year olds as she is with the infants.

Eileen and Jim joined Faith in 1982 when they returned to Cincinnati after a year in Dallas. After more transfers to New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and Chicago, they returned home in 2003. Although Eileen believed she was a Christian from childhood, she received the Lord as Savior in Dallas in 1980, but the conversion did not really take hold until 9/11/01. **Continued on back:**





Sandy Howard,
Director of Children's Ministry
showard@faithchurch.net
831-3770 ext. 122

Connie Martin,
Nursery Coordinator
cmartin@faithchurch.net
831-3770 ext. 121
Cell: 546-9539

Palm Sunday continued:

"...many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people." [Matt. 24]

We have the benefit of prophecy, so that we can prepare, just as those long ago should have been prepared for the coming Messiah. Truth be told, most of His own people were not ready; most rejected Him.

We are His bride. Are we ready? Have we studied the Scriptures, trimmed our lamps, shared our faith, desired Him above anything the world promises? He's may return at any moment. In I Thessalonians 4 Paul says, ¹⁶ "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

Let's be those of the good soil—fully prepared for Jesus' imminent return—Hosanna!

What's Happening in April...

In the One-Year-Old-Class: God Makes Growing Things (Genesis 1)

This month we will help each child: associate God with items of His creation; enjoy exploring items that God has made.

In the Two-Year Old Class: We will talk about Jesus's miracles: Healing the sick, Feeding the 5,000. We will also learn that Jesus is alive (Palm Sunday and Easter)!

Kids Say the Darndest Things...

One morning my toddler Brad was not his usual early-bird self. He seldom slept late, but he had not come out for breakfast. I tiptoed into his room to check on him. I found him and all his bedclothes on the floor beside his bed. He opened his eyes and smiled. "Brad, what happened? Why are you on the floor?" I asked.

"Mom, don't you know? I think I'm a lively sleeper!"

Do you have a "toddler story" to tell? Email me at cmartin@faithchurch.net.

Speaking of ... Palm Sunday

The children parading through the sanctuary represent a large percentage of the 275+ babies, preschoolers, and elementary children who regularly attend Faith Church.

Fifty-two adult Sunday School teachers and assistants, 15 teen assistants, plus 100 nursery volunteers (adults and teens) comprise those who serve behind the scenes in Faith's Children's Wing! God has richly blessed us!

Easter Day
by Evaleen Stein

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Angels rolled the stone away
From the tomb wherein He lay!

Little children, come and sing,
"Glory, glory to the King,
Christ the Lord of everything!"

Herzog continued:

America's tragedy woke Eileen up, and she learned what "following Christ" really meant. Though she and Jim had difficulty finding church homes in other cities, Christ kept nudging and waiting. Through good friends at Faith Church, Eileen has found her church home and loves serving in the children's nursery as well as doing projects for VBS and managing the birthday card ministry for ages preschool through

grade six. A talented and enthusiastic volunteer, Eileen may carve out even more time when she retires from her career as a tax accountant at Deloitte on, of all days, 11/11/11! There will be more time to devote to improving her golf game and traveling, but Eileen will save time to do her favorite "chore": rocking babies and crawling on the floor with the toddlers! Thank you, Eileen. You have "adopted" so many grandchildren right here at Faith!