**Children’s Message for Palm Sunday, April 5th, 2020**

**Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)**

Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.[a]” 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5 “Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

 humble, and mounted on a donkey,

 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**Objects: Flags, confetti, noise-makers, palm branches**

**Message**

How many of you have ever been to a parade or watched a basketball or football game? Do you remember people clapping their hands, cheering, maybe even waving flags or banners when their favorite float came by or when the sports team entered the stadium? Imagine you are there now and wave your flag or banner in the air. It is a great celebration and people are really happy and excited.

In our bible reading today we are remembering a very special event in the life of Jesus. Today is called Palm Sunday and we remember the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people were so excited because King Jesus was coming to the city. Now, they didn’t have flags. Instead they cut down palm branches and waved them in the air. They shouted out “Hosanna in the highest” as Jesus rode into the city. It was so exciting. Today is Palm Sunday where we remember that special event by waving Palm branches in the air (wave palm branches or something similar, if available). Go ahead and wave your flags (or other items) and shout “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the Highest Heaven!”

**Prayer**

Dear God, as we celebrate on this Palm Sunday help us to remember that day when all the adults and children waved palm branches and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem as King. We know Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. Help us to remember that he is our wonderful King and that we can praise him everyday! In Jesus’ name – Amen.

Adapted from sundaychildrensfocus.com and sermons4kids.com

**Optional Activity – Palm Parade**

Before the message, have your children march around a large area with their noise blowers, ribbons, palm branches, etc. The excitement will build and then let the children know that they will be doing some excited shouting and waving of palm branches today for our story lesson.