

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

*Call to Worship (read responsively)

One: Give thanks! God’s love is constant and devoted to us.

Many: Let us say over and over: God’s hope is unfailing in caring for us.

One: Give thanks, O give thanks! Justice is the gate God opens to all.

Many: Let us say over and over: God hears the cries of those who are forgotten.

One: Give thanks, O give thanks, people of God! God comes to bring us new life.

Many: Let us say this over and over: God takes the stone tossed aside by us to build the foundation of salvation.

*Opening Song: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #267

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

We stand together, Mighty God, for you have sustained us through weary days and anguished nights. We join the shouts of welcome, “Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.” This is a day of celebration. There is joy in the air. But there are ominous overtones. There are voices that say peace is a mirage and love will not endure. We cling to our faith that your steadfast love embraces life and death, that we are surrounded and upheld by your goodness. Meet us here, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are so busy thinking about ourselves, God of constant love, that we cannot begin to ponder what was in Jesus’ mind. We shout for joy on a day like this, smiling as we wave our palms, yet quickly toss them aside as we go out into the world. We harden our faces, not in discipleship, but to turn away those who come looking for help from us.

Yet, because he was fully human like us, God of unfailing compassion, we too can be more like Jesus. So, as we begin our journey through Holy Week and beyond, may we choose humility over pride, weakness over strength, compassion over bullying, and seek to do whatever we are called to do, without any promise of reward. We pray this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God dares us to think like Jesus, knowing that if we do, we will discover the gifts we can offer, the words of hope we can share, the grace we can use to bless those around us.

Many: God hears our prayers, listens to our hearts, fills us with forgiveness, and walks with us in these moments and in all the ones to come. Thanks be to God for such incredible mercy! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 19:28-40

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

We believe in the God who is the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud. We trust in our Holy Parent who judges and shows mercy. We hope in our Creator who is faithful to all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in the Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem. We trust in the Messiah who was crucified, died, and was buried. We hope in the living Christ who walked out of the tomb.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and formation. We trust in the Breath of Life who stirs, sustains, and sanctifies. We hope in our Advocate who brings to us, and through, us the gift of God’s peace.

* **GLORIA PATRI:** “Glory Be to the Father” #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-11 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Running on Empty” Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

*** DOXOLOGY:** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #34
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
Grateful that your grace is new every morning, God, we bring our gifts to you. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves that the good news of Jesus may be realized everywhere we scatter to serve. May the needs of all your children be met through our gifts, our words, and our actions. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" #268

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Lavon Bayler from *Gathered by Love-Worship Resources for Year C*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage AK.

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Organist: Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burnett
April Radio Sponsor: Helen Scuffham (in memory of John's birthday)
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Birthdays: April 17-Cooper Heath

Sunday, April 13: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Palm Sunday Brunch

Tuesday, April 15: 9:30am.-Pastor at Feed Mill
6:00 - 7:30 pm.-CCC English Class in Room E

Thursday, April 17: 6:30pm.-Maundy Thursday Worship in our Sanctuary

Friday, April 18: 6:30pm.- Good Friday Worship at Methodist Sanctuary

Sunday, April 6: 10:30am – Worship
No Sunday School
Coffee

April 14-15: Meals on Wheels



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