

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Sixth Sunday in Lent
March 24, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We come to prepare ourselves for the week that is holy, yet filled with unholy acts, words, thoughts.

Many: In this week of journey, people lose their way; in this week of betrayal, others find hope hidden in their hearts.

One: We will try to follow Jesus in the days to come, sustained by the Word of grace and life.

Many: Joining the children, we wave palm branches with joy, while keeping nails ready if we need them.

One: The One who set aside glory, comes in humility; the One who offers life, will challenge death itself.

Many: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who opens the heart of God to us.

*Opening Song:

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

#267

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Jesus, you have walked this road with us many times. Guide our steps and keep us close. Inspire our worship with your loving presence and work in our lives as we walk this Holy Week journey with you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steadfast Lover: when things go well for us, we can easily sing loud hosannas, but the words turn to ashes in mouths full of anger and bitterness. We hide behind our palm branches, hoping you will not see the doubts we have about what you call us to do. We eagerly feast on your blessings but are reluctant to offer even crumbs to those around us. Forgive us, Approaching God. Now, more than ever, forgive us. May we be as eager to lay down our fears and doubts, our sins and pride, as we are to lay down our coats for

you. May we praise you for your victory over death, as well as for the promise of resurrection to new life, the promise given to us in Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: At his birth, Jesus comes bringing us hope. Entering Jerusalem, he brings us assurance. Walking to Calvary, he leads us to new life. All this was for us - so we could bend our knees before God in humility and praise.

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever. Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Mark 11:1-11

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

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 *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Have an Attitude"

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**

God of the great shouts of hope, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "All Glory, Laud and Honor" #265

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, John 12:12-16, Mark 14:1-15::457

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are by Thom M. Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. The Opening Prayer is (adapted) is by Mary Scifres from the Abingdon Worship Annual-2024 edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. The Affirmation of Faith is by Rev. Julia Seymour, from Liturgylink

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Organist:	Antoina Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
March Radio Sponsor:	Ginny Buchanan

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Birthdays: March: 24-Isaac Hines

Sunday, March 24: 10:30am -- Worship – Palm Sunday
Sunday School
Coffee
Potluck Brunch

Tuesday, March 26: 9:30am- Pastor Feed Mill
Newsletter Deadline

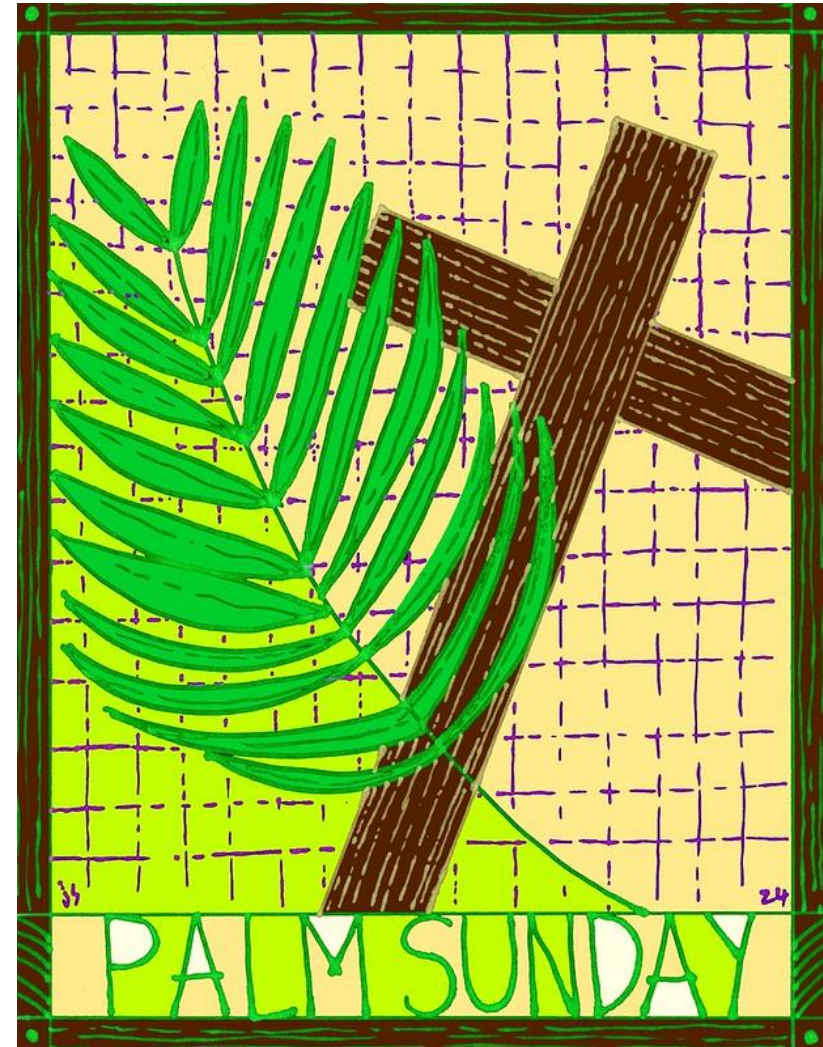
Thursday, March 28: 7pm.-Maundy Thursday worship with 1st United Methodist here

Friday, March 29: 7pm.- Good Friday Worship Service at 1st United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 31: 10:30am – Worship – Easter Sunday
No Sunday School
Coffee

It is Easter Lily Time: If you would like to order an Easter Lily, they are \$12 each. Please let the Church Office know how many you would like and who they are in honor or in memory of.

The Hope of Easter 10 Reflections from Our Daily Bread and the March, April, May issue of "Our Daily Bread" may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

165 Years

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