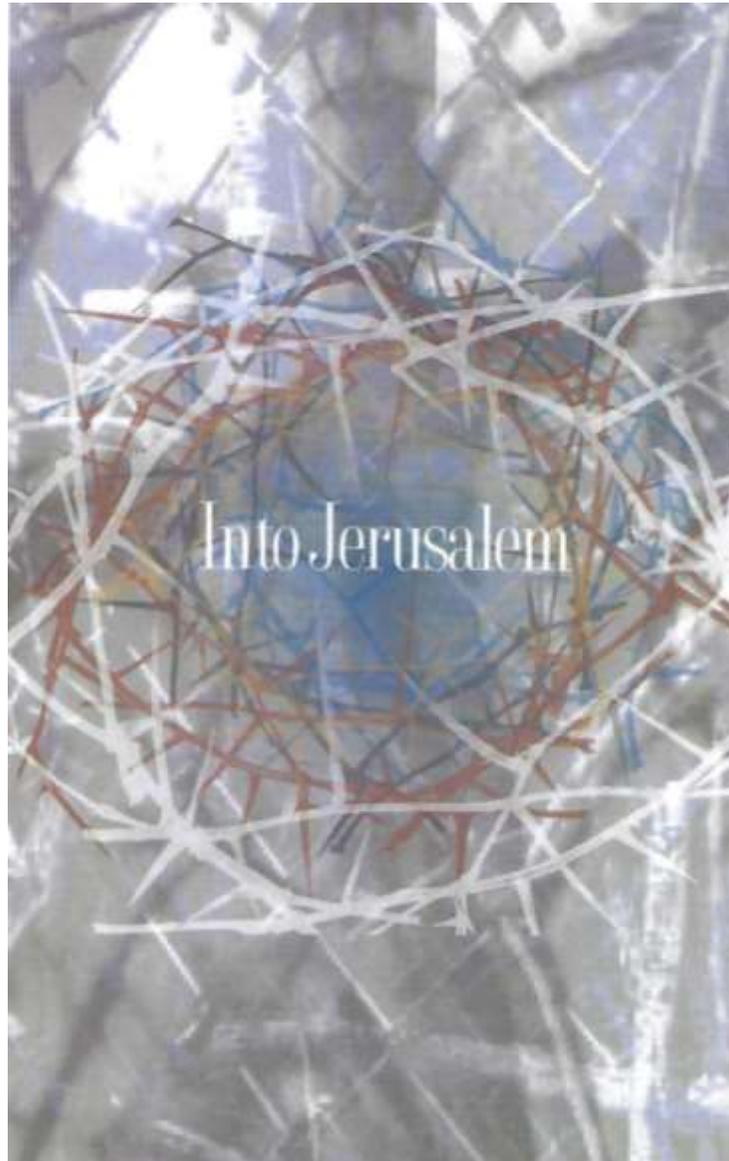


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
36721 Lake Shore Blvd.
Eastlake Ohio 44095 440.951.0291



WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Website: firstucceastlake.org

Email: pastorfirstucc@gmail.com

*No matter who you are
or where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome and wanted here!*

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

Ministers - All of us!

Pastor & Teacher - Rev David T Herrin—216.832.3453

Director of Music – Jeffrey Jaskolka

Moderator - Diana Kurzawa

Christian Education - Pastor David

Financial Secretary - Donna Finch

Treasurer - Jim Lutz

Clerk - Judy DePasquale

Facilities Ministry - Charles Rumbold

Leadership Development Ministry - Betsy Taylor

Membership Ministry - Sherry Boyce

OCWM Ministry - Nancy Reeb

Spiritual Life Ministry - Betsy Taylor

Stewardship Ministry - Diana Kurzawa

*** Please rise in body or spirit.**



MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

O Christ our God you raised Lazarus from the dead, making certain the universal resurrection, before your Passion. Therefore, we like the Hebrew children long ago, bearing the emblems of victory, cry aloud to you, the Conqueror of Death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Rise, O God, awakened by your Word, to live another day. Lead me in your path. Show me the steps to take toward greater faith. Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week where the shadows deepen even in the daylight. Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 2:5



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude & Procession & Distribution of Palms

♪ *Halle, halle, hallelujah (3x) Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Welcome

Pastor David

Ringling of the Bell

***Gathering Hymn** ♪ #271 *Lift Up Your Heads*

*Call to Worship

One: Blessed is the One that comes in the name of the Lord!

All: God is the Lord and has been revealed to us!

One: Today the grace of the Holy Spirit assembled us together

All: Blessed is the One that comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

All: We give thanks for this day leading to the Cross!

One: Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

All: Fill the air with welcome to Jesus the Messiah.

One: We magnify you, O Life-giving Christ! Hosanna in the highest!

**All: We cry aloud to you: Blessed is the One that comes
in the Name of the Lord!**

One: Blessed are you, Lord our God, sovereign of the
cosmos who granted us life and sustenance

All: and permitted us to reach this holy season. Amen

***Opening Hymn** ♪ #26 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

***Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

Gracious God you sent your only-begotten Son our
Lord Jesus the Christ to save the world through his
cross, burial, and resurrection. While drawing near to
Jerusalem for his voluntary passion the people who sat in
darkness and the shadow of death took as symbols of
victory branches of trees foretelling his resurrection. O
Lord keep and preserve us who, following their example,
carry in our hands palms and branches and who like the
crowds and the Hebrew children cry out to you Hosanna!
With our hymns and spiritual songs may we be raised in a
resurrection like him and dwell forever with you Father,
Son, and Divine Spirit. And now we dare to call upon you
praying: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Doxology**

Glo-ry be to God, Cre-a-tor,
glo-ry be to God the Son,
Glo-ry be to God the Spir-it,
known as Three, yet God the One.

As it was in the be-gin-ning, it is now and so shall be
In a world with-out an endi-ing,
glo-ry through e-ter-ni-ty. Amen

Right Hand of Fellowship—Bow of Namaste

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S MESSAGE

***Hymn of Praise** ♪ #265 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 2.5-11

Matthew 21.1-11(A) Mark 11.1-11(B) Luke 19.28-40(C)

Word with young worshippers and Pastoral Message

***Hymn of Reflection** ♪ #668 *Wonderful Words of Life*

WE PREPARE TO SERVE THE WORLD

Holy Communion

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Open up your hearts.

People: We open them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Hymn #689 *One Bread One Body*

Invitation

Pastor: We gather around this table at the invitation of our God. With Christians around the world we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and enter into the holiest of all weeks in the church's life. It is the week in which Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City to complete his work as God's Anointed One—to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering of the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

People: Triumphant God, you come to us as one who seeks and serves. Lead us through the events of this Holy Week, that we may receive Christ afresh into our lives, and embody Christ's spirit into the world. Fill now our hearts with the joy of the Good News. Bless us and these branches we hold, that our very being shall cry out: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus gathered with his disciples for a meal. He blessed and broke the bread, saying: “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

People: Amen

Pastor: We remember that in the same way Jesus took the cup, after supper, and looked forward to your reign, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink, in remembrance of me.” **People: Amen**

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

People: By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ’s coming again.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Pastor: We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Invitation & Distribution

Pastor: Holy Things are for the Holy. Come, for all things are ready. **People: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ to the glory of God.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, Most Holy God, for refreshment at your table on this Palm Sunday, the glorious entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. We thank you for Jesus's courage to fulfill your desire. Strengthen us through this meal to stand by him, to truly be the courageous body and blood of the faithful, and to accept risk and confrontation as elements of faithfulness. As this week passes, speak to us through its events, reminding us of your constant love, surprising grace, and caring power. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** ♪ #267 *Hosanna Loud Hosanna*

After the Closing Hymn, we make a circle around the outside of the pews for the Commissioning and Blessing.

***Commissioning** *Philippians 2.5-11*

Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Look not to rewards and celebrity for your good deeds. Do unto others what will nurture God's desire for them. Listen to the word of the Lord, and trust.

♪ *Halle, halle, hallelujah (3x) Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

***Blessing**

Go in peace, move beyond the festive parade of palms and follow Jesus into the way of the cross assured of God's presence.

♪ *Halle, halle, hallelujah (3x) Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

***Postlude ♪**

Questions for Reflection

As this week unfolds, spend some time each day pondering the mind of Christ. What is the shape of his compassion? Describe the image of such great love. Finally, what does it feel like, physically, to be so utterly cared for?

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Join us for coffee hour following worship. We don't serve just a cup of coffee, we serve a cup of justice!

If you are interested in learning more about First United Church of Christ, or becoming a member, please speak to our Pastor or Moderator.

Please sign our guestbook as you leave worship today

Office Hours: By appointment.

Donations, tithes, and pledges may be deposited in the wooden box as you leave the sanctuary.

Next Sunday –Easter! The Resurrection!

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT PALM SUNDAY

March 28, 2021

Mark 14:1-15:47

Into Jerusalem

Imagine you were there that day.

Today, the day is known as Palm Sunday and we celebrate mostly sedately, with children waving palm leaves and songs of joy.

But it would not have been so that first day. On that first day of the first holy week, it was dusty and noisy, crowded and chaotic. On that day, Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem was just one more distraction and delight, a spectacle for a city in a festival mood. On that day, no one but Jesus could imagine the week that was to come, with its loyalties and betrayals, politics and pieties, losses and griefs. No one could have anticipated that the week would end in death and in resurrection.

What would it be like to enter the city again, as they did that first day so long ago? What would it be like to come to this day with no knowledge, no expectation of how this week would end? Each year, we are invited to re-enact the events of this week. Not as a tired recitation of a story whose ending is already known, but as living and breathing people, ready to experience each day anew.

Many faith communities will worship together several times this week. Even if your community does not gather for all these days, how can you mark each day this week?

You can find guides and resources to creating fresh and imaginative worship this Holy Week, and every week, at: https://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Palm Sunday: Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday: Jesus' last supper with his disciples

Good Friday: A day of mourning

Easter Vigil: Keep awake through the night in prayer, grieving and anticipation

Easter: Resurrection Day

