

**United Church of Christ  
First Congregational  
Norwich NY 13815**

**April 5, 2020**



# **A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD**

**PRELUDE**            *Laud and Honor*  
Hand Bell Choir (2019)

Barry Braman

## **WELCOME**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(Brad Morrison)

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people  
and the ways of our world  
in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love.  
Show us again the image of humility you desire for us,  
and teach us obedience,  
so that self-emptying may be our pathway,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WE PRAISE GOD**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Brad Morrison)

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!  
Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!  
Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!  
Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**\*HYMN**            *All Glory, Laud and Honor*  
(Tune: ST. THEODULPH)

Mary Williams, voice  
Bob Oehme, organ;

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

(Linda Oehme)

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER ('DEBTS')**

(Linda Oehme)

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.

### **\*THE CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF PEACE**

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

### ***WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD***

#### **SCRIPTURE** – Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "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."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!”

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC**     *Antiphonal Hosanna*     G. Alan Smith  
UCC Choir (2019)

Hosanna! Blessed is the One  
Who comes in the name of our God!  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna! Hosanna!

## **SERMON**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
Silent Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

Birthdays:  
4/8 James Dann

**\*CLOSING HYMN**     *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*  
(Tune: ELLACOMBE)  
(Recorded 4/14/19 Palm Sunday Service)

## **BLESSING**

Go in peace, assured of God’s presence with you,  
with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide,  
and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit.

## **POSTLUDE**

*The Palms*     Jean Baptiste Faure  
Arr. by Lani Smith

Jason Handy, piano

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## **April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday**

### ***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?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

I 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.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

I come to the darkness of night, O God,  
tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care.

Keep me safe from all harm,

and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength.

In Jesus' holy name, I pray. Amen.