

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday**

**PRELUDE** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*  
Hand Bell Choir

Tune: ELLACOMBE  
Arranged by Barbara B. Kinyon

**WELCOME** (Pastor John)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Jason Handy)  
God of salvation, our Lord entered his passion to raise us to life.  
In this holiest of weeks, help us to walk the way of the cross,  
that we may be raised in a resurrection like his  
and dwell forever in you, Eternal God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Linda Oehme, Mary Williams)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Katie Izzo)  
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* (#216)                      Theodulph of Orléans, 9<sup>th</sup> Century  
Translation John Mason Neale, 1854  
Tune: ST. THEODULPH by Melchior Teschner, 1615

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (Linda Oehme)

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

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**  
ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.  
ALL: **And also with you.**

**SCRIPTURE** (Jason Handy)  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
    did not regard equality with God  
    as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
    taking the form of a slave,  
    being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Ride on, Ride On in Majesty*  
combined choirs of UCC and BSUMC

by Mark Shepperd

Hosanna, hosanna!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry;  
Savior meek, pursue thy road,  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty,  
in lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
take, O God, thy pow'r and reign.

Hosanna, hosanna!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**SCRIPTURE** (Katie Izzo)

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup> some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup> They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,  
"Hosanna!

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

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

## **SERMON** (Pastor John)

## **INTERLUDE**

*Interlude*

Bob Oehme, organ

by Flor Peeters

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Pastor John)

Jesus suffered death and rose to glory for the life of the world.

Let us lift up our hearts in thanks to God and pray for the cares of the world, saying,

Save us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.

Holy God, your son humbled himself, even to death, to show us the power of loving service.

Guide those holding positions of power, that their decisions give rise to the mutual flourishing of the world you so love.

Save us, O Lord, **for your mercy is great.**

Healing God, your son is betrayed and crucified in our violent world each day.

Raise us to a new and rightly ordered world through the reconciling love of Christ, where all victims of violence, persecution, shame, or terror may stand together with you in peace.

Save us, O Lord, **for your mercy is great.**

Forsaken God, as your son suffered his cruel death on the cross,

darkness covered the whole land.

Enlighten us to care for your creation, awaken us from our denial and abuse, and help us to alleviate its suffering.

Save us, O Lord, **for your mercy is great.**

Grieving God, your son consoled others in life and in death.

We pray for all who are distressed, broken, or sorrowful, that together with Christ in his suffering we may be healed and raised in you.

Save us, O Lord, **for your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, your son was lovingly cared for as he was laid to rest in a tomb.

We remember before you those who have died and pray for those who will die today;

enfold them in your love,  
that they may rest and rise with Christ forever in his light.  
Save us, O Lord, **for your mercy is great.**

We ask all this in the name of Jesus,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *'Tis Finished!*

Michael Moren, soloist  
Charles Howe, pianist

Words by Charles Wesley  
by Deborah Governor

**BLESSING**

May the blessing of God,  
who surmounts evil,  
bears our pain,  
and lives in us forever,  
fill you with a zeal for justice  
and passion for peace,  
this day and always.

**POSTLUDE** *The Palms*

Jason Handy, piano

Jean Baptiste Faure  
Arr. by Lani Smith

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