

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,  
we open our doors and hearts to all,  
in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*

## **Liturgy of the Palms**

*Hosanna!*



## *Liturgy of the Passion*

*Sixth Sunday in Lent*

*Palms and Passion*

*A Unity Service*

*The Lord's Day  
Sixth Sunday in Lent  
Liturgy of the Palms  
Liturgy of the Passion  
Nine o'clock in the Morning  
A Unity Service*

## ***The Worship of God***

*Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.*

*~William Temple*

### The Prologue

The huge contrasts that have defined this Lenten season now come to the forefront, in full view, as we experience the highs and lows, the ecstasy and agony of Palms and Passion. Most churches today will celebrate the intoxicating high of a Palm Sunday parade, mimicking a very temporary triumphal entry, a false positive that purportedly took place more than 2,000 years ago as Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey or a colt! Pick your poison! Is it any wonder the biblical writer chose an ass for this maudlin procession, this most iconic and ironic death march? Oh, how foolish everything appears to be at this moment in time! How quickly the crowd's incongruous cacophony of "Hosannas" and calls to "Crucify Him" converge, creating a toxic, a muddled, messy mix that can only lead to crucifixion! Many services this morning will play a game of let's pretend that ends in euphoria, a blatant denial of the horrific events that culminate by the week's end. Today, we dare celebrate with palms, but we do so with the sobriety that comes with knowing and even remotely experiencing what comes next. We lean into the dynamics, the polarities of Holy Week's Passion, engaging the full range of every emotion imaginable. The cross looms! Easter beckons! In the end, we know who wins! Yet, our sense of loss should never be so quickly mitigated, so neatly assuaged.

## LITURGY OF THE PALMS

### \*The Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**

### \*The Call to Worship

This morning begins the Great Week of the Christian Year!

**During Lent we have been preparing with works of love and self-sacrifice to follow Jesus to the cross and celebrate his resurrection!**

With Christians throughout the world, we come together this week to remember and express in word and deed the crux of the Easter mystery, Jesus' Passover from death to life!

**Jesus entered in triumph into Jerusalem to complete his work as the one called Christ, even Messiah, to suffer, to die, to be raised to new life!**

Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross!

**So that sharing his sufferings we may be untied with him in his risen life!**

### \*The Introit

*A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*

Thomas H. Troeger

Lori Hunter, soprano; Timothy W. Shirley, bass

### \*The Gathering

On this day of Palms and Passion, we have gathered with a loud voice to praise the One whose mighty deeds we behold with our eyes!

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the one whose peace and glory extends to the highest heavens!**

If we dared silence in these sacred moments, even the stones would shout the very praise of God!

**This is the day of the Holy One! We will rejoice and celebrate God's gracious goodness and everlasting love, forever faithful!**

Let us worship God, giving thanks for our rock and saving foundation!

\*The Blessing of the Palms

Passionate God, we thank you for these palms of passion, lovingly waved by these your passionate followers, disciples zealously revealing authentic, genuine devotion to Jesus, the one called Christ, even anointed as Messiah, our blessed brother, mentor, and friend. By your blessing may these palms of joy be for us signs of the victory of your Son. May we who carry them in his name ever proclaim him as Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; all this we pray in the name of the holy and still speaking Spirit, the one before whom we bring our palms of praise.

\*The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 19:28-40

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to LUKE.

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Gospel of the Lord!

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

\*The Collect

Let us pray,  
The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

**All praise to the God of Palms and Passion.**

God of Palms and Passion, we have gathered with a loud voice to worship the One whose word awakens us in the morning; we have come to lift up the one whose mighty works we have experienced in our midst, the one whose peace and glory we proclaim to the highest heavens; awaken our ears this day, God of Palms and Passion, to listen to your still speaking voice; like stones that would refuse to keep silent, we cannot contain our passion for the one whose goodness and faithful love lasts forever, the one who is our God, the one who helps us, removing all our shame; as we rejoice and celebrate, welcoming you into our midst on this high and holy festival day, this feast day that you have made, we humbly pray that you would open these sacred gates of righteousness, entering this sacred space that we might receive you and be blessed from this, the very house of God; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

\*The Invitation to the Procession

Let us praise Jesus, our Messiah,

**Let us join with the crowd that welcomed him to Jerusalem.**

Let us process in peace.

**Proclaiming the name of Christ!**

\*The Processional Hymn, No. 192 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* ST. THEODULPH

**The congregation is invited to join the choir in the Procession of Palms.**

\*The Prayer of Palms and Passion

God of Palms and Passion, you gave your Son, Jesus, the man from Nazareth, who freely accepted his fate, creating blood-stained footprints as your willing servant, choosing to die, hanged by crucifixion on a cross, executed as a common criminal; give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, the sharing in his humility, that we may come to be with him in glory, now and forever; all this we pray in the name of the one who is palms and passion personified, Christ Jesus, the crucified.

**Amen.**

The Music for Hand Chimes

*Kingsfold*  
Susan Krivichi, director

arr. Jason W. Krug

The Litany of Praise

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good! God's steadfast love endures forever!

**Let all Israel declare, "God steadfast love endures forever!"**

Glorify God, who opens to us the gates of righteousness, that we might enter and give thanks to the Holy One!

**This is the gate of the Holy through which the righteous shall enter!**

The Holy One hears our prayers and has become our salvation! It is the Lord's doing!

**On this festival day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad, celebrating this great feast!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of God even as you have blessed us, for God's light has shined upon us!

**O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good! God's steadfast love endures forever! Praise the Lord!**

Hymn, No. 191

*Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!*

CANONBURY

## *LITURGY OF THE PASSION*

The Witness from the Hebrew Scriptures

ISAIAH 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard! I did not hide my face from insult and spitting! The Lord God helps me! Therefore, I have not been disgraced! Therefore, I have set my face like flint! And now I shall not be put to shame! The one who vindicates me is near! Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together! Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me! It is the Lord God who helps me! Who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment! The moth will eat them up!

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Witness from the Epistles

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Hymn

*At the Name of Jesus*

KING'S WESTON

*At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him, King of Glory now!  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word!*

*Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came!  
Faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious, when from death he passed!*

*Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,  
To the thrones of God head, to the Father's breast!  
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest!*

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 22:14-23:56

A Dramatic Reading of the Passion Narrative    The First Congregational Church Players

Narrator ~Timothy W. Shirley    Jesus ~ Bernie Hupperts    Peter ~ Barbara Helmick

Disciple One – Tobi Johannsen    Disciple Two and Criminal One – Ursula Charaf

Servant One – Ayla Shepherdson    Servant Two – Iland Shepherdson

Soldier One – Nancy Diepenbrock    Soldier Two and Criminal Two – Kelli Burrill

Elder One – Steve Burrill    Elder Two – Lori Hunter

Pilate – Luke Aschbrenner    Centurion ~ Sharon Breit

The Solo

*O Come and Mourn*

Hal H. Hopson

Lori Hunter, soprano; Dale Bishop, flute

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**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 Closing Hymn

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

*Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,  
That we to judge you have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by your own rejected,  
O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, have undone you!  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you!  
I crucified you!*

*Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered.  
All have now sinned, and the Son has suffered.  
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,  
God interceded!*

*For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,  
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation.  
The death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
For my salvation!*

*Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay you,  
I do adore you, and will ever thank you,  
Think on your pity and your love unswerving,  
Not my deserving!*

\*The Benediction

\*You are invited to stand as you are able.

*The color for the Sundays in Lent is Purple, symbolizing the penitential nature of this holy season.*

Worship Notes:

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## Concerns of the Church

We will gather this Thursday evening, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at Six o'clock in the Evening for Maundy Thursday worship. The service will begin with an Agape Feast in Fellowship Hall and then we will proceed to the Sanctuary for Holy Communion, Foot Washing, and the Service of Tenebrae (Darkness).

In accordance with CDC guidelines, wearing of masks is now optional. We will continue to sign in for worship. If we have cases of COVID within our congregation brought to our attention, we will notify everyone as soon as possible.

Online Giving is now available on the church website. If you have questions on how to get started with online giving feel free to reach out to Alex at [alex@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:alex@eagleriverucc.org) or give him a call at 715-802-8501, Option 8.

As a church family, we are ready, willing, and able to share with you in your prayers of sadness and celebration. Please feel free to share your prayer with us on the church website, under the Ministries heading, or by calling the church office at 715-802-8501. To protect the privacy of all individuals please only share prayers for those, you have received direct permission to share on their behalf. We ask that any prayer requests mentioned from the pulpit have the permission of the one desiring prayer. Thank you for your understanding. Prayer Concerns: As we worship today our thoughts are with the family and friends of Bob Mather and with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

Scripture readers, ushers, and camcorder operators are always needed as well as readers for the Concerns of the Church. You may sign up by visiting our website; or you may also contact Joy Turpin at: [joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com](mailto:joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com) or (715) 479-6560.

Just a friendly reminder! The last Sunday of the month is always A Unity Service, meeting at Nine o'clock in the Morning. Please put these services on your calendar. (Please take note, the Palm/Passion and Easter Day services will be unity services.)

***Church Staff***

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Jonathan Alexander “Alex” Fluegel, Information and Technology Director

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Services

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

April 10, 2022

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