

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.*

Hosanna!



*Sixth Sunday in Lent
Liturgy of the Palms
Liturgy of the Passion*

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

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 colt, pick your poison. Is it any wonder the biblical writer chose an ass for this maudlin procession, this most 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, 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 Welcome¹

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you!

And also with you!

*The Acclamation²

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

*The Call to Worship³

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 Holy 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, and be risen to new life!

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

So that sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, we may be united in the risen life of Christ!

*The Introit

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Stephan Schwartz

Phoebe Spier, alto

*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 Palms⁴

Let us pray to the Lord,

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 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.

Amen.

*The Gospel Lesson

MARK 11:1-11

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

Hosanna in the highest!

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 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! If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately!'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming realm of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" 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.

The Gospel of the Lord!

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

*The Collect

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, 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 Palm 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 Procession⁵**

Let us praise Jesus, the one called Christ, the one called Messiah!

Let us join with the crowd that welcomed him to Jerusalem!

Let us process in peace!

Proclaiming the name of Christ!

***The Processional**

The congregation is invited to join the children in the Procession and Parade of Palms.

***The Processional Hymn**

All Glory Laud and Honor

ST. THEODULPH

Refrain: All glory, laud and honor to you, O Christ, we sing!

To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

You are the Christ of Israel, O David's royal son,

Who in the Lord's name comes to us, anointed, blessed one! Refrain!

The people came to honor, with palms before you went!

Our praise and prayers and anthems before you we present! Refrain!

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise!

To you, now high exalted our melody we raise! Refrain!

You did accept their praises! Accept the prayers we bring,

You are most good and gracious, the one to whom we sing! Refrain!

***The Prayer of Palms and Passion⁶**

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of Palms and Passion, you gave your Son, Jesus, our brother and friend, 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, that sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in glory, now and forever; all this we pray in the name of the One who is passion personified, Christ Jesus, the crucified.

Amen.

*The Litany of Praise

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

Let all Israel declare, “God’s 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 answers 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 all of it!

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 the light of God has shined upon us all!

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

*The Gloria

GREATOREX

*Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Comforter!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Call to Confession⁷

Will we wave our leafy branches today and hide them tomorrow? Will our hosannas melt into another chorus of death? Will we, like the builders of old, reject the stone that is meant to hold all things together? Is Christ Jesus truly the cornerstone of our lives? Let us admit the truth about ourselves. In the silence and stillness of our moments together, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession⁸

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of Palms and Passion, we confess that we are as fickle as the crowds in Jerusalem. When everything seems to be going well, we join the hosanna chorus, but in times of weariness or rebellion, our praise can turn to insult. We hide our faith when it is under attack and link ourselves with the scoffers. When there is opportunity to speak a good word for Christ, we are silent. Our church lifts an uncertain word before the world, for we, its members, have not always been faithful. We need your forgiving love today more than ever. Hear our earnest prayer!

The Assurance of Pardon⁹

Beloved faith community, hear the Good News of Palm and Passion! God hears us and our salvation is assured. By faith, we proclaim the mystery of God in One who came among us, fully human, and yet somehow, in the mystery of incarnation, fully divine, to lead us to the throne of grace. According to the epistle writer, though in the form of God, Jesus emptied himself, taking a servant's role, a slave in humble service to all humanity. All this was accomplished for our sakes that we might bend our knees before God in humility and trust. What we do know beyond a shadow of all doubt is that we are safe and secure in the steadfast love of God! We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

The Hymn, No. 191

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!

CANONBURY

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

ISAIAH 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue, 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 I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court 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 Anthem, PSALM 31:9-16

melody, Johann Georg Ebeling; WAYFARING STRANGER
Chancel Choir

The Witness from the Epistles

PHILLIPIANS 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to 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 (insert) *At the Name of Jesus* KING'S WESTON
The Anthem *Lest We Forget* Mary K. Beall and Charles Yannerella
Chancel Choir

The Witness from the Gospels MARK 14:1-15:47
A Dramatic Reading of the Passion Narrative The First Congregational Players
Narrator ~ *Nancy Diepenbrock* Judas ~ *Kamie Kolb*
Jesus ~ *Barbara Helmick* Peter ~ *Lori Hunter* Servant and Three Bystanders ~ *Joy Turpin*
Pilate ~ *Susan Krivichi* Soldier and Centurion ~ *Timothy W. Shirley*

The Music for Meditation *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* arr. Jason Krug
Chime Choir; Susan Krivichi, director

The Concerns of the Church
The Pastoral Prayer
The 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 Receiving of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
Praise triune God whom we adore!*

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 193 *A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd* MORNING SONG

*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

*The Benediction and Blessing

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Lector: Phoebe Spier

Ushers: Carlton Schroeder and Joe Turpin

The color for the Sunday of the Palms and the Sunday of the Passion is Scarlet, a deep crimson red reminding us of the blood shed during this holy and penitential season.

¹⁻³ Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, the worship book of the Episcopal Church in the USA.

⁴⁻⁶ Adapted from *A Prayer Book for Australia*.

⁷⁻⁹ Reprinted by permission, United Church Press from *Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B*, by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

All scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

All music and text is reprinted through permission of either copyright licenses:

OneLicense Annual Reprint License: A-738560; expires March 20, 2025

CCLI Copyright License 1562668; expires October 31, 2024

Concerns of the Church

On Sunday, April 7th we will gather in Fellowship Hall for one of our quarterly **Fellowship Gatherings**. We need volunteers to bring refreshments! Please consider signing up to bring something tasty for us to share. Thanks so much!

Coffee Hour is offered every Sunday following worship. Please stop by for refreshments and some wonderful conversation! After all, fellowship is the spice of the steeple!!!

Easter Mums Order forms for Easter Day flowers are available at the back of the Sanctuary!

Prayer Concerns: As we worship today our thoughts are with George Langley, Ruth Hibbard, Molly Jaeger, Gary and Bernice Gilbert, Marshall Patten, Bernard and Mary Stanke, Jim Sanborn and family. We continue to pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. We also pray for Israelis and Palestinians during these challenging times.

Please remember to bring your **coins** to contribute to the **Melody of Compassion** fund, the proceeds of which go toward helping those in our community who are in need.

Online donations are always available through our website www.eagleriverucc.org. Click on "Ministries" and then click on "Online Giving" to set up your account.

Church Council Just a reminder that the Church Council meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Church members are welcome to attend. The next meeting is on April 8th.

Volunteers are always needed. Sign up by visiting our website or you may also contact Debbie Brown in the church office or Joy Turpin at joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or 715-479-6560.

March Collection: Weekend Backpack Program

Our community helps to provide meals to children who otherwise might not receive them. Volunteers (including some from First Congregational UCC) pack bags of food to send home with children every Friday to help get them through the weekend. The bags are filled with child-friendly, easy-to-prepare food items, that provide the necessary calories to help eliminate their hunger. A list of needed items is available in the Narthex.

Fredrick Place. We need volunteers to help us prepare the March 25th dinner for Frederick Place. Thanks, Mary Lou Congdon and Susan Krivichi.

Did you know the bulletin and sermon are put on our webpage every week? The webpage address is www.eagleriverucc.org then go to "About Us" then "Worship Services".

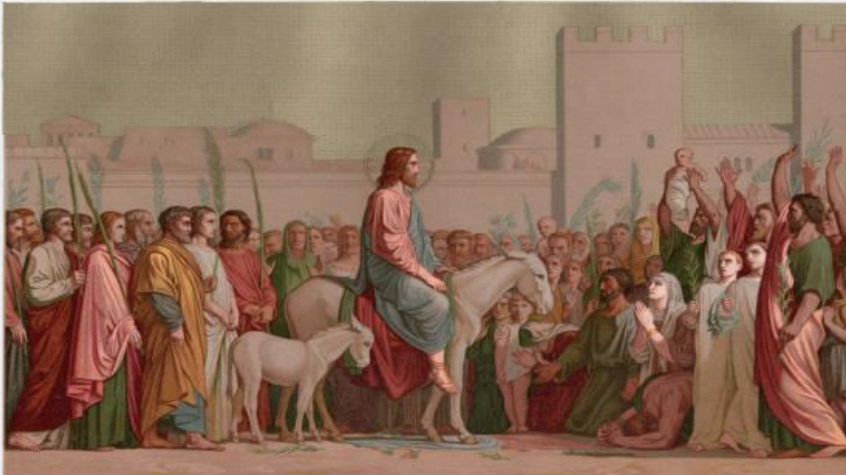
Please sign the ***"Welcome to Our Worship"*** sheets that are in each pew.

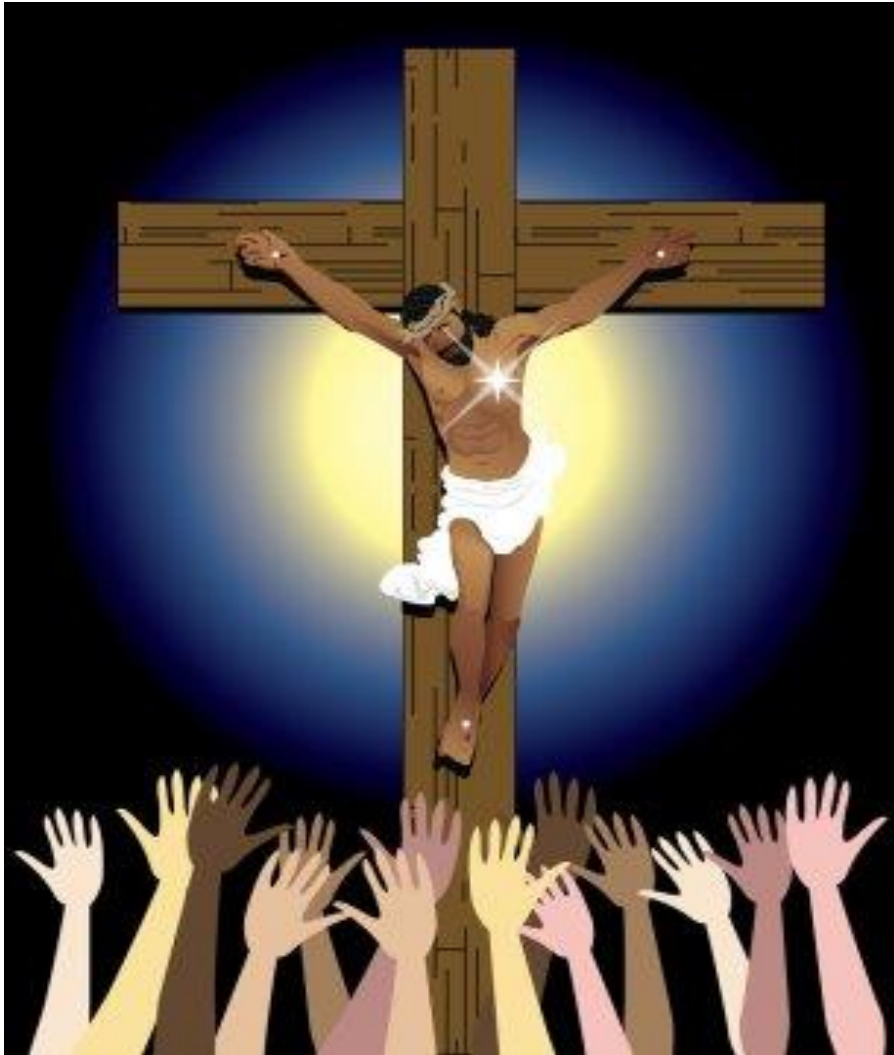
CHURCH STAFF

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor
Debbie Brown, Church Administrator
Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education
Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music
Norma Yaeger, Pianist
Christine Clough, Cleaning Service

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Donna Adams
Kristen Anchor
Steve Burrill
Carol Marshall
Trisha Moore
Eric Olsen
Deb Stolze
Clerk, Norma Yaeger
Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johannsen
Women's Fellowship, Sharon Breit
Sanctuary Arts Group, Patti Roberts
Facilities, Donna Adams
Finance, Paula Hendrickson
Gifts and Endowments, Bill Marshall
Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder
Scholarship, Ursula Charaf
Service Support Team, Joy Turpin





First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385 ~ Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Church Office: 715-802-8501, office@eagleriverucc.org,

Timothy W. Shirley: timwshirley@gmail.com



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

March 24, 2024