

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION



Palm
SUNDAY

*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity,
sexual orientation or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship,
responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Order of Worship

Although this morning's worship is intended for all, some may consider parts of the account of the Passion of the Christ (Mark 14-15), because of its depictions of violence and trauma, to be inappropriate for more sensitive or impressionable listeners. Your discretion is advised.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING WORDS

From the Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

Read by Rev. Merrimon Boyd

BLESSING OF PALMS (Responsive — Leader; People)

O Sovereign Jesus Christ,

We expect you.

Humble and riding on a donkey,

We greet you.

Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,

We cheer you.

Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

We salute you, Christ our Savior.

You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity; you are giving majesty a new face;
you are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing.

With them, with heart and voice, we shout, "Hosanna!"

Congregation repeats, "Hosanna!"

O God, here with us now, bless these palms we wave.

**We pray that as we carry them in Christ's name, so we may ever
acknowledge Christ in the way that leads to eternal life. All praise to
you, O God, in Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulph of Orleans

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

O Promised One of Israel, thou David's greater son,
Who in the Lord's name cometh, the King and Blessed One,
To thee, before thy Passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou did accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King,
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Jane Porchey, *Announcer*

Invitation

**Prayer of Dedication* (Responsive)

O God, let these gifts shout Hosanna.

Let us as givers resist any temptations to self-righteousness or self-protection.

And let us be part of Christ's holy parade.

Amen.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Responsive)

Student Pastor Merrimon Boyd and
Pastor Dave Denoon

From the Writings

Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29

Give thanks to the HOLY ONE

because God is good, because God's faithful love lasts forever.

Let Israel say it:

"God's faithful love lasts forever!"

Let the house of Aaron say it:

"God's faithful love lasts forever!"

Let those who honor the HOLY ONE say it:

"God's faithful love lasts forever!"

Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the HOLY ONE!

This is the gate of the HOLY ONE; those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help. The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!

This has happened because of the HOLY ONE; it is astounding in our sight!

This is the day the HOLY ONE acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

HOLY ONE, please save us! HOLY ONE, please let us succeed!

The one who enters in the name of the HOLY ONE is blessed; we bless all of you from the house of the HOLY ONE.

The HOLY ONE is God! God has shined a light on us!

So lead the festival offering with ropes all the way to the horns of the altar.

You are my God—I will give thanks to you! You are my God—I will lift you up high!

Give thanks to the HOLY ONE

because God is good, because God's faithful love lasts forever.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Covenant of 1977

We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust God's promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“The Passion according to Mark”

Mark 14-15

INTERLUDE

Prelude in e minor

J. S. Bach

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*String Quartet in g minor (Opus 10)
III Andantino doucement expressif*

Claude Debussy

The Amati Quartet

(Ava Andrews, violin; Bradley Smith, violin; Jay Lipsutz, viola; Natalie Van Winkle, cello)

DISMISSAL



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