

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

PRELUDE

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” Joyce Harris
By M. Bridges and G. Thring, music by G. J. Elvey

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP*

LEADER: Come. Come seeking words.

PEOPLE: **Come to let your tongue give praise.**

LEADER: Come. Come to find your voice.

PEOPLE: **Come to hear the response.**

LEADER: Come. Come to open your ears.

PEOPLE: **Come to listen.**

LEADER: Come. Come to be healed by the silence.

PEOPLE: **Come to stand together.**

LEADER: Come. Come to approach what words cannot describe.

PEOPLE: **Come to find God.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION*

Come. Come O Holy One. Come through the streets. Come into the house.

Come to find a space beside us at the table. Come to challenge our answers about

Why tragedy comes, Why poverty increases, Why we are afraid.

Come O Holy One. Speak to us in the silence

With wisdom greater than ours. With love deeper than ours.

With change wider than ours, speak to us in the shared silence.

Come O Holy One. Fill in these stories

with your wisdom, with your love, with your change

so that we might rely on your answers. Here and now. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #216

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

*All glory , laud and honor to you, O Christ , we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayers and anthems we offer you this day.*

*As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory , laud and honor to you, O Christ , we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED #881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate ,
was crucified, died and was buried, he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

HYMN

“Wait for the Lord”
by Jacques Bernthier

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.*

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

HYMN #213

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

*"Hosanna, loud Hosanna", the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

*'Hosanna in the highest!'" That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all your powers:
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice"*

SCRIPTURE

Mark 11: 1-11

Liturgist: Roger Ulman

11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² 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. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

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

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹ 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.

SOLO

“Would I Have Joined the Crowd”
By Linda Svitak

Jeanne Kapciak

SCRIPTURE

Mark 14: 1-9

Roger Ulman

14 It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus[Ⓜ] by stealth and kill him; ² for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.” ³ While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,[Ⓜ] as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴ But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii,[Ⓜ] and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the good news[Ⓜ] is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

SERMON

“The Uncommon Courage of Common Folk”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

PIANO SOLO

“He Never Said a Mumbling Word”

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Hymn #780

“DOXOLOGY”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore.

Prayer of Thanksgiving*

O Holy One,

**Bless these gifts so that the world may know your love
even when we are silent. Amen**

HYMN #224

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Christ of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, '
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far to small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Jesus, Remember Me”
by Jacques Bernthier,
Taize Community, France

Joyce Harris

*Prayers for Palm - Passion Sunday were written by Rev. Elsa A. Cook,
an ordained minister in the UCC

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today’s Service

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| <i>Joyce Harris</i> | <i>Organist</i> |
| <i>Roger Ulman</i> | <i>Liturgist</i> |
| <i>Jeanne Kapciak</i> | <i>Soloist</i> |
| <i>Dr. Oliver Lawrence</i> | <i>Videographer</i> |
| <i>Rev. Merlyn Lawrence</i> | <i>Senior Pastor</i> |