

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025

**** *Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

GATHERING BELL

At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Triumphal Entry, Joel Raney
Incorporating *St. Theodulph* and *Ellacombe*

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Ashby

******PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION**

All

Singing: *We are marching in the light of God!*

Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on life's journey...
you are welcome here!**

OPENING REFLECTION

Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrea Bartlett

Faith is more than beliefs—it is marching with Jesus ...

Faith is marching for what is ethical, merciful, and just.

Faith is learning each week to live as a child of God.

Faith is taking action to help the weak, the poor, and the oppressed.

Faith is compassion in action.

Faith is sharing our joys and concerns as a family on a spiritual journey together.

Faith is working for peace beginning within our own self.

Faith is taking the risk that dares to transform the world in the light of Christ-like compassion.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Andrea

OFFERTORY

On That Day When He Rode Into Jerusalem, Mary Kay Beall

Choir

******DOXOLOGY (tune: Old Hundredth)**

**Praise God who calls all humankind;
Praise Christ for loving ties that bind;
Praise Spirit making all things new;
One Love, One God, we honor you!**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andrea

Holy One, we often run in different directions. Enable us to focus on what is vital, meaningful and hopeful. Inspire us to follow the path of Jesus in seeing the wisdom of God that moves our feet towards mercy, to new realizations of truth, to the gifts that happen when the poor are recognized as children of God. Amen

****HYMN NCH 216, vs. 1 & 3

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

All

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 prayer 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!

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:28-40

Andrea

After Jesus 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."

MESSAGE

"A Completely Different Kind of Winner"

Paul

****HYMN NCH 573

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

All

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day;
through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
that when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;
then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each other for all eternity.

****BENEDICTION

Paul

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
 From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
 Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
 Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
 Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*, arr Marianne Kim

Martha

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
 liturgist
 musicians

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
 Andrea Bartlett
 Karen Caton, Martha Jones, Chancel Choir

Acknowledgements

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A Taste of Africa | Saturday, April 26 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Enjoy authentic African foods prepared by Ken Puhler and friends to raise funds for a solar powered irrigation system for Oltome Village. Tickets are general admission, which means that seats first come, first seated. There will be 12 tables of 8 persons at each table, 96 people in all. Tickets are \$25 each. A limited number of tickets have been set aside for **congregants only** to purchase in advance of the event using check or cash. Please contact Beth Rakestraw in the church office to make arrangements. Or visit www.uccgj.org to purchase tickets online using your charge card. Note that this will include an additional \$3.52 in fees. Online purchases are refundable. Last call for all ticket sales is Noon on April 20 or sell out, whichever happens first.