



First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

April 13, 2025 10:00 AM
Palm Sunday

PRELUDE *O Mensch, Bewein Dein Sünde Gross* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 192 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (Inspired by Psalm 118) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good.

People: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: This is the day that God has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

People: God has given us light.

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good.

All: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

Gracious God, as we enter this Holy Week, we may be tempted to skip parts of the story that begins with Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. There are challenging chapters ahead of us in this week. We may want to turn away from the betrayals and hardships and suffering in the Passion Story, just as we too often turn away from the hardships and suffering of people in our own time. Forgive us when our focus slips. Bring us back to the path you set before us. Renew our strength and increase our faithfulness. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Lift High the Palms!* – Joseph Martin Chancel Choir

Lift a song, all ye people, clap your hands. Make a joyful noise. Praise the Lord with a thousand glad hosannas. Lift high the palms and rejoice. Rejoice and sing to the Lord, hosanna. Glory to God, hosanna in the highest.

LESSON FOR ALL AGES

Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS Response... “Hear Our Prayer”

SILENT MEDITATION

OUR LORD’S PRAYER (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 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 NO. 195 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn No. 46)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Triumphant God, as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna," we offer these gifts in honor of His entry into Jerusalem, where He came not in power, but in humility and peace. May our offerings today reflect the same willingness to serve, as we seek to share the love and hope of Christ with the world. We hope that the church’s ministry flowing from this money echoes the joy and salvation that Jesus brought to all creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19:28b-40 Karen Hawver

SERMON “Things That Start Out So Good (But End So Horribly)” Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 191 *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Prelude in E-Flat Major BWV 552 – J. S. Bach

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:28b-40

²⁸ ...Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. ²⁹ As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. ³⁰ "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that colt?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. ³³ And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?"

³⁴ And the disciples simply replied, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

³⁶ As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. ³⁷ When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

³⁸ "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!"

³⁹ But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

⁴⁰ He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

Psalms 118:26 (New International Version) ²⁶ Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

2 Kings 9:13 (New International Version) ¹³ They quickly took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

Zechariah 9:9 (New International Version) ⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

John 15:13 (New International Version) ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

508 Union Street • Manchester, New Hampshire

FCCManchesterNH.org • 603-625-5093

You are welcome here! • We are an Open & Affirming Congregation