

**First United Church of Christ**  
**An Open and Affirming Just Peace Congregation**  
**Palm and Passion Sunday**  
**April 5, 2020**

**Prelude**

*Allegro in C*  
Marty Hodel, trumpet

Tommaso Albinoni (1671-1750)

**Welcome and Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Passing of the Peace**

*We invite you to share a sign of peace.*

**Lighting of the Candle**

**Gathering Music**



2. It's a world of trouble: better share your trouble with God.
3. Got to feel the spirit: 'cause you know the spirit is God.
4. It's a long, long journey: better walk the journey with God.

**Scripture**

Matthew 21:1-11  
Grace, Greg, James, Janet and Maggie Muth

**Opening Hymn**

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

#213  
Ellacombe

**"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 our powers.**

**Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice!  
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!**

**Sung Call to Confession**

#544  
Camacua

**If I have been the source of pain, O God;  
If to the weak I have refused my strength;  
If, in rebellion, I have strayed away;  
Forgive me, God.**

**Prayer of Confession**

*The congregation is invited to speak the words **in bold**.*

One: Holy Jesus, you traveled all of the roads of human experience, riding humbly on a donkey, restoring the sick to health, reorienting lives to what is most important. We seek to follow you.

**All: Forgive us when we know what's right, but the road is too hard and too costly.**

**When we cheer for you on your lonely path, while we take the easy way.**

**When we call for change and justice, but are unwilling to change ourselves.**

**When we pledge our devotion in one moment, and turn our backs the next.**

One: In this moment of silence, we meet you at our crossroads.

**Silent Confession**

**Words of Assurance**

based on Romans 8:31-38; Matthew 19:26

There is nothing on earth or beyond death  
that can separate us from the love of God.

**All shall be reconciled with God,  
for nothing is impossible with God.**

**Sung Response**

**Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer,  
And free me from temptation's subtle snare,  
With tender patience, lead me to your care. Amen, Amen.**

**A Time with Children**

**God's word is for all God's children;  
Come gather, come gather.  
You're never too old for stories;  
Come listen, come listen.**

**The Prayers**

*Kyrie eleison is Greek for "Lord, have mercy."*

**All sing: Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie eleison.**

## Pastoral Prayer

All sing: Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie eleison.

## Prayer of Jesus

*You are invited to unmute yourselves and speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:*

**Our God, 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.**

**Sharing Our Gifts and Music** (Today we join with communities around the world in contributing to One Great Hour of Sharing)

## Offertory

*Moderato in C Sharp Minor*

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

## Prayer of Thanks

**Dear God, through the gifts of our lives and our hearts, we express our longing to follow wherever you go. Thank you for leading us along the way. Amen.**

## Hymn

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

#222

Rhosymedre

**My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My God should take frail flesh and die?**

**Sometimes they threw down palms and sweetest praises sang.  
Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
For blood and death they thirst and cry.**

**I sing my plain belief, one song my heart out pours:  
Never was pain nor grief, never was love like yours.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.**

**The Reading of the Passion Narrative** Matthew 26:14–27:66

## Hymn of Sending

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

#224

Hamburg

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.

Forbid it, then, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*The services of Holy Week are traditionally seen as one continuous service. A benediction will be offered only after we have heard the Good News of resurrection on Easter Day.*

Postlude

*Fugue in C Minor*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**We are so glad you joined us for worship today!**  
**If you would like to stay on Zoom to briefly check in, please remain in the meeting.**

## News to Note

### One Great Hour of Sharing Today

This Sunday is the One Great Hour of Sharing special collection. Many of you already give electronically to these special offerings, but we do also, historically, collect many checks. We would encourage online giving via our [website](#), or feel free to mail a check to the church. All money collected will be passed along to the MN Conference UCC.

### ISAIAH is Moving Forward!

First UCC members have been in online meetings this week with ISAIAH organizers and leaders from across the state. The meetings have been both grounding and visionary, recognizing the political, economic, and public health crises we are in, but also the possibilities for real change as we are forced to recognize our interconnectedness in profoundly new ways. As the ISAIAH website says, "Regardless of race, religion, or income, our fates are tied together. We will have to show radical, public love in order to survive this together. We will create a new social contract – one of a robust multi-racial democracy and a caring economy where every family and person can thrive." ISAIAH is working to address this immediate crisis, as well as lay the groundwork for longer term change. We recently enlisted help in asking state leaders to fund daycare workers required to keep working even as their normal sources of funding dried up. We will be sending information in the weeks ahead about ways to be engaged. If you would like to be part of local and regional meetings and aren't already on the ISAIAH email lists, please contact Carolyn c.fureslocum@gmail.com, Leota leotagoodney@hotmail.com, or Matt rohn@stolaf.edu.

If you would like to be part of statewide virtual meetings, please go to the ISAI AH website at <https://isaiahmn.org>. For Faith in Minnesota trainings, such as the Race and Class Narrative Training, the link to register is <https://faithinmn.org/rcntrainings/>

### **Giving to the Church**

As a temporary measure to help prevent the spread of the virus, we are worshiping online and connecting in small groups virtually. We still need your gifts! You may give electronically by visiting our website and clicking the "[Donate Online Now!](#)" button, under the Giving tab. You may also visit our website and complete the [electronic giving authorization form](#) and mail it to Finance Manager Andrea Pegram at church: First UCC, 300 Union Street, Northfield, MN 55057. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministries!

### **CAC Food Shelf Challenge**

In this uncertain time, the Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf can use any financial help you can offer. Member Scott Richardson proposes a First UCC Food Shelf Challenge. He writes: "The Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf needs help. The pandemic has increased the number of local families who are challenged with food insecurity. The food shelf needs resources to keep its shelves stocked. I am suggesting that members of the congregation, as they are able, take the money they would have spent in coffee houses or restaurants this past week and donate it to the CAC for food security. Northfield Rotary is doing that with money it is not spending on its noon lunches. This is one way we can make a difference while most of us are home." You may contribute directly to the CAC, or if you would like to contribute through the church, you may mail a check to the church, with "CAC Food Shelf" on the memo line. Together, we can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors.

### **Meals on Wheels Seeking Volunteers**

Even though we have finished our latest volunteering event with Meals on Wheels (MOW), drivers are still needed to deliver meals in our community. If you are able to volunteer, even for a shift, please contact the community liaison, Jean Callister-Benson, at [jcallisterbenson@gmail.com](mailto:jcallisterbenson@gmail.com). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Thanks so much for being willing to consider this volunteering opportunity. ~Annie Kramer

### **Emergency Food Volunteers Needed**

Emergency food assistance volunteers are needed in Rice County, particularly in areas surrounding Northfield. In particular, emergency food assistance locations in Lonsdale and Faribault could use help. Please contact Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Coordinator Josh Ramaker to sign up at Rice County Public Health, 320 3 rd St NW; Suite 1, Faribault MN, 55021 or by phone at 507-332-5911. If you or someone you know in Rice County needs emergency food resources, you may find help [here](#).

### **Care Ministry Team**

A note from the UCC Care Ministry Team: WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! Please know that the Care Ministry Team wants to know if you have any needs that can be met by us or members of our congregation. We serve as the extra eyes and ears of the church, so please speak with any member of our Care Team if you or someone you know is in need of extra support--anything from meals, to crisis help or weekly

check-ins. We can connect you with congregational support. You can also continue to check in with the pastors. Our team is: Barb Altstaetter 507-645-9786, Barbara Crouter, Amanda Pettis Eastvold, Linda Larson 612-709-6795, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Bill Poehlmann 507-645-5422, Katharine Powers, Claire Rafferty, Kathy Sandberg, Jan Shoger 507-645-5236, Kellee Tussing, Gina Washburn, and Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930.