



First United Church of Christ, Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Creation Justice,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation

Palm / Passion Sunday
March 24, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude

Intrada on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Al Fedak (1953-)

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Mark 11:1-10

One: When they were approaching Jerusalem, he sent two of his disciples and said to them,

Two: "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. If anyone says to you,

Many: 'Why are you doing this?'

Two: just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "

One: They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them,

Many: "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

One: They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

**Many: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

Opening Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#216 (St. Theodulph)

V1: 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.

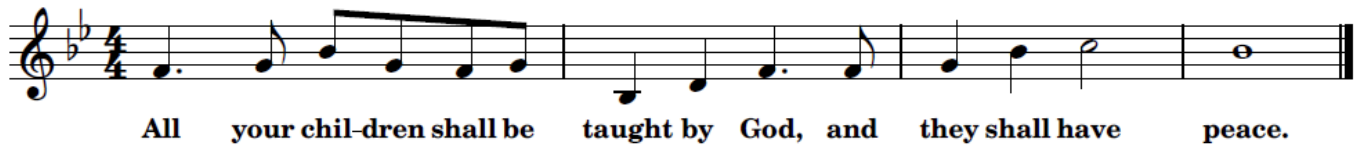
V2: O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

V3: 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!

Time with Children



Anthem

Hosanna
Spirit Voices

Patrick Roache
arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton

Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Scripture

Mark 14:3-9

Marie Gery

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Anthem

I Choose Love
Spirit Voices

Mark Miller (2016)

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose love.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose love.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,

I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

—Lindy Thompson

The Prayers

All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Prayer Response

Out of the Depths

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God;

All: God, hear my voice.

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings.

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing Our Gifts

The hearts in the plate are for the Children's Offering, given to support the Community Action Center Food Shelf.

Offertory

O Sacred Head Now Wounded Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Prayer of Thanks

Scripture

Mark 14:1-2, 10-20

Randy Hachfeld

Hymn of Sending

Lo, I Am with You to the End of the World

see page 8

Benediction

Postlude

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Johannes Brahms

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Please join us for a coffee hour in the Assembly Room after worship!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Music: Spirit Voices

Ushers: Scott Richardson, Carol Rutz, Mary Savina, Judy Bond, Pamela Thompson

Digital Host: Ben Reister

Readers: Marie Gery, Randy Hachfeld

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This Week at First UCC

Sunday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Connect Group

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Tuesday, March 26

6:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting

Wednesday, March 27

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. Tenebrae Worship

7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship (in-person only)

9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m. Worship (live-streamed)

Holy Week Schedule

Everyone is invited to a Service of Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday. The Tenebrae service is a service of shadows, where candles are extinguished as the scriptures are read. This ritual will be interspersed with communion, hymns, and choral music. Join us at 6:30 on Thursday.

On Easter Sunday morning we will have two services, at 8:30 and 10:30, with coffee hour in-between. Only the 10:30 service will be livestreamed.

Please note: There will be no OWL, WFFF or Connect Groups this Wednesday in observance of Holy Week and Spring Break. Faith Formation and Youth Group is also canceled on Sunday, March 31st in observance of Easter and Spring Break. Faith formation for children and adults will start again the following week, Wednesday April 3 and Sunday, April 7th. The office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 1. Regular office hours will resume on April 2. If you have any questions please contact Kate in the church office at church@firstucc.org or at 507-645-7532.

Remembering Liz Hankins

A memorial for Liz Hankins will be held at First UCC on June 29, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to send a card to the family, please see the addresses of Liz and Jerry's children below:

- ❖ *Sue Hankins*: 1143 Summit View Drive, Louisville, CO 80027
- ❖ *Sarah Hankins*: 1641 Cumberland Street, Apt #34, St. Paul, MN 55117

Pints for Pride Fundraiser

Northfield Pride is hosting "Pints for Pride," their annual fundraiser, on April 6 from 5-8pm at The Grand Event Center. Everyone is welcome!

Health & Wellness Space at First UCC

We are considering setting aside one of our classrooms to be a space reserved for health and wellness appointments such as Reiki, massage, counseling, spiritual direction, or nutritional counseling. This opportunity will be open to church members who would like to offer occasional services in our space for an extremely reasonable price. It would be perfect for someone who offers only a few appointments per week, who rents other space that is not handicapped accessible, who needs only occasional hours locally, or who is trying a business or downsizing. Your services need not be limited to church members. We have many details to work out--scheduling, limits per practitioner, etc. But if you would be interested in discussing this opportunity, please email Pastor Cindy.

Open and Affirming Justice Team Opportunity

Sunday, March 31st has been named as International Trans Day of Visibility. This day celebrates the joy and resilience of trans and non-binary people everywhere by elevating voices and experiences from these communities. A number of celebrations are being held around the state.

OutFront MN highlights the following issues moving through the Minnesota Legislature:

- Helping to advance HF4273 which prohibits bans on rainbow flags, banners and other displays in public spaces.
- Multiple partners are testifying in support of bodily autonomy, equal rights, and expanding access to reproductive and gender-affirming care through SF2209 (Bill HF2607 in the House).

Weighing in with your senator and representative on these issues is a good way to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community and to the people right here in Northfield and at First UCC.

Creation Justice Eco-Info

Notice how much water your household uses - can you reduce it? Most American households use 4 times as much water as the world average.

A Note from ISAIAH

Hope and faith are actions. You can act on both next Monday, March 25 by joining the advocacy for children day at the capitol from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Register by following the link in the Chronicle. You can contact your legislators in support of legislation being considered this week on healthcare, housing, climate, and childcare. See the Chronicle for links.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live-streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we're glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Anne Meyer Ruppel

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Catherine Rodland

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Derek Melby

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Lo, I Am With You

The Iona Community

