

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
March 28, 2021  
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ  
*Bold print means congregational participation.*

Welcome to the worship of God at the  
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ.  
We are glad you are here today!

*An asterisk (\*) indicates to please stand, if you are able.*

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

“The Holy City”

H. Gaul

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come. Come seeking words.

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

Come. Come to find your voice.

**Come to hear the response.**

Come. Come to open your ears.

**Come to listen.**

Come. Come to be healed by the silence.

**Come to stand together.**

Come. Come to approach what words cannot describe.

**Come to find God.**

**\*HYMN— NO. 265**

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
You are the King of Israel, and David’s royal Son,  
Now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and blessed One!

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
The people of the Hebrews with psalm before you went,  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present:

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,  
For you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

**INVOCATION**

One: 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

**Reader: Why tragedy comes  
Why poverty increases  
Why we are afraid.**

Come O Holy One.  
Speak to us in the silence

**Reader: With wisdom greater than ours  
With love deeper than ours  
With change wider than ours.**

*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.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess together...

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(inspired by Psalm 31:9-16)*

O Holy One, we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the parade.  
We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you sit beside us at the table.  
We are too busy sighing. We are too busy talking.  
We have insisted upon our own answers.  
We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things happen,  
about why the rich get richer, about why the world feels so broken.  
We have assured ourselves that this is the way that things must be,  
but this life is in your hands. Our lives are in your hands.  
O Holy One, speak to us. Fill our silences.  
Comfort us with your love  
so that we may find your understanding.  
Trust us to find your answers  
when we finally tire from our own.  
Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast love. **Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God opens your ears.  
God speaks when you are silent.  
God approaches you in the parade and at table  
in your denial and your praise to be your help.  
Now and always. **Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOREX**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. **Amen, Amen.**

## ENGAGING THE WORD

### THE PALM PARADE

Mark 11:1-11

Stephanie Ouellette

They were looking for answers. So, they went to Jerusalem. They gathered in the streets to make a way for peace. On the other side of the city, there was another procession. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, rode into Jerusalem with an army of horses, armored soldiers and waving banners.

On the other side of the city, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus had sent two of his disciples to go into the village and find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. He instructed them, "If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" 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, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They replied with the answer Jesus had given. "The Lord needs it," they said.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and Jesus 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 needed answers, those who had come looking for peace, began shouting, "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!"

*Come. Join in the parade, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.*

### THE ANOINTING

Mark 14:1-9

Dana Dahl

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; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people." They were looking for their own answers. They thought they knew how the world worked. While they worried, Jesus sat at the table in the house of Simon the leper. 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.

But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. She did not reply. She continued with her task. She did what she could; she anointed his body beforehand for its burial. Jesus spoke, where she did not. "Truly I tell you," he said. "Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

*Come. Kneel beside her.*

*Do not speak but remember what your hands have done to proclaim the good news.*

*Silence*

### THE LAST SUPPER

Mark 14:10-25

Lori Dick

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

They didn't understand his way. They didn't understand all that he taught but when it came time to share in the Passover feast, they turned to Jesus. On the first day of Un-

leavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, those looking for answers, those who came looking for peace, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man, the Human One, goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Human One is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

*Come. Find your place at this table,  
you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.*

## **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE**

Come. Come and find your place at this table.  
Come without answers.  
Come without knowing peace.  
Come without preparation.  
Come. Come to find a place here.  
This is the table Christ prepares for us.  
This is the feast God imagines -  
where peace can be found in a simple meal.

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

**One:** God be with you.  
**All:** And also with you.

**Lift up your hearts.**  
**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks for the peace of God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

In the streets, In our homes,  
Here beside this table,  
We give you thanks,  
O Holy One.

We give you thanks for giving us a story.  
Even when we do not understand its meaning,  
Even when we doubt it happened this way,  
Even when we want to rush ahead to the end,  
We know that you have given us this story  
in which to live and move and have our being.

We remember that your story did not begin with this parade,  
but began when you came to move over the waters of creation.  
We remember the tragedies that came to your people.  
And we know that you were not silent.  
You gave your people a story.  
You gave your people a rainbow.  
You gave your people a song.  
You gave your people peace.

Gather here with us now, O Holy One,  
Speak to us through this bread and this cup.  
Remind us of all the stories we've ever heard about you.  
Imbue these symbols with your peace  
So that we might find your peace within ourselves.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR**

O Holy One, there are no words to describe the mystery of this bread and cup.  
There are no sighs too deep to reveal what we feel in sharing in this feast.  
Thank you for gathering us together to remember that you are always present  
among us. We lift our hearts in prayer, toward your spirit and pray  
the Prayer that Jesus taught us:

### **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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **THE STORY CONTINUES**

### **THE GARDE**

Mark 14:32-40

Peter Ouellette

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you

may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. They had no answers.

*Come. Rest in the garden,  
you who are weary, you who don't have any answers.*

## THE BETRAYAL

Mark 14:43-50

Kathleen Dube

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, he scribes, and the elders. He was confident in his own answer. He thought he knew how this must end. So, he had told the chief priests, the scribes and the elders, "Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." When he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. They had come looking for answers. They had come looking for peace. This wasn't the way. They didn't understand. And so, they deserted him and fled.

*Come. Run into your fears,  
you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.  
Silence*

## THE ARREST

Mark 14:53-65

Ingrid Howard

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. They did not have one answer. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

The chief priests, the elders and the scribes knew their answer. They thought they knew the ways of God. They thought they knew all that God could do. There was nothing that could convince them otherwise. They spit on him and blindfolded him. They beat him for the words he said.

*Come. Listen to what God might be saying.  
Listen to what God might be doing that doesn't fit with  
everything that you have been taught about this world.  
Listen for God to speak.  
Silence*

## THE DENIAL

Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." He answered, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

*Come. Join those who wander through courtyards,  
court rooms, streets and gardens.  
Join the crowds who have come  
looking for answers,  
looking for peace.*

ANTHEM

"Hosanna Gathering"

P. Chopin

SERMON

"Integrity, Loyalty,?"

\*HYMN—NO. 267

"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 we sing,  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

VOCAL RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

When you have no words,  
When you cannot find your voice,  
God approaches. Let us reach out to our God.  
Let us give our gifts.

\*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Ride On Ride On"

T. Williams

**\*DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

O Holy One,  
Bless these gifts  
So that the world may know your love  
Even when we are silent. Amen.

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**BENEDICTION**

**One:** Go into the world to find your voice.

**All:** **Listening to what God will do.**

Go into the world to find each other.  
**Reaching out when we need support.**

Go into the world be amazed.  
**Knowing that God is always with us.**

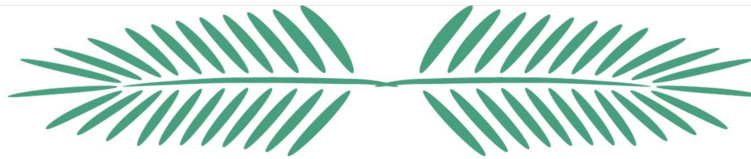
**\*POSTLUDE**

“Glad Hosannas”

C. Norman

*Please stay muted during the Postlude and join our  
Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the service*





## Announcements/Meetings via Zoom

- Search Committee Meeting, March 31, 7:00 PM
- Maundy Thursday Service, April 1, 7:00 PM
- Good Friday, April 2
- Easter Sunday, April 4
- If you shop Amazon, did you know that the Second Congregational Church has an *AmazonSmile* account which generates funds for the Church? The next time you're looking to make a purchase with Amazon, consider moving to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-6047064> the cost to you is exactly the same, Only purchases made at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), not Amazon.com or its mobile app, gener-



### PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)

Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music

Dana Dahl, Lori Dick, Kathleen Dube, Ingrid Howard

Stephanie and Peter Ouellette, Liturgists

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

### VOCALISTS

Darcy Bartsch, Dana Dahl, Deb & Mike Degan,

Paul Martin, Loretta Smith, & Marilyn Warner

**Gloria Patri and Doxology**

Chris Blumm and Dana Dahl

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