



*Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022

Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ

**Welcome to the worship of God at the
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,
United Church of Christ.**

We are glad you are here today!

***Bold print means congregational participation.
An asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, if you are able.***

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud Hosanna!

Many: **Blessed is the one who comes.**

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud Hosanna!

Many: **May the rivers of justice run.**

One: Children singing, families dancing,

Many: **The elders give a shout!**

One: Peace in heaven, glory in the highest!

Many: **Even the stones cry out!**

One: Hosanna, hosanna, loud hosanna!

Many: **May our refrain never cease.**

One: Not by power nor by might,

Many: **But the way that makes for peace.**

INVOCATION

Hosanna to the Holy One.

Hosanna! Shouts of praise!

Come, we cry. Lord Jesus, come!

We gather in Your Name.

***HYMN**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

NO. 267

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Before the gospel passage for this special day, I invite you to close your eyes and engage your God-inspired imagination. As I read the following set of questions, try to bring to mind an image of your favorite personal hero. It can even be a group of heroes if you wish. They can be superheroes, or they can be ordinary heroes.

Think to yourself:
Why is this person my hero?
What makes them special?

Imagine them coming down the road and inviting you to join along behind them. Now ask yourself:
Where are we going?
Why are we going there?
Is it a place of meaning and purpose?

Maybe this hero of yours has done some extraordinary things, working for good and standing up in the face evil.
Would it be risky of you to follow along?
Is it a risk you are willing to take?

Watch as your hero begins to draw in others to join with you. The world is watching, and your journey has now become a parade.
What kind of people have joined with you?
What is it about this group that connects you all?
Is it your hero?
Is it the cause?
Is it the attention?

Maybe some have joined just to be a part of the “in-crowd.” Maybe not you though. Maybe you want to make the biggest impact and tell the world about this hero of yours, or at least the cause your hero represents.
What is their message?
What signs do you hold up?
What message do you expect to convey to the onlookers?
How do you feel?
What is going through your mind?

Perhaps you feel like a celebrity, being on display as part of this celebration. Perhaps you feel confused, having to face the truth that others might not think of your hero or your cause the way you do. Perhaps you feel afraid, because you know that your hero is unwelcome in the community you are parading through. Ask yourself again:
Where is this hero taking you? Is it a place of meaning and purpose? If so, what is its meaning and its purpose?

Open your eyes, what was your imaginary parade like?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Consummate Creator, Lover of Life, Giver of all that is Good, We have forsaken our calling and abandoned your love. We have paid lip service to life while serving the powers of death. Violence parades through the streets of our world. It normalizes oppression and disavows truth, Without regard for human life. We see it in our schools, our sanctuaries, our soil. We find it on the borders of our nations and our neighborhoods. In our politics. In our pockets. In our religion. In our relationships, Violence has invaded the habits of our hearts. The time for transformation has come upon us And found us unprepared. Creation groans, the stones shout out. The Church has remained silent.

Forgive us we pray.

Revive our communities. Restore our hosannas.

Rekindle our flame for justice. That again we may join with Creation and proclaim, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: Hear and receive the good news.

God has not abandoned us to the violence of this world. The power of life that brought creation into being is with us. The Prince of Peace has come, with grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Many: Hosanna! Glory be to God. 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

ANTHEM

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:28-44

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

SERMON

"Create A Clear Path"

***HYMN**

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

NO. 265

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Hosanna to the God who loves us,
Who heals us.
Who calls us to give ourselves
For the sake of the world,
When we were afraid, God, you became our fortress.
When we were lost, God, you were our way.
When we were alone, God, you were there beside us.
In you, we live. In you, we move.
In you, we are made whole,
You have showered us with blessing.
We offer our gratitude.
Hosanna in the highest!
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God.

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

***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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May these gifts be used to bring healing, wholeness, and
joy to the world God so dearly loves. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN** “With the Body That Was Broken” **NO. 691**

CALL TO THE TABLE

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.

BREAKING AND POURING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks for sharing with us this simple meal. May we come to better understand what you must have been feeling when you shared it for the first time. Let us never forget the sacrifices that you made for us, for we do this in remembrance of you, Amen.

***HYMN** “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!” **NO. 268**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***BENEDICTION**

Now, may the grace of God go with us. May God's face shine upon us. May we carry God's peace into the world, offering the wholeness and healing we have received. May our lives be our Hosannas. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Praising God's glory the flowers are given by Ingrid Howard in loving memory of her husband, Greg Howard.

Announcements

If you need or want a visit by the pastor
please contact the church office 603-654-9045
and leave a message or call the pastor directly at 603-620-0235
(Messages are usually returned by the next business day)

On The Calendar

Search Committee Meeting, April 6, 7:00 PM via zoom
Missions/assemble Easter Baskets, April 10, Following Worship
Maundy Thursday Service, April 14, 7:00 PM (in-person only)

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Kathleen Dube, Liturgist
, Assisting with Communion
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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