



*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*

*Palm & Passion Sunday
April 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

The service starts outside on the front pathway. Sound is available both inside and out during this time. Bring your bulletin and your palm. All prayers to be lifted must be written and submitted in the offering.

Welcome! We invite you to turn off cell phones, unplug and prepare for worship. Childcare is available in the throughout the service. To access those rooms and restrooms please go through the front left doors of the sanctuary and through the Jonathan Edwards Room.

The Sunday before Easter is known by two different names: Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. The former remembers the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. The latter tells the story from the last supper to the death of Jesus on the cross. We bring them together to honor the full sweep of events. Both joyful and tragic we hope this approach enables us to see the whole story and realize the depth of Christ's love. We pray that it is a blessing to you as you prepare to face both the cross and resurrection in the days to come.

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP Adapted from Thom Shuman

Liza Catino

One: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

Many: **We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;
we will travel through betrayal and death,
cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

continued

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

Many: **We join him in the Upper Room, we go with him to the Garden
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Many: **We open our eyes to see. We open our hearts to feel.
We witness that we might be transformed.**

One: Together, hand in hand, we bring the fullness of our lives...

Many: **To the fullness of God's love!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Brent

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19:28-40

Rich Geiler

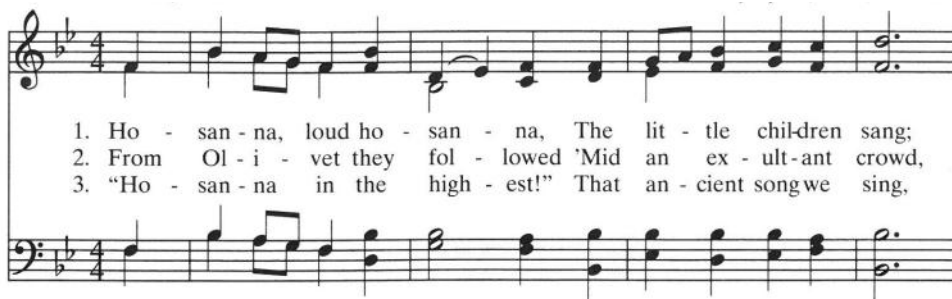
After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden.

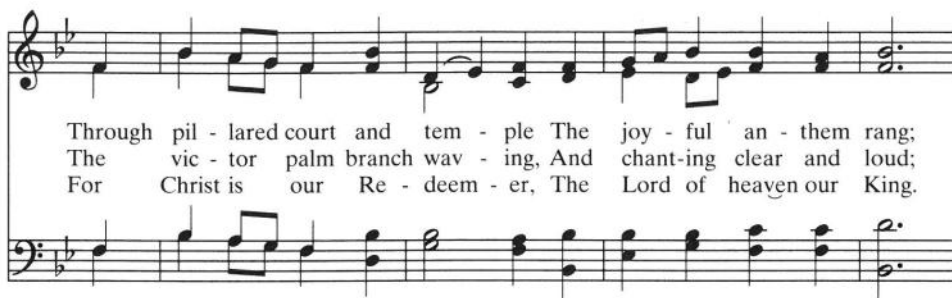
Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it." ' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'


Please enter the church and process to your seats while the Bell Choir plays. When at your seat, remain standing to sing *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* when Tracy begins to play the organ.



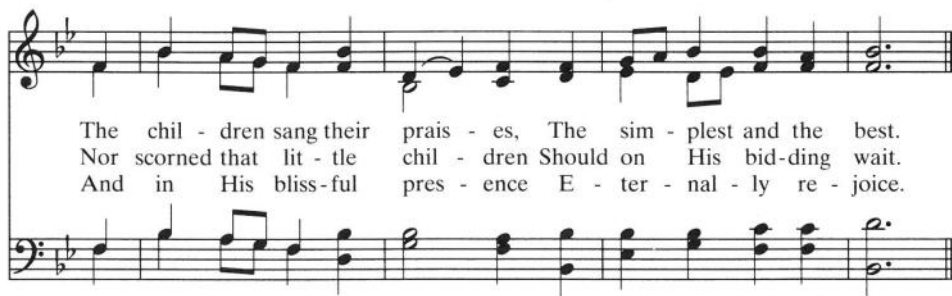
1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'Mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The joy - ful an - them rang;
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, And chant - ing clear and loud;
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav - en our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice,



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Brent Damrow

TIME WITH CHILDREN Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

INVITATION TO GIVE

Pastor Brent

OFFERTORY

All Glory Laud and Honor, arr. Kinyon

Bell Choir

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

STORY

Luke 22:14-20, Gathering in the Upper Room

Liza Catino

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Brent

BLESSING THE FEAST

We will be using the practice of intinction. You may come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you cannot come forward we will bring the meal to you.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *Here, O Our Lord, We See You Face to Face*

Rich Geiler, solo

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sung Lord's Prayer, Mark Miller see p. 6

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We invite you to support our neighbors in need. This month we are supporting the People's Pantry. Baskets are available at the doors for contributions.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Luke 22:21-34, Betrayal and Bickering

Rich Geiler

*HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane verses 1-3

Pew hymnal #97

STORY

Luke 22:39-44, Praying in the Garden

Liza Catino

UNISON PRAYER

Loving Savior, we are your disciples. We yearn to be near you, alive with your presence and in the shelter of your outstretched arms. Teach us how to pray earnestly and deeply. Help us find the courage to fully honor the difficult and painful parts of our lives. Give us the strength not to hide from the challenges ahead but rather to lay them before you. Hear us now as we bring the fullness of who we are before you in the silence of our prayers...

(Time for silent prayers)

Loving Savior, we are your disciples. We ask for your strength and conviction to serve our brothers and sisters even when it requires pain or sacrifice. Walk with us and guide us that we might, even now, take up our cross. Speak to us as we silence our lips and minds to hear your call, that we might also say not my will but yours be done. *(Time for silence and listening)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM	<i>What a Savior, Bliss/Childs</i>	Rich Geiler, solo
STORY	Luke 22:45-62, Arrest and Denial	Liza Catino
SOLO	<i>When Jesus Wept</i> , arr. Wagner	Bell Choir
STORY	Luke 22:63-23:25, Trial	
	Readers:	
	David Anderegg	Hal Brink
	Cindy Brown	Cathy Clark
	Sarah Conly	Holland Eaton
	Helen McCormick	Jeremy Ridenour
REFLECTION	<i>Flock Mentality</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>Ah, Holy Jesus</i> vss. 1-2	Pew hymnal #93
STORY	Luke 23:26-49, Crucifixion	
HYMN <i>(remain seated)</i>	<i>Were You There?</i> vss. 1-3	See page 7
CONFESSION		
*WORDS OF ASSURANCE		
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Brent
CHORAL RESPONSE		Rich Geiler
POSTLUDE	<i>The Passion Chorale</i> , arr. Krug	Bell Choir

Sung Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

mp
Our God, in hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, your
reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea-ven.

slower
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for-giv-en.

mf
In the time of tri-al lead us in-to light, for yours is the kin-dom, and the
po-wer, and the glo-ry, for-e-ver. Our God, in
f *mp*
hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

Verses
1-3

229

Were You There?

John 19:16-18; 20:11-17

African-American spiritual

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 3 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 4 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

O some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

While many spirituals begin solemnly but end on a high pitch of praise, this is one of the true "sorrow songs" that W. E. B. DuBois spoke about in his book *The Souls of Black Folk*.

Tune: WERE YOU THERE Irr.
 African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons David Anderegg, Gary Cilley, Sarah Conly, and Helen McCormick; readers Hal Brink, Cindy Brown, Liza Catino, Cathy Clark, Holland Eaton, Rich Geiler, and Jeremy Ridenour; ushers Joanne Conroy and Don Rodgers; fellowship Donna Jacobs; storytellers Vicky Cooper and Kirsten Fredsall. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher & Rae Geddes are in the nursery.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae service	7:00pm	Church sanctuary
Good Friday – Worship service	12:15pm	Church sanctuary
Good Friday – Stations of the Cross	6:30pm	Eden Hill
Easter – Sunrise service	6:00am	JE Room
Easter – Festival worship	10:00am	Church sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt	11:15am	Front lawn

Welcome! We are Open and Affirming, which means that we invite persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstance, faith background and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership and fellowship of this congregation's life in Christ.

As followers of Christ and committed to Isaiah's charge to "maintain justice and do what is right," we acknowledge with gratitude and humility that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshiping on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

The Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor

Tracy Wilson, Minister of Music pro tem

Will Garrison, Administrator | Marion Pomeroy, Financial Secretary

(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

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