



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LENT THEME: TO BE MORE

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

Prelude

The Palms

Fauré

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Greeting and Passing of the Peace**

“The Peace of God be with you.”

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 118

Kerrie Kleppin Winn, liturgist

Give thanks to God, for God is Good all the time.

All the time, God is Good.

God's love endures forever and ever.

God sees us where we are and welcomes us home.

In our homes and in the streets, on our screens and in our hearts,

God is with us and God is our salvation.

This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Processional Hymn** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" *Black Hymnal, No. 213*
ELLACOMBE

***Invocation**

God of unfailing Love, we come before you on this day with thankful hearts because your love knows no bounds. No boundaries, limits, or obstacles can separate us from that love and from one another. And yet we begin our own journey into Holy Week within our own homes. Separate from our friends and our families, separate from one another. Gather our hearts and our spirits together this week, one journey and one people.

***Gloria**

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Contemporary Lesson

The Poet Thinks of the Donkey

Mary Oliver

Word in Song

All in the April Evening

Roberton

Claire Bouma, soloist

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible, Pages 21-22

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hosannas at Home

Rev. Katie Miller

***Hymn**

I Am the Light of the World

Black Hymnal, No. 584

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

O God, you know us well. We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to live it fully. We shout "hosanna" as Jesus approaches, as did the people of Jerusalem many years ago; but sometimes we do not want him to come too close -- not close enough to really see. We are quick to claim Christ but slow to live fully and everywhere as faithful disciples. We are quick to want the blessings of faithfulness; but slow to accept the difficulties of the journey.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

God brings light to those in darkness, and love and hope to all. Rejoice today that the steadfast love of the God endures forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

The King's Majesty

Stevens

***Hymn of Dedication**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Offertory Prayer**

We cast these gifts before you, O God, as palms were cast before Jesus long ago. We lay them before you in praise, thanksgiving, and joy. Receive them from us, that they may become a greater blessing in your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

In the beginning, God danced through the universe, bringing light to the darkness, form to the void, and separating the water into earth and sky. God blessed the world with love and joy. But, despite all of God's attempts to save humanity from themselves, peace and harmony seemed out of reach for God's people. Never giving up, God became human. Born into humble beginnings, God, through Jesus, experienced the fullness of earthly life-- the glory of a sunset, the relief of laughter, the deep sorrow of loss, and the frustration of being misunderstood. Jesus told stories of compassion, forgiveness, and justice. Jesus loved his enemies, ate with sinners, and healed minds, bodies, and souls. By his example, we now live, in communion with one another. Today we join with all people on earth and all the company of heaven to praise God's holy name:

Holy, holy, holy... (See the Sanctus inside back cover of Black Hymnal.)

Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table *Gluten-free bread is served.*

The Bread and the Cup Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts *Black Hymnal, No. 329*
HESPERUS

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Recessional Hymn** Lift High the Cross *Black Hymnal, No. 198*
CRUCIFER

***Benediction**

Benediction Response *Bouma*

Postlude St. Theodulph *arr. Willan*

*You are invited to remain for the playing of the postlude.
Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.*

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

213

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15

1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F *Unison Introduction* *Refrain* *Bb* *C* *F*

"I am the light of the world!"

Bb *C* *F* *Gm* *Dm* *C*

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F *Gm7* *C* *Bb* *F* *Bb* *F* *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F *Bb/D* *C* *F*

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to
 3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

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584 cont.

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the
heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
make mu - sic in an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C Return to $\frac{3}{8}$

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
sing to the col - ors of the earth!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

1. power and might. 2. might.

Heav - en and earth are full,
Bless - ed is he who comes

full in the of name of your the glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est.

HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

8.30-98 329

Attrib. to Bernard of Clairvaux, c. 1150
 Transl. Ray Palmer, 1858; alt.

John 6:52-58; Heb. 13:8

1 Je - sus, the joy of lov - ing hearts, fount of our lives, and
 2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with all to
 3 We taste of you, the liv - ing bread, and long to feast up -
 4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher-e'er our chang - ing
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our mo - ments

light of all: From ev - ery bliss that earth im - parts
 call on you; To those still seek - ing, you are good;
 on you still; We drink of you, the foun - tain - head;
 lot is cast; Glad, when your smile on us you turn,
 calm and bright! Oh, chase the cloud of sin a - way!

we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 to those who find you, life is new.
 our thirst - y souls from you we fill.
 blessed, when by faith we hold you fast.
 Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Bernard, founder of the monastery at Clairvaux, was respected by popes and royalty alike. From the forty-two-verse Latin poem, American Congregational minister Ray Palmer freely translated selected verses to create this version.

Tune: HESPERUS L.M.
 (QUEBEC)
 Henry W. Baker, 1854

Lift High the Cross

George William Kitchin (1827-1912)
Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.

John 1:29-34; Rom. 5:6-11; 6:3-8; Rev. 7:9-17; 22:1-5

Refrain, in unison

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim; Let

all a - dore and praise that sa - cred name.

Last time, end

Stanzas, in harmony

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, the
2 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3 O Christ, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
4 Set up your throne, that earth's de - spair may cease, be -
5 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.
on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

to Refrain

Announcements
Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

Prayers: *Sharon Heater*, whose mother died last week; Becky Aschinger, who continues in hospice care.

Joys: celebrating the baptism of *Luci Quenaud* last week!

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by friends and family of First Central.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Jenny Pfeifer, David Fortina, John Martinez, Susan Robinson, Emily Epperson, Mike Kratville, Kelly Beaman, Merle McAlevy, and Jake Sharpe.*

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month are *Steve & Susan Dolezal; Scott Jones & Michael Cich-Jones; Julie McKillip; Luther & Barb MacNaughton.*

FirstKids: 1 p.m. on Zoom. Kids through sixth grade.

Activities for the Coming Week, April 6 – April 11

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54.

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.
Stewardship *and* Capital Campaign Committees: 7 p.m. on Zoom
- Tuesday:** Eves, 7 p.m. on Zoom
- Wednesday:** Bible study, 3 p.m. on Zoom
FirstYouth, 8 p.m. on Zoom
- Thursday:** Maundy Thursday meditation available on YouTube and FaceBook.
- Friday:** Good Friday meditation available on YouTube and FaceBook.

Easter Sunday, April 10

Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m. on FaceBook Live – on the First Central PUBLIC page.

Easter Celebration: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube

FIRSTKids: 1 p.m. on Zoom. Kids through sixth grade.

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