

First Congregational United Church of Christ

April 10, 2022



Photo by Enno Limvere

Palm Sunday/Sixth Sunday in Lent

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere Musician: Francie Beaster

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Linda Noble

Liturgist: Bruce Tyler

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Matthew 5:3-16)

People who make mistakes: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

People who doubt: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

People who struggle: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God

People who try: You are the salt of earth. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to our Creator in heaven.

Words of Lament

All: Merciful God, the world is filled with voices that are filled with anger, hate, derision, lies, and fear. The world is filled with the cries for love, healing, truth, and peace that often go unheard. Our world seems wants security through power, not community through collaboration. Open our ears, O LORD, and help us discern your message in all we hear. Help us find silence and renewal in the midst of all the noise. Lead us to seek the harmonies of shalom in the discord of our lives. Amen.

Words of Blessing (Based upon Psalm 118)

One: Praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol God, all you peoples! For great is the steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Many: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the children of God shall enter through it.

All: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my redemption. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

One: The is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Many: Blessed is the one who comes in the name the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

All: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

Peace Poem and Introduction

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

If stones could talk...

by Rev. Enno K. Limvere

*I wonder if a stone being skipped on the water says, "Wheeeee..."?
I wonder if a stone placed in a foundation or wall complains about their
neighbors?*

*I wonder if a stone in a fire ring, in a sauna, or sweat lodge enjoys the
heat, and says, "Ahhh..."?*

*I wonder if a stone along the shore or in a stream that has lost its rough
edges greets each day with, "Good morning! Isn't it a beautiful day?"
I wonder if a stone buried deep in the earth cries out for, "Freedom!!!!"?*

*I wonder what the stones would have said if the crowds were silent when
Jesus rode into Jerusalem?*

*I wonder what they could tell us about that day some 2,000 years later? If
stones could talk, would we take the time to listen, to try to understand?*

Passing of Peace

1st Scripture Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ 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. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ 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, ³⁸ saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

Presentation of Bibles to Youth: Let’s Tell a Story.....

Message: Stones would cry out

Musical Reflections

Communion

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, 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

Our Time of Giving

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Sending Music

Benediction