



# First Congregational United Church of Christ March 24, 2024



"Palm Sunday" painting by Peter Koenig

## Palm Sunday

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Karina Roth** Choir Director: **Ann Russ**

Peace Candle Lighter: Liturgist: **Steve Aldrich**

Greeter: **Barbara Chiles** Usher: **Nancy Starr**

Coffee-Hour Host: **Mary Somnist + Ben**

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## Gathering Music

## Words of Welcome

## Reading the Story of Jesus entering Jerusalem

**Opening Hymn** #216 All Glory, Laud, and Honor ([click here](#))

### Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 22)

One: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? What are you so far away, so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

Many: **I cry all day, my God, but you never answer; I call all night long, and sleep deserts me. But you, Holy One – you sit enthroned on the praises of Israel. Our ancestors put their trust in you; they trusted and you rescued them.**

One: They cried to you and were saved; they trusted you and were never disappointed. Yet here I am, more worm than human, the scorn of humility, an object of ridicule: all who see me mock me; they shake their heads and sneer.

Many: **“You trust in God? Ha! Let God save you now! If God is your friend, let God save you!” Yet you drew me out of the womb; you nestled me in my mother’s bosom; you cradled me in your lap from my birth; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. Don’t stand aside now that trouble is near – I have no one to help me!”**

## Musical Interlude

## Comfort and Assurance

All: **In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live. Amen. Hallelujah. Amen.**

## Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

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 peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

ANOINTED by Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Nard is an oil that heals and calms,  
it’s often used as a healing balm.  
Alabaster, is a soft stone,  
carved to carry oil alone.

A woman brought to him this gift,  
the men protested, arguing thrift.  
She poured this oil on his sacred head,  
for soon his body, will be wounded.

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Her name we know not, the story remains,  
told this day, she challenges the shame.  
She breaks down barriers, to reach out in love,  
she anoints the one, who tells us we're enough.

## Passing of the Peace

**Hymn** # 213 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna ([click here](#))

## Scripture Readings

**Scripture Mark** 14:3-9 (Common English Bible)

3 Jesus was at Bethany visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease. During dinner, a woman came in with a vase made of alabaster and containing very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke open the vase and poured the perfume on his head. 4 Some grew angry. They said to each other, "Why waste the perfume? 5 This perfume could have been sold for almost a year's pay and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

6 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. 7 You always have the poor with you; and whenever you want, you can do something good for them. But you won't always have me. 8 She has done what she could. She has anointed my body ahead of time for burial. 9 I tell you the truth that, wherever in the whole world the good news is announced, what she's done will also be told in memory of her."

**Children's Message** Special Gifts

**Choir** Lydia's Song

**Message** What She has done

## Musical Reflections

## Anointing

One: The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, child of God and Liberator. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share this proclamation. It looks to the word of God in the scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in humbleness of heart before God.

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The United Church of Christ recognizes that God call the whole church and every person to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the gospel in church and society. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, call forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.

Many: **All Present God, you have called us to follow you, now enable us to keep on the way, that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, all who come forward to be anointed. Pour your Holy Spirit on us and your church through which we serve. Grant us the spirit of love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church, and bringing home the lost. Guard us against the snares of temptation that may be pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil. May we breathe, live, and move with you and the Holy Spirit, walking with Christ, today and throughout our lives. Amen.**

One: All who wish to come forward to renew or begin their covenant through our church are now invited:

“Bless and sanctify by your Holy Spirit your servant,  
Enable them to nourish your world, strengthen their gifts,  
and hold fast to the love that binds all together.

Bind us together in the relationship of Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Amen.”

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

**Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

#### **Our Time of Giving**

#### **Doxology NCH #785**

**We give you but your own,  
What-e’er the gift may be,  
All that we have is yours a-lone,  
We give it grateful-ly.**

**Closing Hymn #206 A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost ([click here](#))**

#### **Benediction**

#### **Sending Music**

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## Opening Hymn # 216 **All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

1. All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;  
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

2. O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,  
the one called "God's beloved," of fresh and yet divine,  
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

3. As you received their praises, receive prayers today,  
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.  
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

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tune: ST> THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.  
(Valet WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)  
Melchior Teschner, 1615  
For another setting, see 217  
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## Closing Hymn #213 **Hosanna, Loud Hosana**

1. “Hosana , loud hosana,” 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.

2. From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.  
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,  
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey’s gait.

3. “Hosana in the highest !” That ancient is ours.  
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:  
“Hosana , Christ , we praise you with heart and life and voice .  
Hosana ! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!”

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*Tune: ELLACOBÉ C.M.D.*  
Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirttembergischen  
katholischen HOKAPELLE, 1784  
One-License No. A-738474



## Closing Hymn #206 A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost

1. A woman came who did not count the cost of doing what she could,  
She broke an alabaster flask, and the sweetness spilled on Jesus head.

Refrain:

O God, you are the Anointing One who does not count your passion's cost,  
And when we gather you will spill the sweetness of your grace on us.

2. Some only saw what she had spent - "Why such a waste with poor to feed?  
They serve the poor well with their tongues! But she had done a lovely deed.

3. You give as she, surprisingly, you give with beauty as she gave,  
You give as she, not holding back, you make us Christ-like with your love.

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Tune: WEXFORC CAROL L.M.D.  
Irish folk melody  
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