

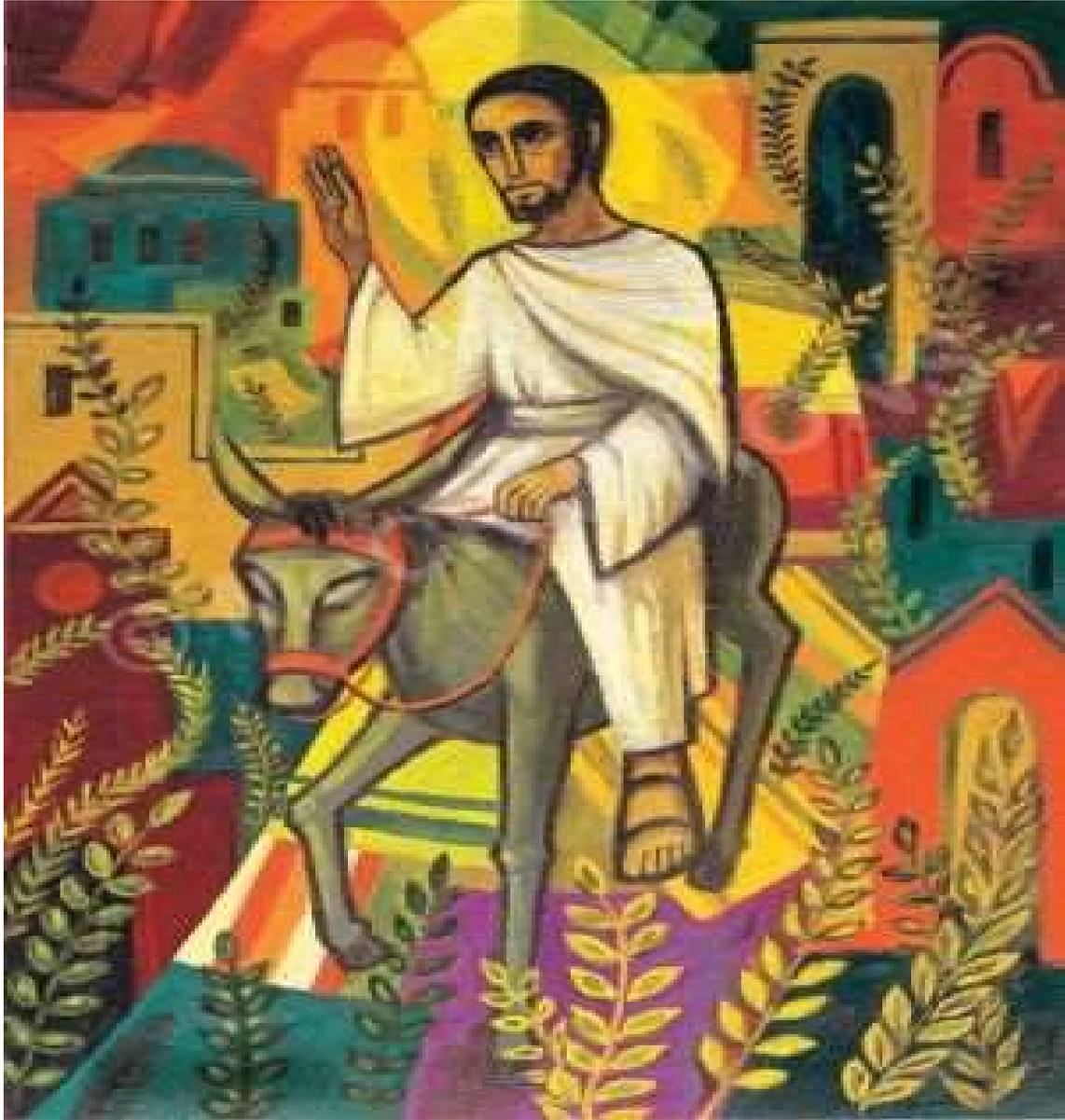
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

**29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!**

***Blessing of the Palms:**

**Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.**

**Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.**

**Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.**

**We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.**

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. 5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

- 1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."
- 2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"
- 3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

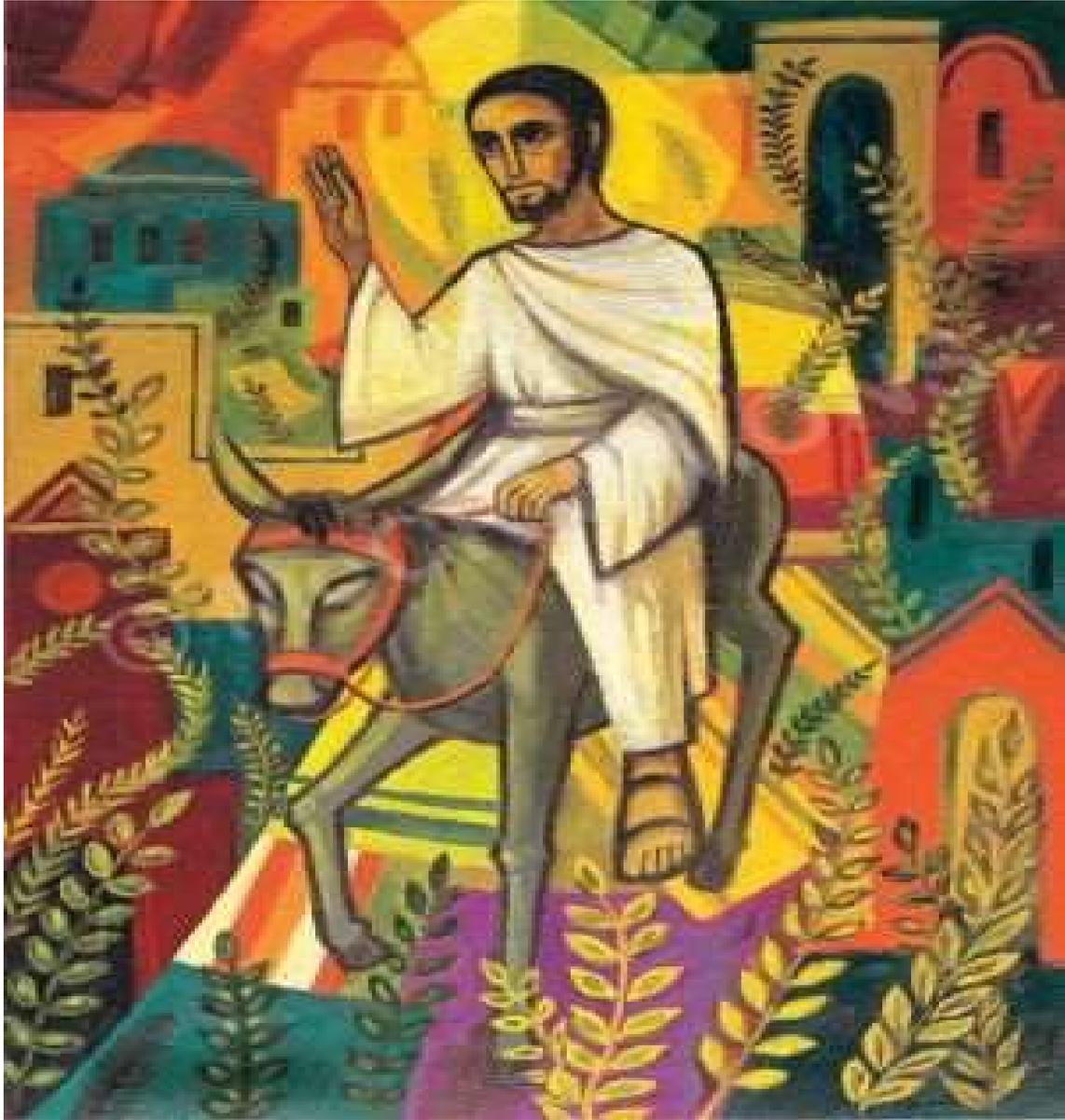
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“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
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Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

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L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

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2 Let Israel say it:

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let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
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***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
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May they remind us
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May they remind us
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May they make us bold and brave
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May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
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Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
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- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
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Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

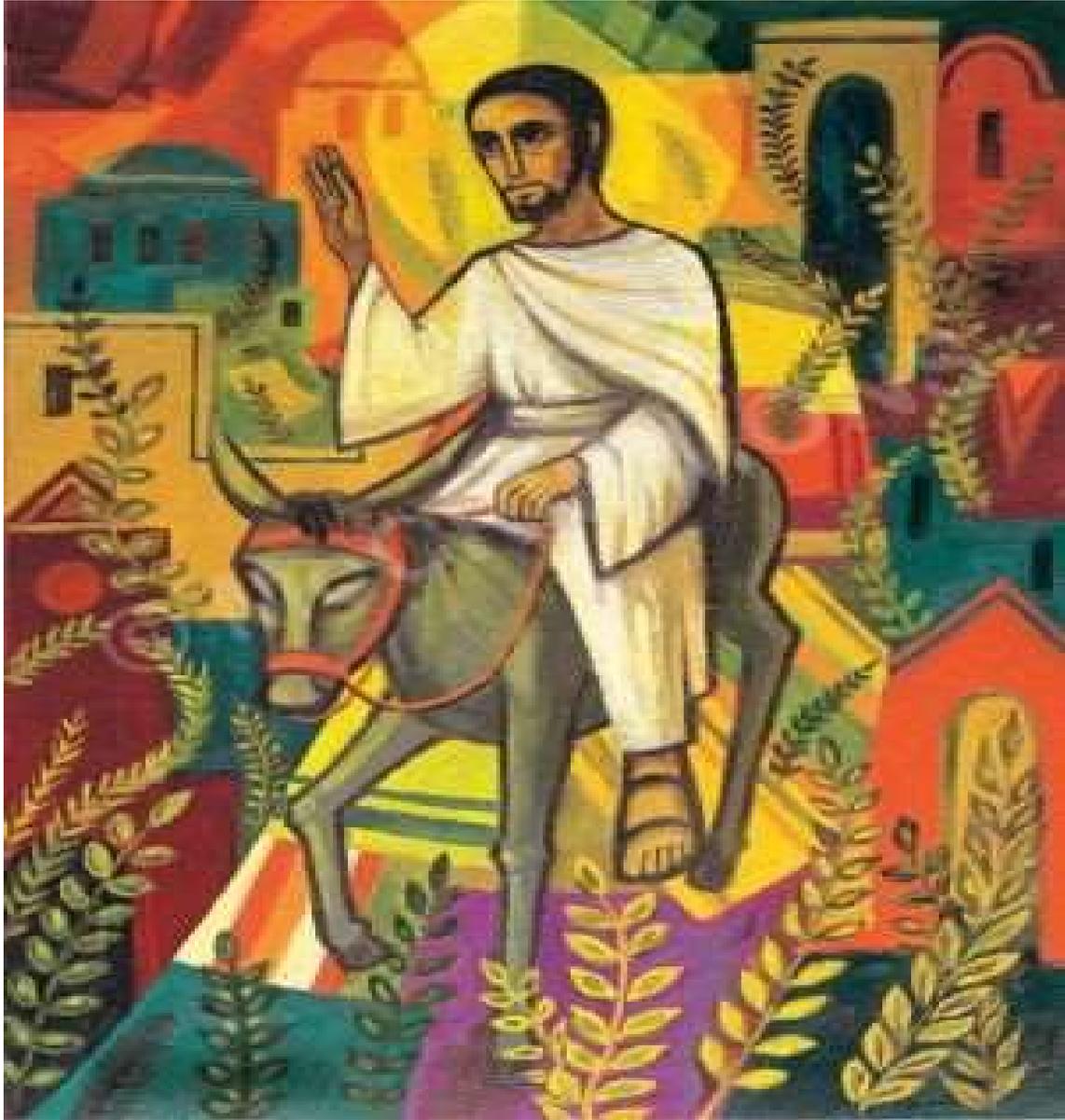
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

“Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!” Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

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Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

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Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
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NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
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based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
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- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

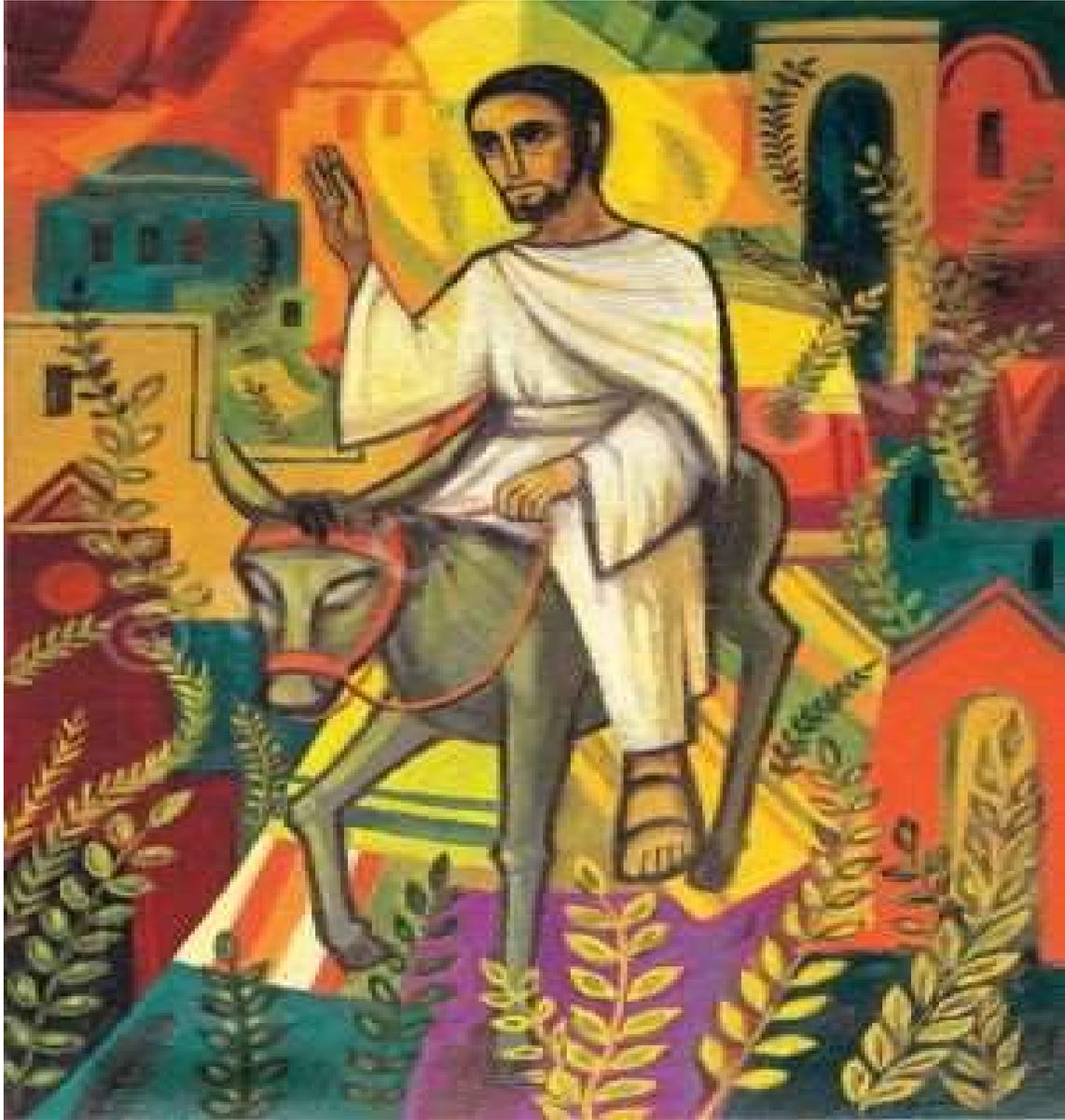
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
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Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. 5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
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- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
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 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
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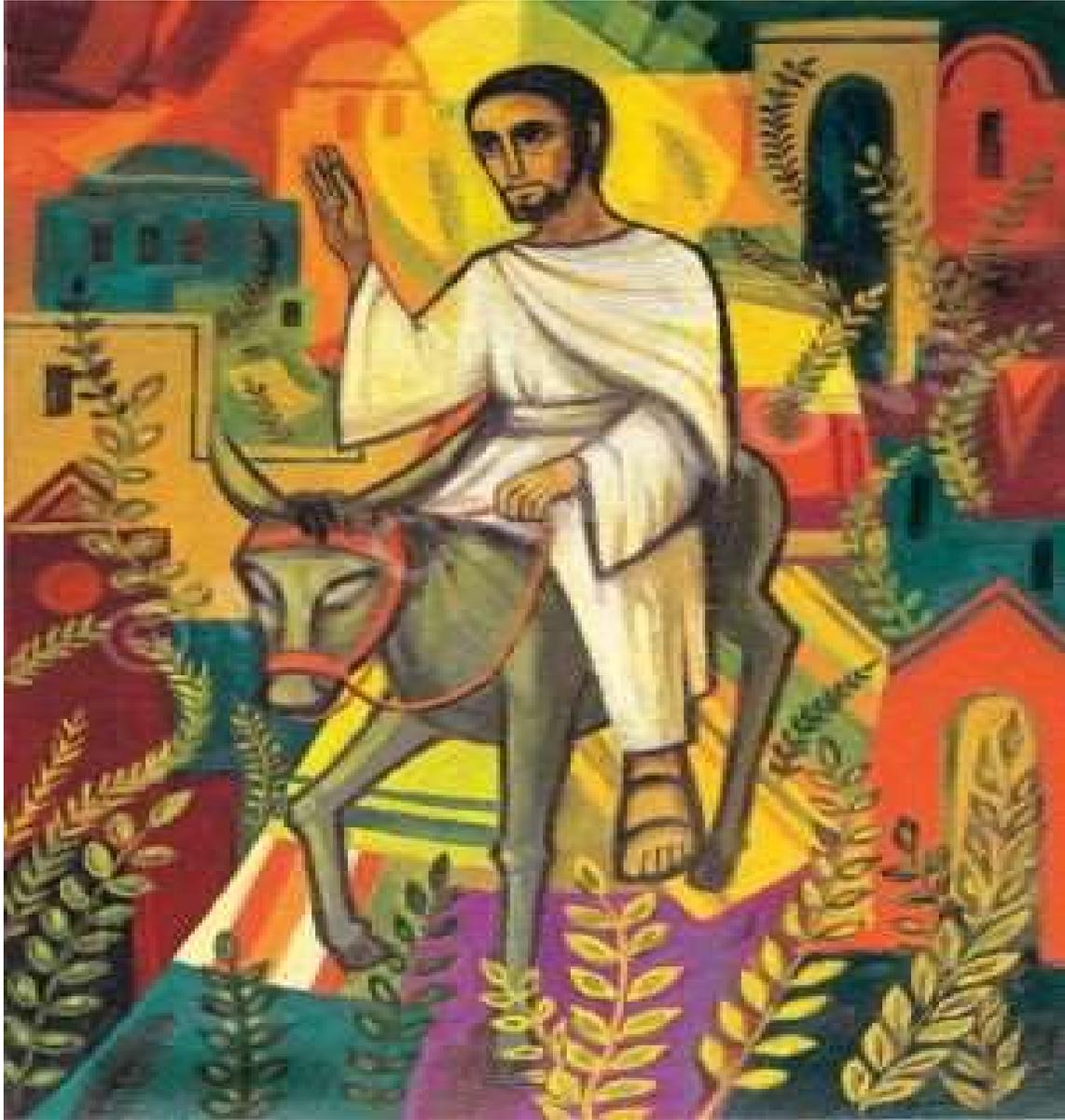
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Responsively)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the “king of the Jews,” not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - “All Beautiful the March of Days”)

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
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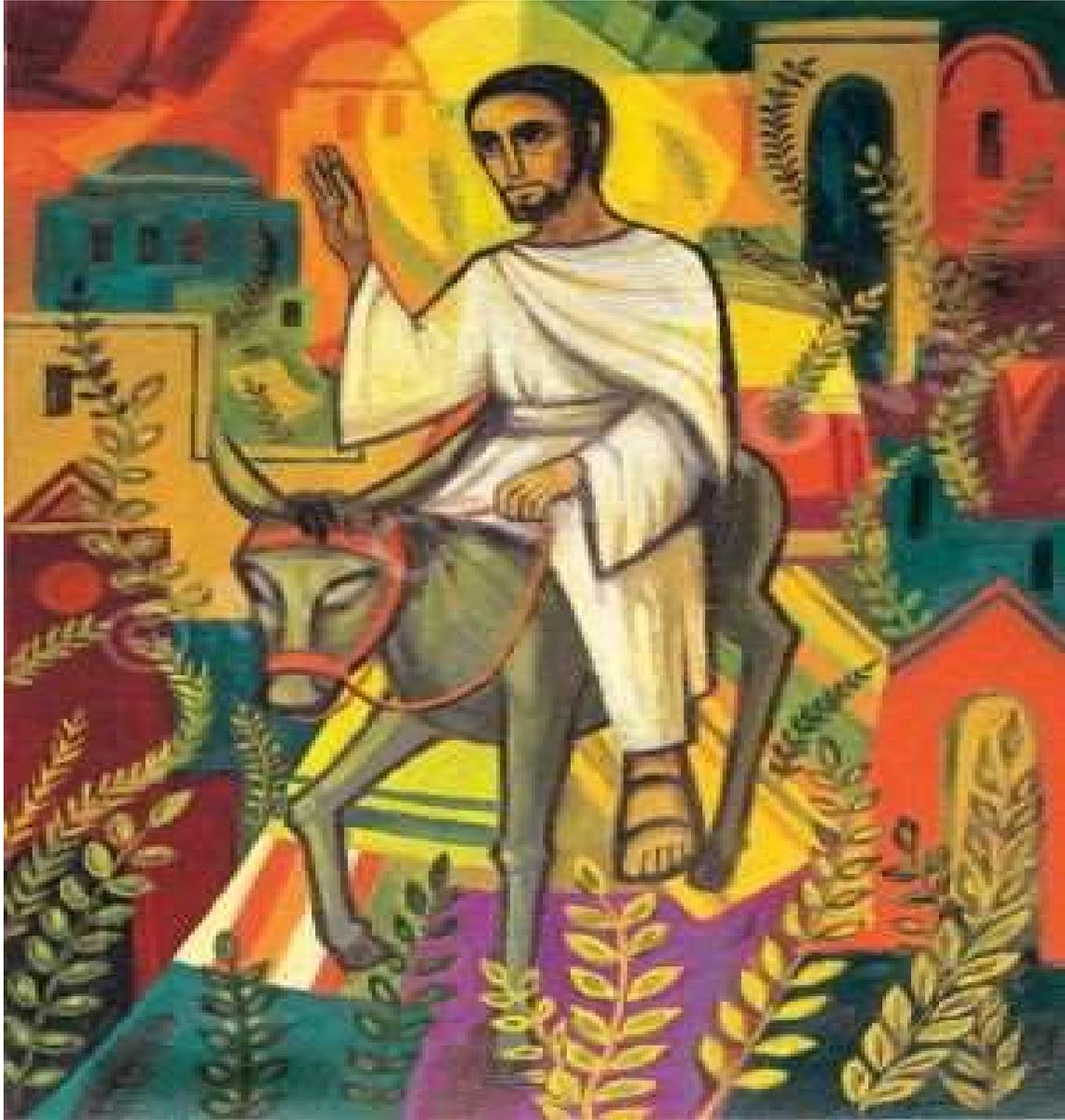
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March 24th, 2024

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March 24th, 2024
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“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

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Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

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A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

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2 Let Israel say it:

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19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
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May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
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that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
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the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

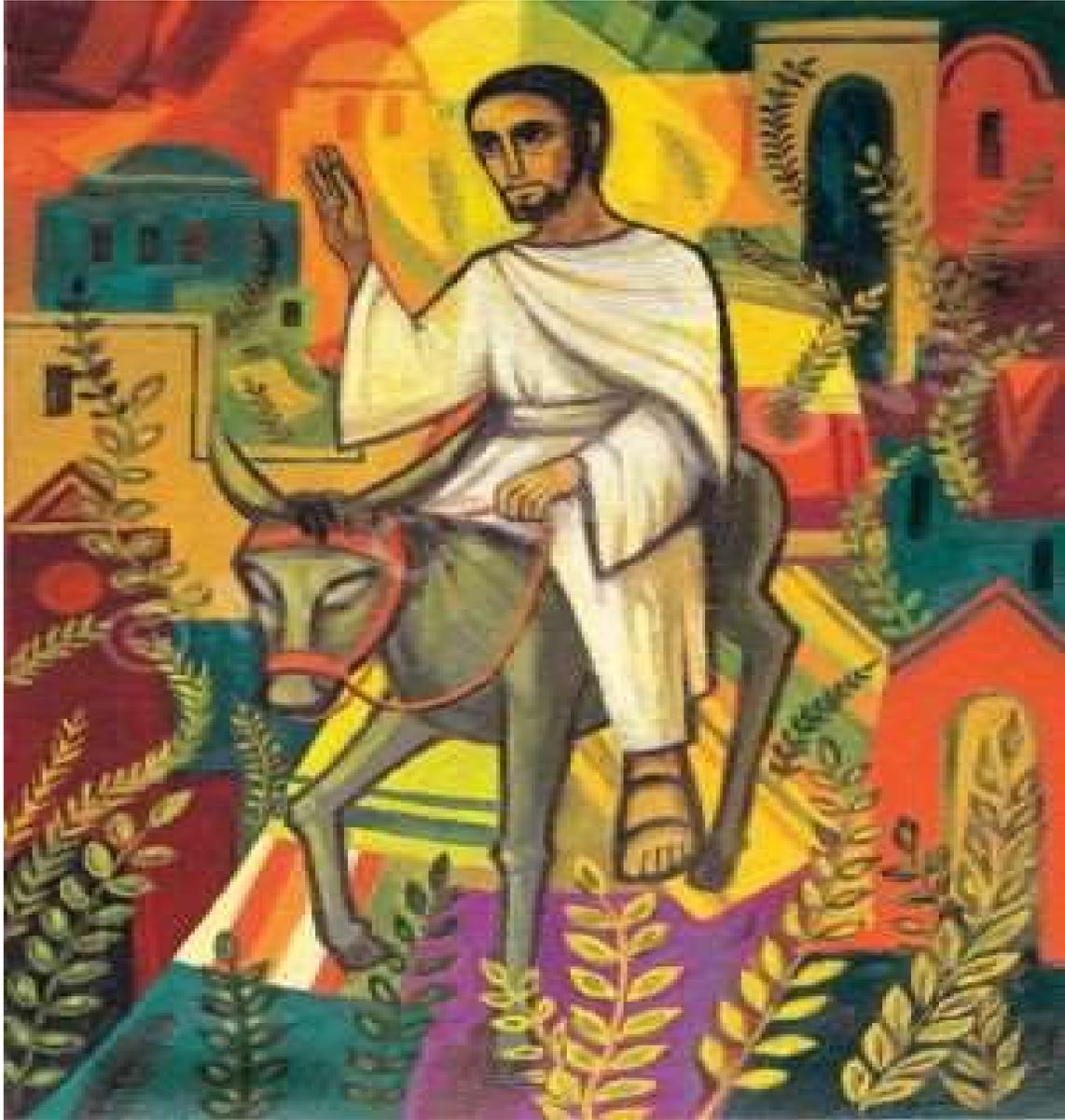
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

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“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

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“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

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* Prayer of Response

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God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

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Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
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NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
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- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
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based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
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Please Remember in Prayer

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- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
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- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

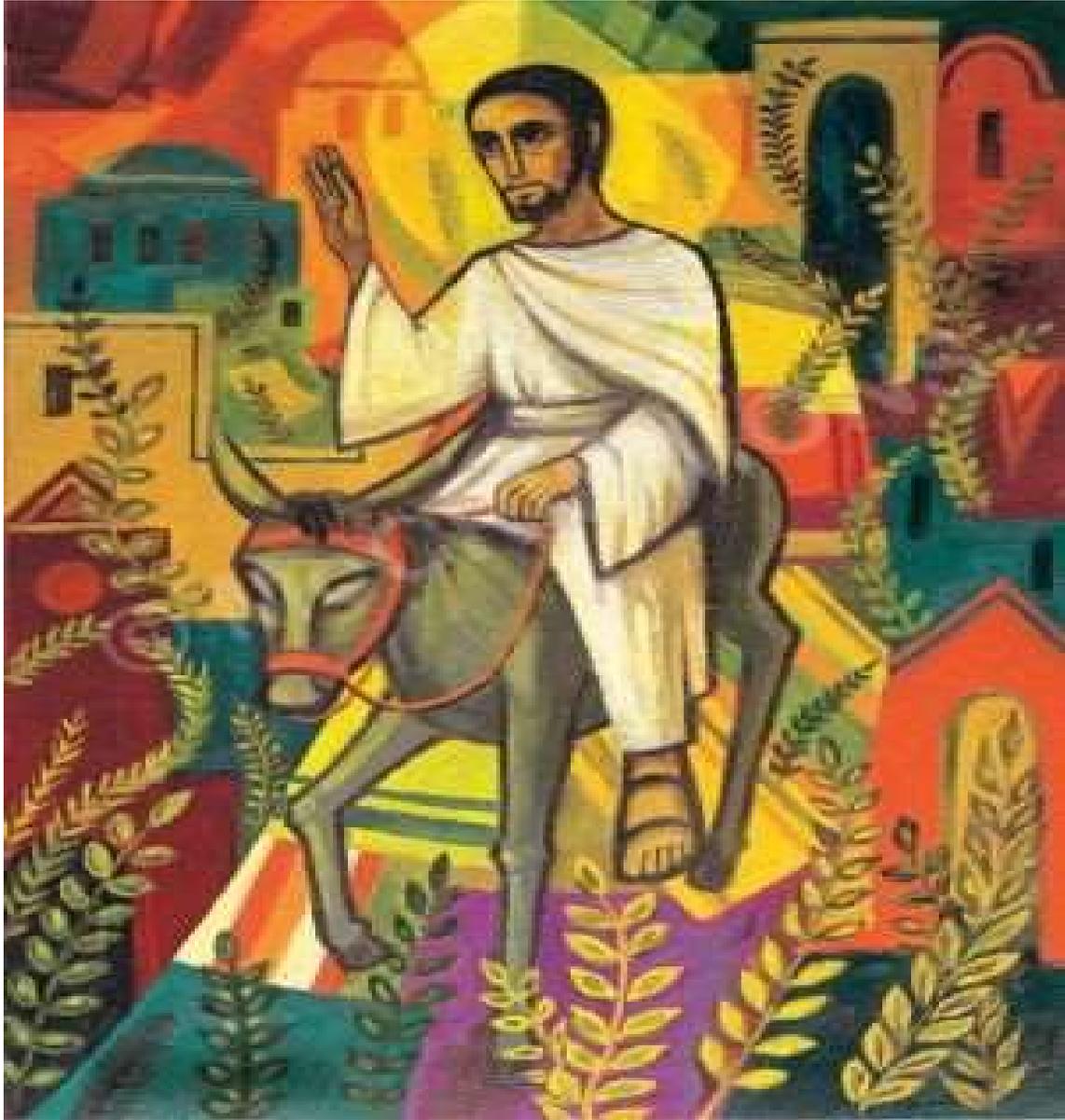
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

**29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!**

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

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- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
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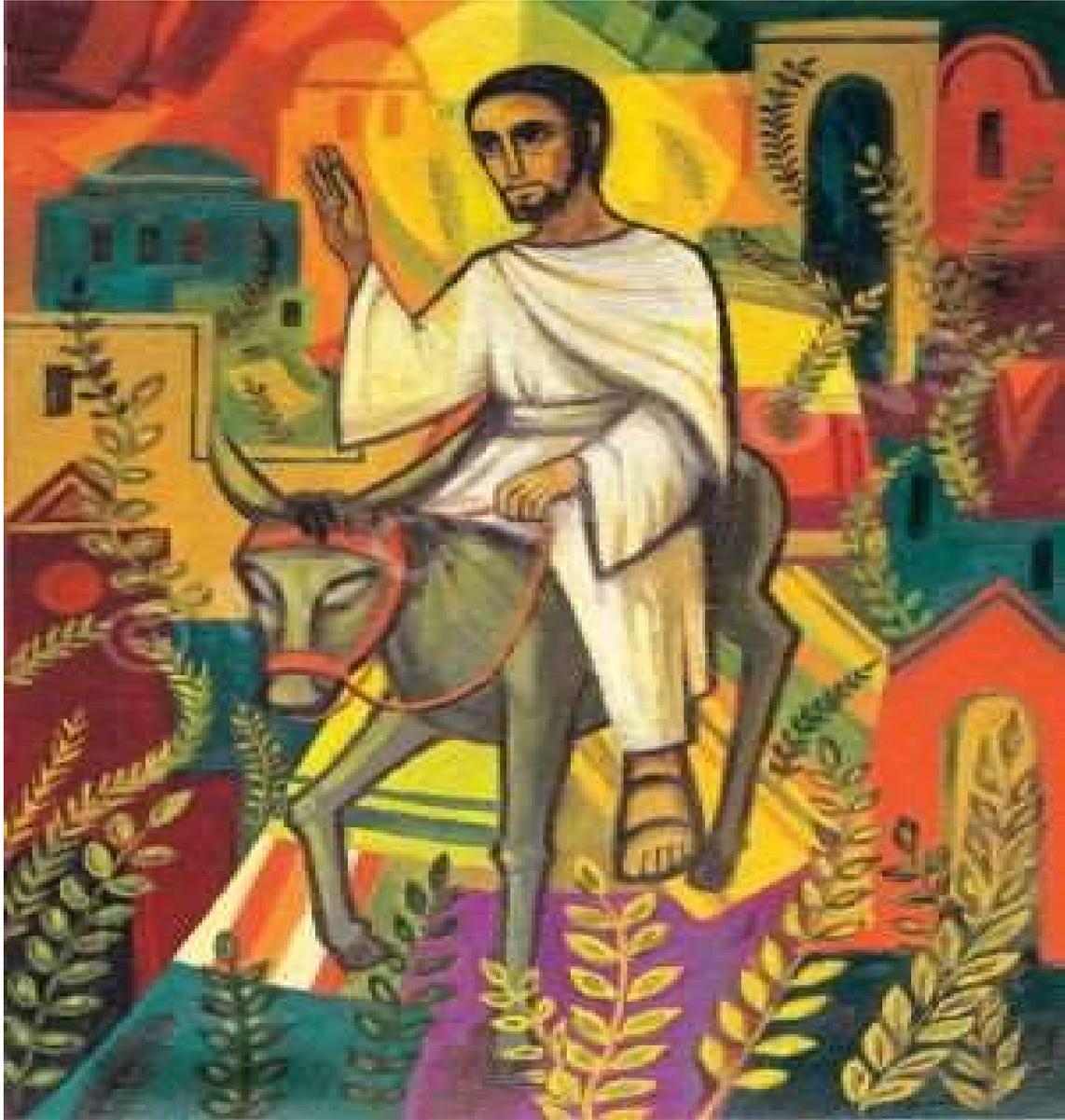
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. 5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
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- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
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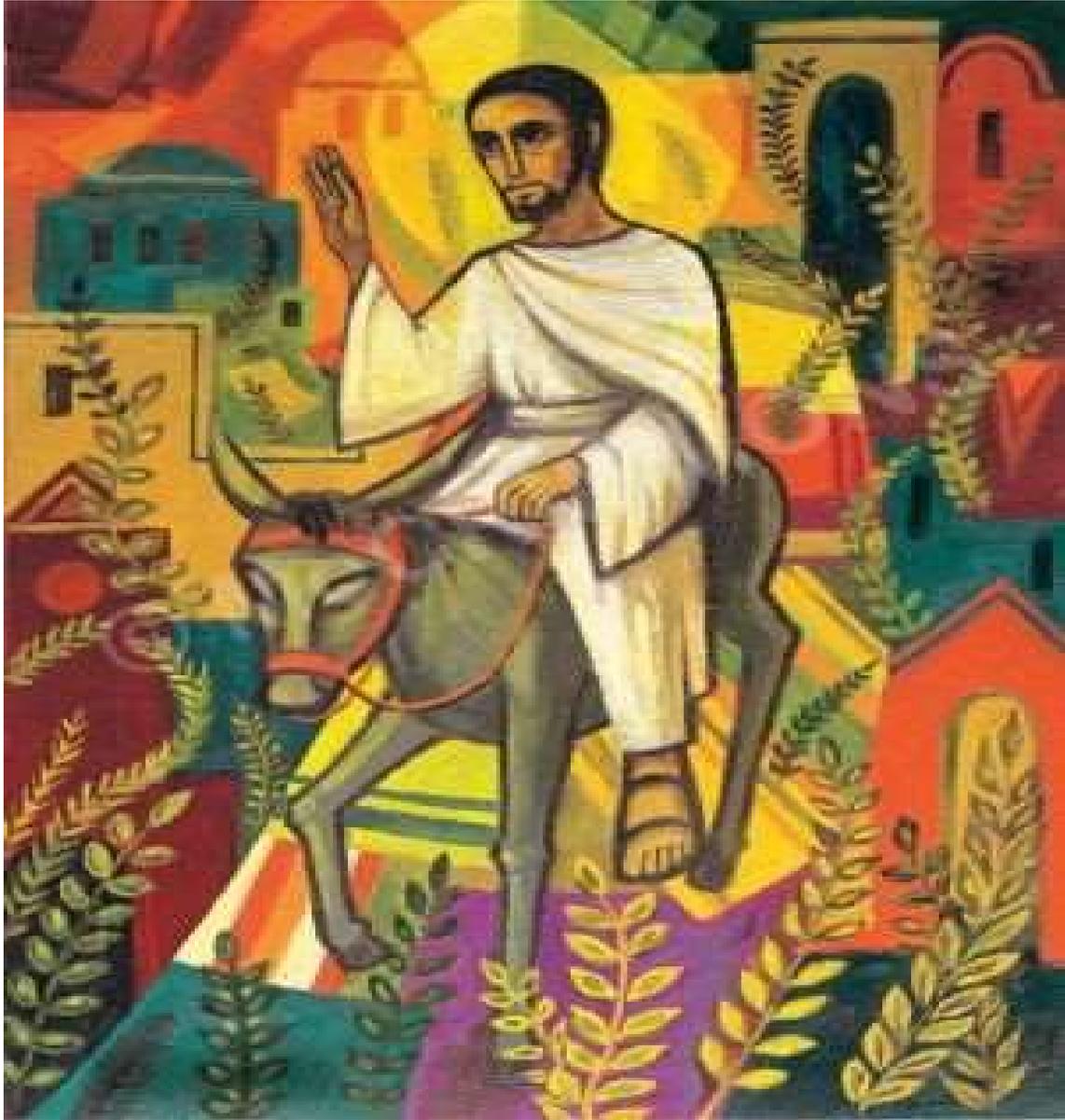
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March 24th, 2024

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Prelude – Adam Petrosino

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A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

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but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
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2 Let Israel say it:

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let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

**29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!**

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. 5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

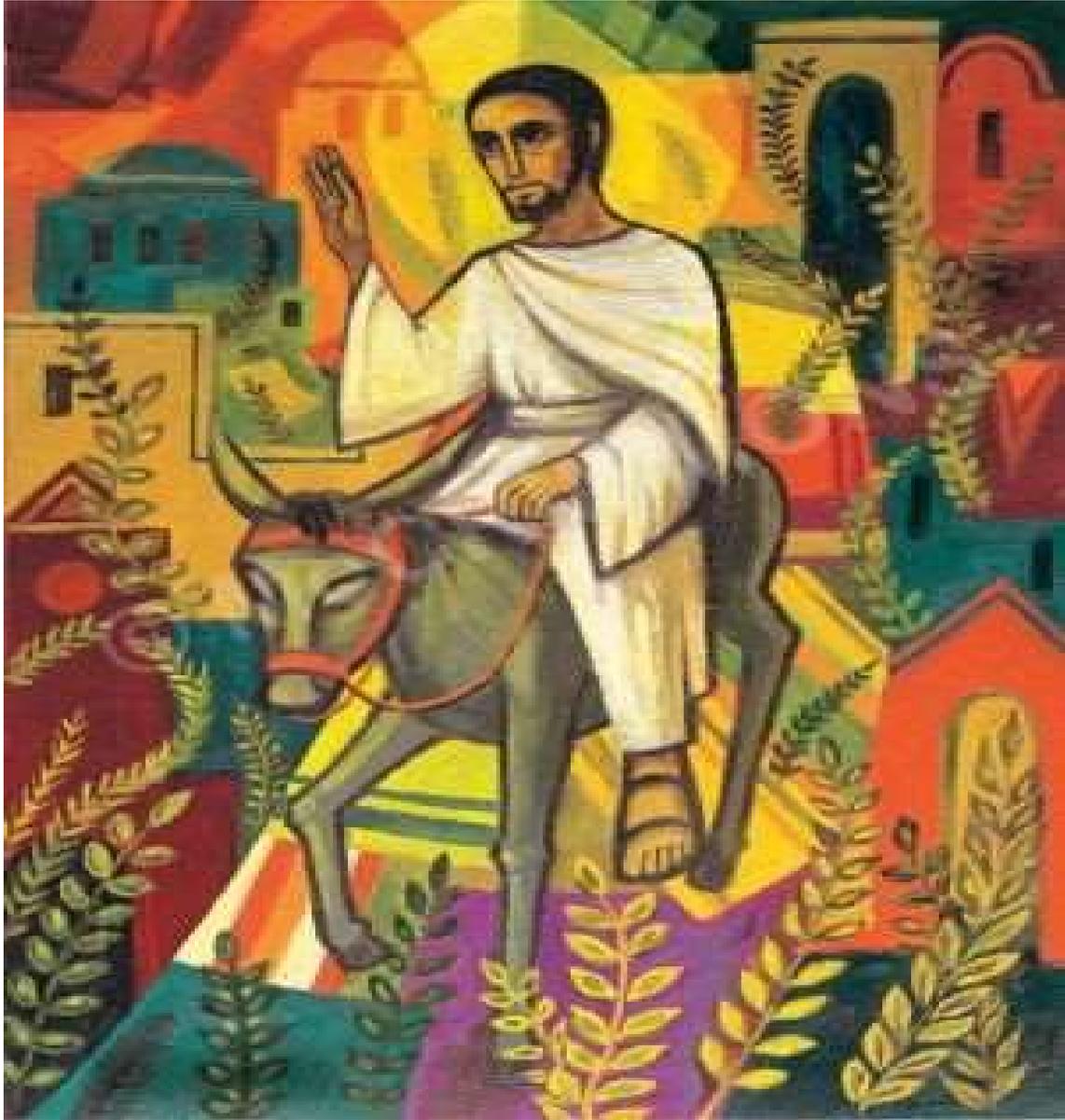
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
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***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
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May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
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May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

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4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
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“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

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8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

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Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

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Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
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Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

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* Prayer of Response

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God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

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Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
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NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
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 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

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- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

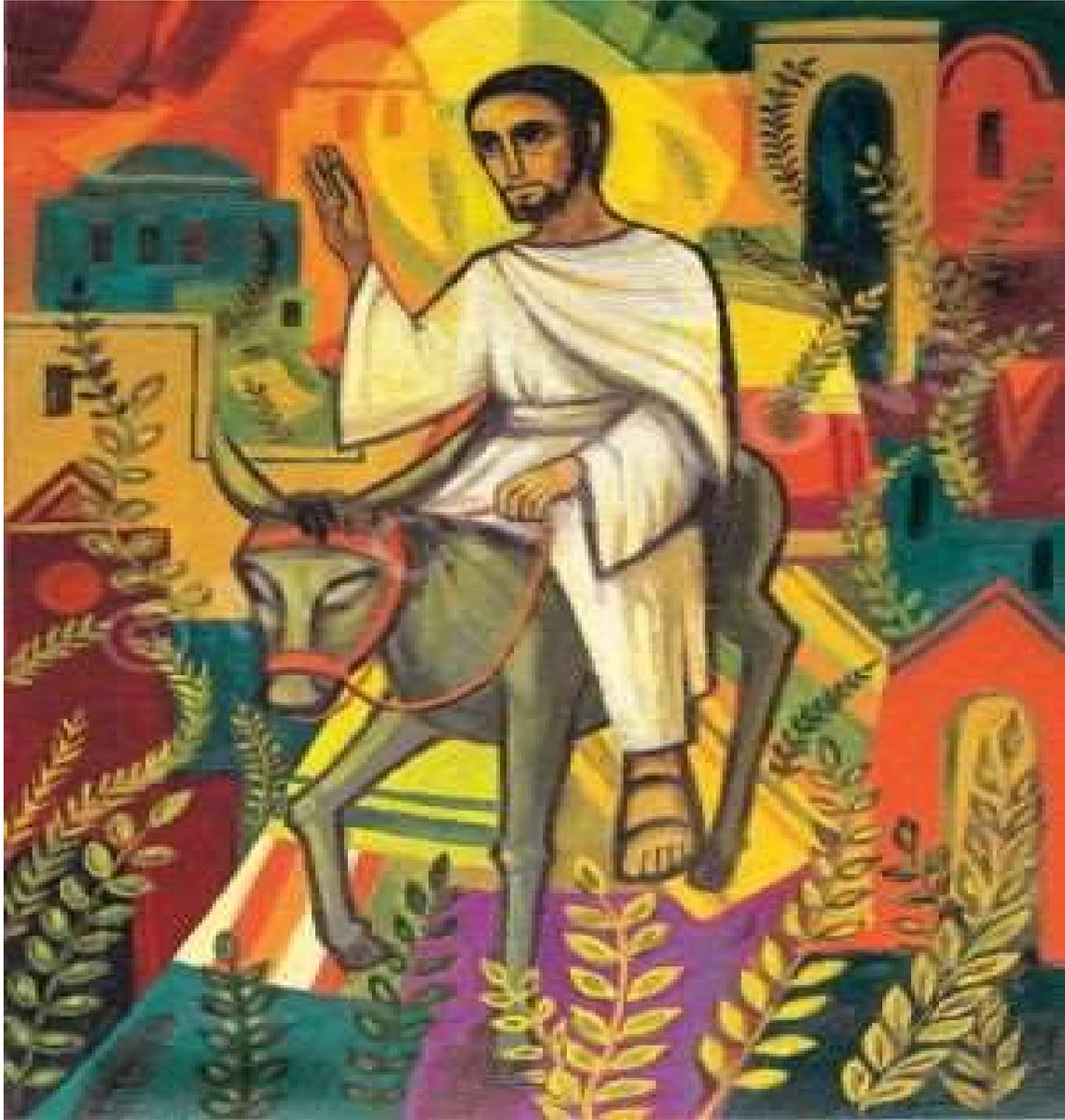
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

**29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!**

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

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The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

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One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

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- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
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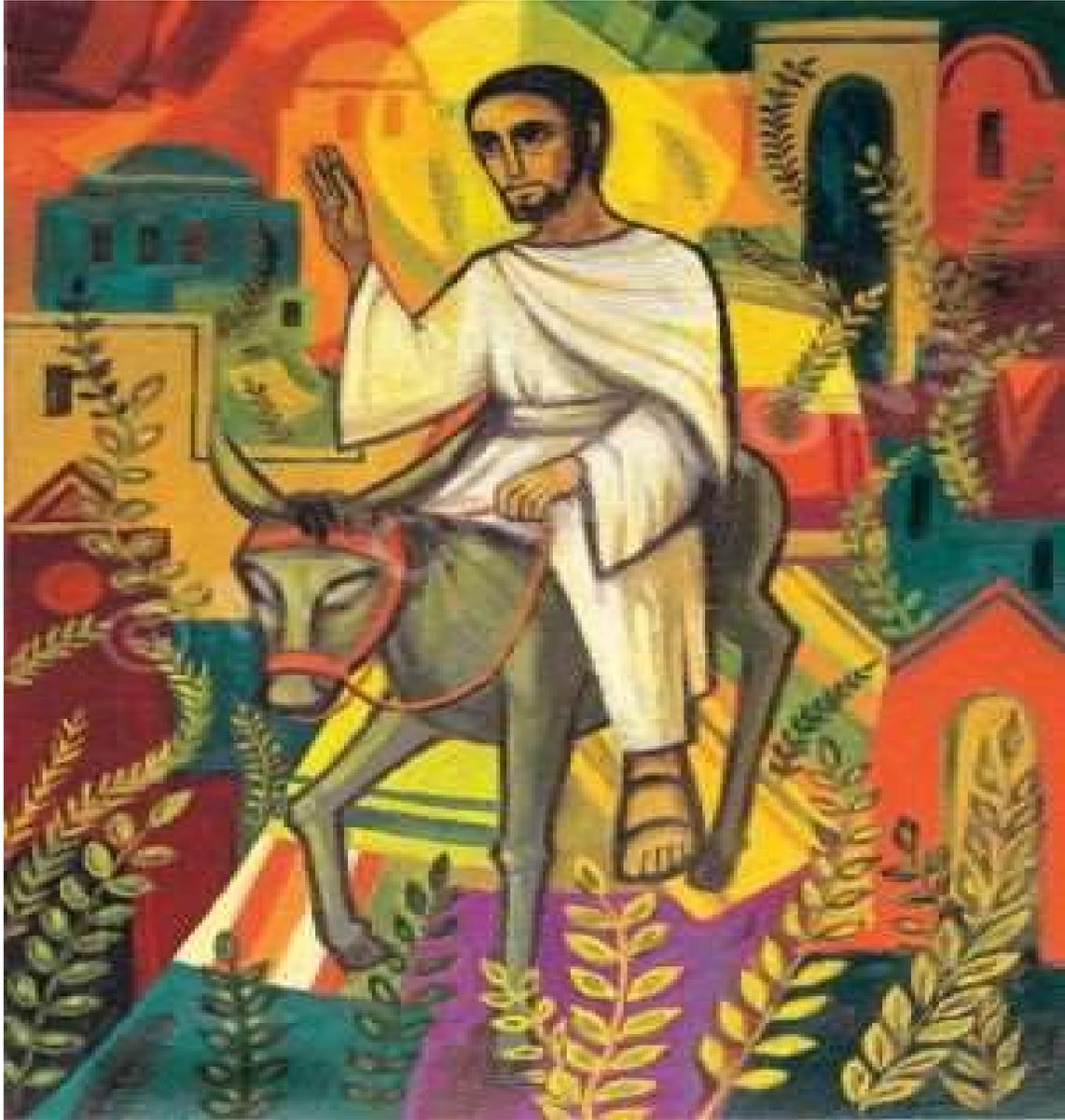
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!" Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!

10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

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- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
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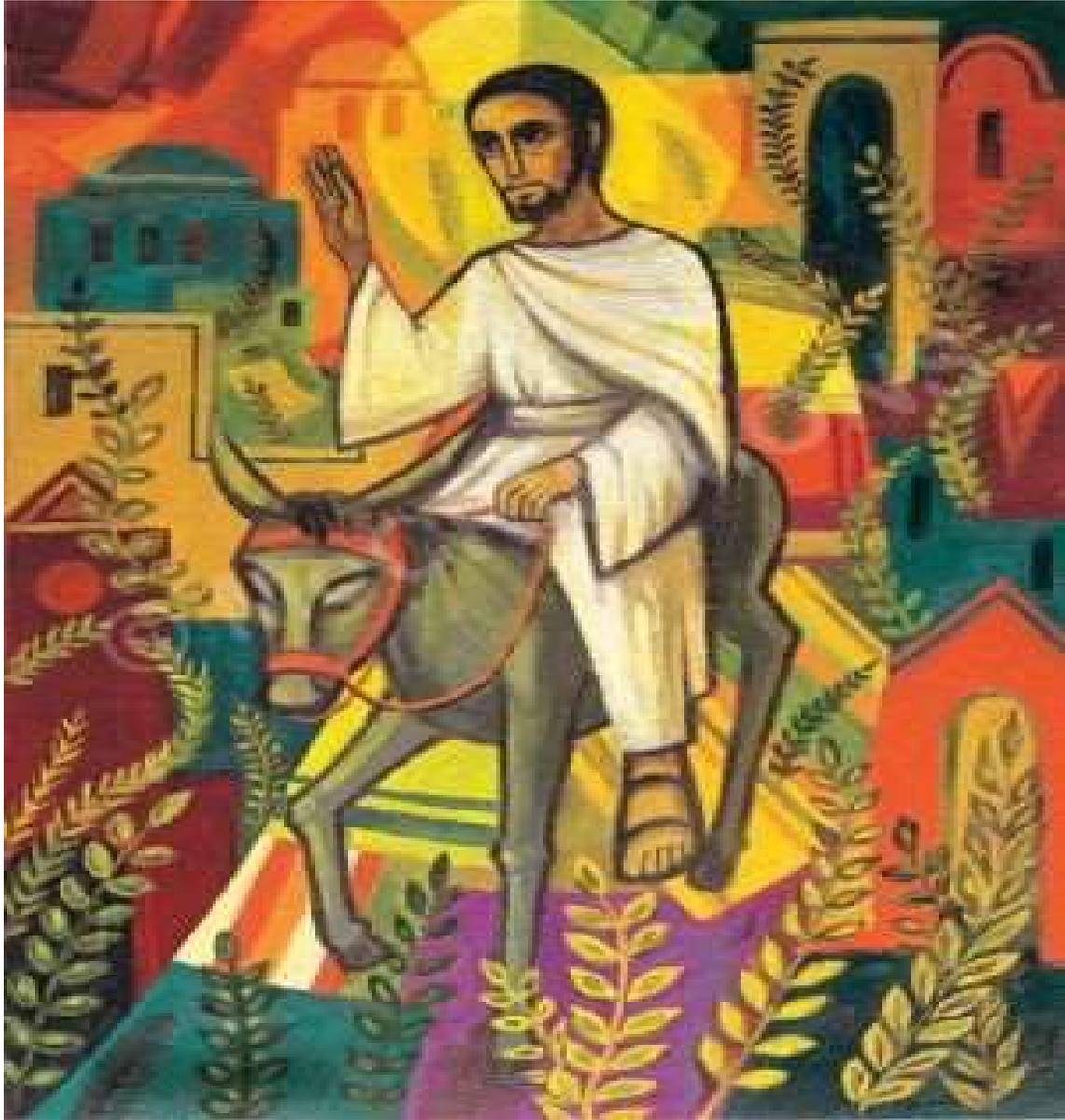
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



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Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

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From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
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WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*Responsively*)

We begin Holy Week with Psalm 118, a song of praise to God, calling the people to worship God in the temple. The psalmist speaks of how God has chosen the people rejected by the world, the chief cornerstone. The psalmist calls upon the congregation to process toward the altar, giving thanks to God with praise and offerings.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!

Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:

“Your love is everlasting!”

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

**20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!**

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

**22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;**

23 this is God’s doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I thank you;
you are my God, and I exalt you.
thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.**

**29 thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!**

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Bless these parade palms,
O God of Celebration.
May they remind us
of the simple joys of living.
May we remember
the excitement that comes
with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms,
O God of Justice.
May they remind us
that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave
to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms,
O God of Comfort.
May they remind us
of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us
in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks
for the parade,
the protest,
the processional.
Guide our steps
through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together
"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"
Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

Mark's account of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in these verses in Mark 11, portrays Jesus as having entered Jerusalem for the first time. He arrived at Bethpage and Bethany, outside of Jerusalem, for the city was crowded for Passover. Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him to find a colt, and they found one exactly as he said they would, to borrow for a short time. The disciples threw their cloaks on the colt, and Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. People spread their cloaks on the road like a red carpet rolled out, and cut leafy branches to wave, and shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" They called out blessings to the one who came in the name of their God, referring to Psalm 118, and the kingdom in

the name of their ancestor David. There is some thought among scholars that Jesus entered Jerusalem the same time that Pilate did, and that Jesus' act is an act of protest against Rome. Jesus went to the temple, looked around at everything—for he had not seen it before—and then returned with the disciples to Bethany to stay for the night.

11 1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples 2 with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

4 So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What do you mean by untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it.
8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. 9 And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!
10 Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Choir Hymn: NCH 216 – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Text Translator: John Mason Neale (1854, alt.)
Text Author: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: ST. THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN) 7.7.7.6.D.
Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1615
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – “More a Protest Than a Parade” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

* Prayer of Response

Palm Sunday reminds us that our ways are not God's ways. Our ways are to show power and strength through dominance.

God continually lays down God's power.

God covenants with us, the people, throughout history, instead of domineering over us.

God promises an abundant life.

God shows us how to live.

God's desire throughout our scriptural history is not punishment, but restoration.

Jesus embodies God's desires for us by living as one of us, and laying down his life for us.

Jesus enters Jerusalem, not on a war-horse, but on a donkey, not on a red carpet but on the coats of those who are poor. He comes before Pilate not promising revenge, but willing to die. Jesus suffers the abuse of the Roman soldiers—and a reminder that it is the Romans who called him the "king of the Jews," not the Jewish people.

Jesus' own friends abandon him, just like we have abandoned God time and again when our lives get difficult. We look to save ourselves instead of saving others. Jesus literally laid down his life for us. Hosanna! Save us! Forgive us!

Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn of Response: One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

(Sung to the tune of NCH 434 - "All Beautiful the March of Days")

One Day as Jesus Reached a Town

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 One day as Jesus reached a town outside Jerusalem,
He sent his friends to find a colt and bring it back to him.
He said, "If any ask of you, 'What are you doing?' — say,
'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenen-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family

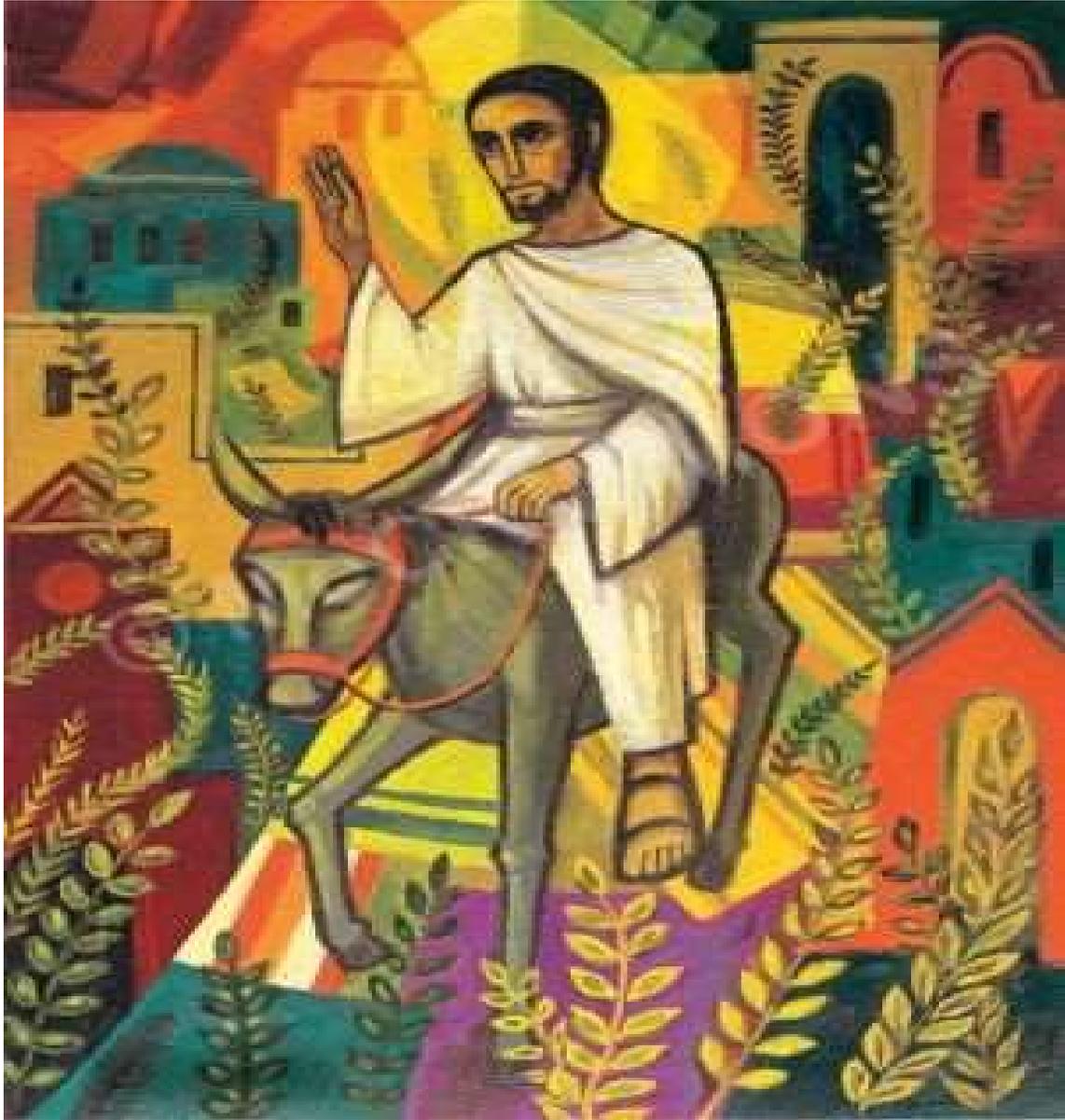
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 24th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday of Holy Week

A Service of the Word



Jesus Enters Jerusalem Banner

Artwork by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
(village of Turvey, Bedfordshire, England, United Kingdom)

“Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!” Mark 11:9

From the series of images, 'Jesus, Our Way' depicting the Lent and Easter story.

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/banners/jesus-enters-jerusalem--banner/#834>



March 24th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday of Passion Week
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“As we wave palm branches in celebration, let us also wave goodbye to our fears and doubts, knowing that Christ’s Triumph over death gives us hope for eternal life.”
— Max Lucado.

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

L: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

A: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

L: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

A: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

L: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

A: Hosanna, come and save us!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Humble God,
you have shown us
the way to enter
all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter
our lives with fear,
but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day,
we draw upon your example
of Jesus on that humble donkey
and we raise
our palm branches
in rejoicing!**

We raise our voices,
shouting along
with your people
of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day,
O Jesus of Jerusalem.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 213 – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Lenten Candle Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, & 2

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

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that became the keystone;**

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and it is wonderful to see.

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

25 Please, God, please save us!
Please, God, give us prosperity now!

**26 Blessings on the one who comes in the name of God!
we bless you from God’s temple!**

27 The Lord is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!
with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!

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Thank you for your love, steadfastness, and faithfulness, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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'The Lord is near and needs the colt!' They'll send you on your way."

2 They soon returned and showed the Lord the colt that they had found.
They spread their cloaks upon its back and also on the ground.
When Jesus rode that humble beast, the crowds began to sing:
"He comes to us in God's own name; how blessed is the king!"

3 "How blest is he!" the crowds proclaimed — yet did they understand?
For other kings had entered there with troops at their command.
This king, Messiah, did not come with might and strength and sword;
No war-horse but a peaceful colt was carrying our Lord.

**4 May we who sing "Hosanna! Praise!" be mindful once again
That Jesus came to bring God's peace, and peace is found in him.
May we who follow Christ recall his gentle, humble way,
And work to build a peaceful world to honor him today.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

**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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 223 - "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***Commissioning**

One: God sends us forth in this week of holiness.

**Many: We will go to clothe those who are cold,
we will offer our hearts to those who are lonely.**

One: Jesus walks with us through the pain of the week.

**Many: We will listen to those who cry out for help,
we will forgive those who betray us.**

One: The Spirit comforts and strengthens us on this journey.

**Many: We will take the hands of all who stumble along the way,
we will lean on strangers when we cannot take another step.**

***Benediction**

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy- Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) *Blessing of the Palms*, was written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 24th, 2024, 6th Sunday of Lent - Palm and Passion*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 15th, 2024, on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-olution.org/>.
- (4) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 24th, 2024, The Sixth Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 17th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)

Palm and Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- **Today - Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday (Blessing of the Palms) and the beginning of the Holy Week of the Passion of Christ.** This week, we commemorate and remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, before his death and resurrection, both events being cornerstones of the Christian faith. The Passion (from Latin *patior*, "to suffer, bear, endure") is the short final period before the death of Jesus, described in the four canonical gospels. It is commemorated in Christianity every year during Holy Week - often called Passion Week, and the events leading up to his death are often called the Passion of the Christ (just like the movie!).
- **The Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) is on this Friday, March 29th, 7:30 P.M. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness."** For Protestants, this single service is typically held at night on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.
- **Our service on Good Friday evening (March 29th, 2024) has three main parts:**
 - **A Service of Light--**
based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
 - **A Lenten Candle Liturgy**
a meditation (which is not printed in the bulletin) from Lenten Candle Liturgy contributed by Jeanyne Slettom, 2015. processandfaith.org
a candle is extinguished, followed by a unison prayer.
singing one verse of the hymn – "Just As I Am";
 - **A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--**in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light. After each reading, one of the candles will be extinguished. Members of the congregation may extinguish their own candles

(lit during the service of light) at any time during the readings. At the conclusion of the reading telling of Christ's death on the cross, the Christ candle is extinguished. A loud noise is made to signify Christ's death. After a pause, the Christ candle is relit to stand as a symbolic promise of the resurrection. At the end of the readings, the chapel should be completely dark, except for one remaining Christ candle. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

- **Easter - a festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in the reign of God is celebrated on Sunday, March 31st with an 11 A.M. worship service.**
- **An Easter Brunch precedes worship on Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M. You may bring a dish to share (optional) - but join us for a meal of celebration and community!**

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 92 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 20th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335
2017 - 247
2016 - 383
2015 - 332
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
 - Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
 - Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
 - Debbie Webb
 - Beverly Wurm and family