



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CANTON CENTER, CT

April 3, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday



184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020-0133

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

**Please stand if able.*

***Bold** denotes unison response.*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. **Those wishing to make an announcement** are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period.*

***Prayer request cards** may be found on the tables at the back of the church. **Offerings** may be placed in the marked boxes on the tables at the back of the church.*

PRELUDE *The Rejoicing*
Cherry Brook Chimes Handbell Choir

G. F. Handel; arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

CALL TO WORSHIP

And now it is the week we call holy;

we tell once more the story of Christ crucified-yet-risen.

It is the week that starts with shouts,

that moves to tears,

that leads through death,

that watches for life.

Today, Jesus enters where we are

and touches who we are

with life ready to give itself.

Hosanna! Blessed is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord!

***HYMN/ ANTHEM** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* Melchior Teschner; arr. Lani Smith
Senior Choir and congregation

Choir & congregation

*All glory, laud and honor to thee, Redeemer King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One;
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

Choir continues:

*Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.
All glory, laud and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King!*

***GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**God of the servant Christ and our God,
gather us now in the spirit of his life,
that we may be a community of service and love.
Gather us in the memory of his death,
that we may be the people of a new covenant.
Gather us as those who watch for his rising,
that we may live inside the gift of new life.
Lead us through the days of this Holy Week
with faith that is brave and strong,
that we may stay close to the one who is crucified yet risen,
and who has taught us to pray together, saying:**

**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.**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Bless the Lord, My Soul

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 76. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system of music has a vocal line with the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The piano accompaniment is marked with a piano (p) dynamic. The second system of music has a vocal line with the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment is also marked with a piano (p) dynamic. Chord symbols are written above the vocal lines: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, F, A in the first system; and Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm in the second system.

ANTHEM

What is Your Passion?

Pepper Choplin

Senior Choir

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:29-42

Pew Bible page 854

SERMON

His Passion and Ours

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

The God of every goodness blesses us abundantly,
giving us gifts to use for the blessing of the world.
From our own lives into the lives of others,
may the offerings we make,
in all the forms they take,
help us be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

Lo, I Am with You

Chalice (blue), 430

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

Lo, I am with you, Lo, I am with you,

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

Lo, I am with you in the breaking of bread.

Lo, I am with you in the breaking of bread.

Lo, I am with you, Lo, I am with you,

Lo, I am with you in the breaking of bread.

Lo, I am with you in the drinking of wine.

Lo, I am with you in the drinking of wine.

Lo, I am with you, Lo, I am with you,

Lo, I am with you in the drinking of wine.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served in the pews. As the elements are passed, please wait until all have been served and all will partake together. Gluten-free bread is in the center of each bread plate. The juice trays hold non-alcoholic grape juice, with a few cups of water also available on each.

Invitation

Friends in Christ, we come to this table of grace,
each of us individually and all of us together.

We come to this table of blessing to meet the Risen One who calls us,
in the Spirit that makes of us one body.

Prayer of Preparation

Recalling the Story: The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, giver of life and new life,
we are grateful for all the gifts of your creation.
Now fed by your love, we go out into the days of this Holy Week
to stay close to Christ, crucified yet risen,
to be bread for each other and light for the world. Amen.

LITANY FOR HOLY WEEK

Christ our Friend, today we have entered the week we call “holy” –
with songs and shouts, with palms and prayers:

we have cheered you as our savior, hailed you as our hero;

forgive us tomorrow, when our enthusiasm wanes.

Today we have turned to you and trusted you again;

forgive us on Tuesday when we will think we can take care of ourselves.

Today we have called you the center of our lives;

forgive us on Wednesday when we will have forgotten.

Today we have called out to you by name;

forgive us on Thursday, when we pretend we’ve never met you.

Today we have gathered and called ourselves your disciples;

forgive us on Friday, when we will turn and run away.

In your hour of trial, you will seek your trusted friends, and they will say,

“We do not know him.”

In your hour of trial, you will say, “See, my betrayer is at hand,”

and we will pretend not to understand.

Before Pilate you will stand, and claim a kingdom not of this world;

and Pilate will not understand.

The crowds will gather – like today. Pilate will give them a choice:

“Whom shall I release, the murderer Barabbas or Jesus?” And the crowds will shout,

“Barabbas! Release Barabbas!”

Pilate will say, “Then what shall I do with Jesus?” And the crowds will shout,

“Crucify him!”

“But why? What evil has he done, deserving of death?”

“Crucify him! Crucify him!”

And so it will be, that with cheering voices and nailed-shut hearts,

we will crucify Love.

And then it will be that with faithfulness from the foundations of the world,

Sorrowed Love will await its rising.

ANTHEM

And Can It Be?

Dan Forrest

Senior Choir

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (sung by all)**

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

Lo, I am with you, Lo, I am with you,

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

***POSTLUDE**

Benedictus

F. J. Haydn

Please join us for a Palm Sunday Potluck in the Parish Hall.

Missions & Outreach will be collecting loose change for Holy Joe's Café for April.

As a military chaplain explains, "Holy Joe's Cafe is a place where chaplains...are able to bring a taste of home to the tired, the anxious, the angry, the lonely and the wounded"...

Cups for change can be found in the back of the sanctuary, the hallway table, and the social hall.

Holy Week Services

Thurs., April 6, Maundy Thurs.

7:30 p.m. Communion and Tenebrae, with choir

Fri., April 7, Good Friday

12 -3 p.m. Sanctuary open for meditation, resources provided

Sun., April 9, Easter Sunday

10 a.m. service will include special music by vocal & handbell choirs.

No church school.

| Sunday 2 | Monday 3 | Tuesday 4 | Wednesday 5 | Thursday 6 | Friday 7 | Saturday 8 |
|---|--|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------|
| PALM SUNDAY Worship 10:00 am Potluck Dinner | Senior Choir 5:00 pm ACA 7:00 pm | AA 7:00 pm | Diaconate Meeting 7:00 pm | MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 pm | GOOD FRIDAY Sanctuary Open 12-3 pm | AA 11 pm |

WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us for worship today. Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! If you are visiting today, please help us get to know you better by filling out one of the visitor cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate. Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

The Senior Choir Members

Sopranos:

Donna Hammond, *Megan Keefe, Marilyn Larose, *Gina Magennis, Judy Robinson

Altos:

*Gert Delin, Kathleen Lundgren, Linda McAllister, Karen Needham, Kathy Pickrell, Clare Workman

Tenors:

Tim LeGeyt, *Scott Neumann, Paul Stansel

Basses:

Art Dewey, *Dan LeGeyt, Jim Todd

Cherry Brook Chimes Handbell Choir Members in order of appearance

Karen Needham, Gina Magennis, Cindy Webb, *Diana Ferraiuolo,
Hugh Anderson, Kathy Pickrell, Donna Hammond, Martha Stansel,
Mary Lou Keefe, Dir., Megan Keefe, *Judy Robinson

** denotes guest singers*

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Ministers: Every Member

Duty Trustees: Jen Herbek & Sue Lampros

Dir. of Faith Formation: Dr. Hollace Bristol

Asst. Dir. of Faith Formation: Karen Needham

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Duty Deacons: Casey Levine & Eric Herbek