



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

March 24, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.



*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*



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*Please stand if able. **Bold** denotes unison response.*

**CHIMES**

Karen Needham

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Those wishing to make a brief 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.*

**PRELUDE** *Procession of Praise* Arnold Sherman; Cherry Brook Chimes Handbell Choir

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The sun shines bright on this holy day! The city stirs with anticipation!

**We raise our voices in joyful praise! Our King is coming!**

Throw open the gates! Let the celebration begin!

Grab your brightest palms, for Jesus rides into Jerusalem!

**Let the music soar, the voices ring out! Today, we celebrate  
hope, love, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow!**

The air crackles with excitement, a wave of cheers washes over the crowd!

We are His disciples, His followers, His joyful witnesses!

**Our hearts overflow with joy. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed is He who brings hope and salvation!**

**\*HYMN**

*Ride on, Ride on in Majesty*

Pilgrim (red) #175

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

Loving Lord, today we embark on a shared journey - a journey of faith. We understand this path winds through valleys and over mountains, with moments of sunshine and trials of storms. There will be times when doubt creeps in, and when the way forward seems shrouded in mist. Remind us of the unwavering faith that has guided us this far. May we see challenges not as obstacles, but as opportunities to deepen our faith and refine our resolve. May we find solace in Your presence and resolute strength in Your promises. Bless us with the courage to face the unknown, the wisdom to navigate difficult times, and a steady spirit to persevere on this journey of faith as we look to the SON rise of Easter morn. Amen.

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.

**\*Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end, Amen, Amen.*

**OFFERING**

Imagine the scene: Palm branches waving, crowds cheering, a joyful welcome for Jesus entering Jerusalem. Their excitement reflected our own hope for a brighter future. Today, our offering allows us to share that hope, to contribute to the ongoing mission of spreading God's love. Let your gifts be a continuation of that Palm Sunday spirit!



**OFFERTORY**

*What Is Your Passion,* Pepper Choplin From "Upon This Rock"

**\*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**

Gracious God, with jubilant hearts, we raise our offerings today, just as the crowds waved their palms in joyous praise of Your Son, Jesus Christ. These gifts are a joyful declaration of our love and gratitude. Bless them, Lord, and use them to fuel the mission of our church, spreading Your message of hope and redemption far and wide. May they become seeds of generosity, blossoming into acts of kindness and compassion throughout the world. As we embark on Holy Week, keep our spirits high, reminding us of the ultimate victory Your sacrifice brings. In joyful thanksgiving, we pray. Amen.

*(The youth will now be collecting food items for the Canton Food Bank and return to their pews)*

## SCRIPTURE



Luke 19:29-40 Pew Bible pg. 854

## MESSAGE

*Welcoming the Hope of the World*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *Joys & Concerns ~ Moment of Silence ~ Pastoral Prayer*

### *Cantata*

*By My Side*, Stephen Schwartz from “Godspell”  
Judy Robinson and Kathleen Lundgren -duet ~ Jon Keefe-guitar

*Gethsemane*, Andrew Lloyd Webber from Jesus Chris Superstar  
Jerry Alonzy-soloist ~ Jon Keefe-guitar

*See How He Walks*, Lani Smith from Victory  
Jim Todd-soloist ~ Sr. Choir

*Were You There*, David Lantz  
Sr. Choir

*And Can It Be*, Dan Forrest  
Sr. Choir

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young

***THE WORSHIP IS ENDED ~ OUR SERVICE NOW BEGINS***