



St. John's United Church of Christ

As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.

**Called by God
Sharing with the World**

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Meditation

“The Christian faith has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried.” G.K. Chesterton

Chimes

Prelude

The Holy City

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn #265 *All Glory, Laud and Honor (verses 1,2,4)*

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.
All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ **Call to Worship** (Congregation reads **bold** print)

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Open wide the gates of your hearts.

Let the Savior enter!

Shout with joy, all you people.

The Savior has come forth bringing peace.

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

O God, we stand at the gate, hesitant and uncertain; we are reluctant to answer your invitation; we are slow to embark on the journey toward your reign. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us the help we need to be your people—the courage to join you in the procession; the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you; the freedom to lift our palms to your glory; and the knowledge that by your grace we are forgiven.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness** *(read responsively)*

Hear this good news! The procession is ever moving forward. We can join at any moment. The invitation still stands! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Glory to God! Amen!

(the congregation may be seated)

Introit

*Hosanna Processional - Mark Keller
Chancel Choir and Bell Choir*

Blessing of the Palms

Pastor: Praise the Lord, who entered Jerusalem to the shouts of the crowd.
Be with us now as we join the praise and the passion of Christ.

**People: Lord, we thank you for these branches that remind us
of Jesus our King.**

Pastor: Bless these palms and bless us that together we may announce in our time
that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

All: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

(Distribution of the palms by the children)

✠ **Hymn**

The Palms – Faure-Felton

**O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay,
are strewn this day in festal preparation.
Where Jesus came to wipe our tears away,
e'en now the throng to welcome him prepare.**

Chorus

***Join all and sing, his name declare!
Let every voice resound with acclamation!
Hosanna! Praise ye the Lord!
Bless Him that cometh to bring us salvation.***

Sing and rejoice, O blessed Jerusalem.

**Of all thy sons sing the emancipation!
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.**

Chorus

***Join all and sing, his name declare!
Let every voice resound with acclamation!
Hosanna! Praise ye the Lord!
Bless Him that cometh to bring us salvation.***

Children's Special Music

"Standing On The Promises"

"I have Decided to Follow Jesus"

"God's Not Dead!"

Bible Readings

Isaiah 50:4-9; Philippians 2:5-11

Kay Jones

Isaiah 50:4-9

4 The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to
listen as those who are taught.

5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not
rebellious, I did not turn backward. 6 I gave my back to
those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who
pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been
disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I
know that I shall not be put to shame; 8 he who

vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
9 It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Choir Anthem *On That Day When He Rode Into Jerusalem*
Mary Kay Beall

Pastor's Message *Who's Your Master?* Pastor Jeff

✠The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(From the UCC Book of Worship)*

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

Were You There- arr. Dallas Blair

✠Doxology

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

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

**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**

✠Closing Hymn #176 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

*Lift up your heads, O mighty gates:
Behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart,
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to you: here, Lord abide!
Let me your inner presence feel:
Your grace and love in me reveal.*

*So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won.*

✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Three-fold Amen**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

Postlude

Hosanna



*The Palm Plants decorating the sanctuary are given to the Glory of
God and in loving memory of Squire Skelding,
Presented by Barb Skelding.*



