

Finding the Good News in the Sermon on the Mount

Sixth Sunday in Lent—Palm Sunday



“Hosanna in the Highest”—Hanna Varghese (Used with permission)

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 24, 2024
SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT—PALM SUNDAY

“It can be challenging enough to walk with intention into a future that is unknown. But to move with purpose toward a destination that is known, and fearsome? That is quite a different path, one that requires grace and courage we cannot conjure on our own.”

Jan Richardson

PRELUDE “Fantasia,” BWV 570 J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rande Fieselmann, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift up your heads, O people;

God draws near.

Shout, O people. Rejoice and praise.

Let us face with courage the path before us.

[Unison]

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

*HYMN 89 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we shout “Hosanna,” asking you to help us in so many ways. Be our rock and our salvation. Remain with us even when we turn away or fall away or run away.

When we are lost and afraid, be with us.

When we are troubled and uncertain, comfort us.

Give us strength to see the truth about ourselves and our world and to say it.

When we lose our nerve and cannot speak, encourage us by your grace and accompany us with your Spirit so we may find our voices.

Guide us to continue the journey that leads to life and peace. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy, and sovereignty hold sway.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 11:1-10

ANTHEM “Wondrous Love” Eric Thiman

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

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.

Choral Response

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Andante" Clément Loret

*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 13:10-14

PSALM 51:1-4, 10-12, 15-18

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

**Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.**

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**Be favorable and gracious to Zion,
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 7:24-29

SERMON "Acting on What We Hear"

* HYMN (insert) “Ride On! Ride On n Majesty”

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
O Christ with brave humility,
On lowly colt, your road pursue,
As palms and cloaks are spread for you.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
As crowds of people come to see
And shout hosannas, lifting high
their praise for one about to die.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Ride on in humble dignity;
Behold the ones you came to save
from senseless life and endless grave.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
For you have set your people free
And we, remembering all your pain,
now meet again to hail your reign.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Choral Song“Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Cover Art: “Hosanna in the Highest” by Hanna Varghese. Used with gracious permission from her daughter, Georgina Varghese. Hanna Varghese (1938-2009) was a Malaysian Christian artist. She started her career as an art and English teacher. She was also a wife, mother and grandmother. Hanna used to say that as a visual artist, she did not get enough hours to paint and batik-dye as other demands of daily life usurped her time. Hanna worked with different medium like oil colours, metal-tooling and wood-block printing. Her passion was painting with Acrylic on canvas and batik-dyeing in fabric. You can learn more about the artist at <http://hanna-artwork.com/>.

Opening Prayer, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL, alt.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Majesty Constable
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

❖ Church School Breakfast	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am

Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am
Confirmation Class	4:00 pm
TUESDAY	
❖ Church Council	7:00 pm
THURSDAY	
❖ Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae	7:00 pm
FRIDAY	
❖ Good Friday Worship	Noon
SATURDAY	
❖ Sunrise Service Rehearsal	2:00 pm
NEXT SUNDAY	
❖ Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast Follows	7:30 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
No Christian Education	
Festival Worship Service	10:15 am

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.
Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

March 24—Palm Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

March 28—Maundy Thursday

Communion and Service of Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m.

March 29—Good Friday

Worship at Noon

March 31—Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast in Rockwood Hall; Festival Easter Service at 10:15 a.m.

AS WE CELEBRATE PALM SUNDAY THIS MORNING, WE ARE WAVING ECO-PALMS

that are harvested in ways that are sustainable and that help to improve local communities' standard of living. Eco-Palms are *Chamaedorea* palms, a non-oil palm. The University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management, working with the Rainforest Alliance TREES program and Smartwood, has established certification for a sustainable palm harvest in Mexico and Guatemala. Each plant produces two

to five harvestable leaves over a two to four month period. Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests and protect forests where palms grow.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR LENT LOOKS AT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Join Bill Lovin in Rockwood Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:15 for *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, using material by the New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: This morning we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. For many years now, we have been on the list of Top 100 giving churches. In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in faith, hope, and love with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. Let us join in this great tradition and give generously.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY: Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoy the burst of color, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Tuesday, March 26.*

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD IS ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. A complete job description will be posted on the church website. Advertising will commence by the end of March. Members of the congregation are encouraged to spread the word and have interested persons contact Rev. William Lovin uccicrev@uccic.org and Sally Strang sallystrang@mchsi.com.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS JOHNSON COUNTY WILL CO-HOST A SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY *I, TOO* followed by a facilitated discussion as part of the Film Scene Community Collaboration Series on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 7 p.m. Bea Hicks will be part of the panel during the discussion. Everyone is invited.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held after Easter. If you are interested in joining Congregational UCC or would like to know more about us, we invite you to attend these sessions. For more information, please talk with Bill Lovin or call the church office, 337-4301.

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE HOMELESS: Trinity United Methodist Church of Riverside Iowa has purchased a loom and is using clean, plastic bags to construct Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These are lightweight, waterproof, and easy to pack and carry. By contributing our clean, plastic bags, we can help them help others. Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or trash bags, any color, any size, here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING: If you notice something in the building that needs attention—a leaky faucet, a loose railing, etc.—please let the church office (319-337-4301) know right away. Thanks.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: There are still some opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING? This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.
Your giving makes a world of difference.

WE LIVE STREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.

You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted after worship on Sunday at <https://vimeo.com/channels/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.