

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

March 28, 2021

"Palm Sunday"

10:00 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Today we tell an ancient story of a parade, palms and possibilities.

P: **We wave palms and wear crosses, reminding ourselves that both ecstasy and agony, joy and disappointment are part of faithful living.**

L: Today we say: Blessed is the One who comes in name of the Lord! Hosanna!

P: **This One is Jesus of Nazareth — teacher, healer, Christ.**

L: In ancient Jerusalem, people gave Jesus a wonderful welcome.

P: **Today we celebrate the presence of the living Christ here among us.**

All: **Holy God, thank you for your presence here today. We welcome you and praise your name. Hosanna in the highest! Come let us worship!**

HYMN

"All Glory Laud and Honor"

Vocal and Brass Groups

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O God, we praise you for the great acts of love by which you redeemed the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Today he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of suffering and the cross, so that in dying and rising with him, we too may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Jesus Arrives in Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

Reflection

SECOND LESSON – These Stones Will Shout Out

Luke 19:39-40

Reflection

THIRD LESSON – My House Shall be a House of Prayer

Mark 19:45-48

Reflection

FOURTH LESSON – The Plot to Get Rid of Jesus

Mark 14:1-2

Reflection

FIFTH LESSON – Jesus is Anointed with Nard

Mark 14:3-9

Reflection

SIXTH LESSON – Judas Betrays Jesus

Mark 14:10-11

Reflection

HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Vocal and Brass Groups

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – from the Iona Ecumenical Community in Scotland**

L: Let us affirm our faith.

P: We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the One God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, He died but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters and to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYERS & LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

L: Lord we pray, Hosanna...

P: Come and save us.

...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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

Brass Group

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Gary (Ann Gustafson's brother in law), Bernice Larson, Megan (daughter of Steve and Janice Healy), Teddi (friend of Janice Healy), Nancy Hove (Pierce County Sheriff diagnosed with brain cancer), Jason Kuhl (cousin of Rose Rude), Darren (friends of Trautmillers), Peg Thompson, Miles Voster (friend of Grisars), Dorothy Shavers (Rene Bylander's mother), Roger Hirstein, David Anderson, Marc Otto, LaVon (sister of Darlene Sumption), Larry, Jim, Julie, Barb Stephens, Judie Henning, JoAnn Mathews

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For pastors, musicians, deacons and our web team leading Sunday worship, our Wednesday Night online Lenten worship services and planning for Holy Week services
- For Katy Kapaun, our Wednesday Night Cook, Evelyn Purdy and Susan Walden who help in the kitchen, and our interns and JaNae Westrich who bring family meals to cars each Wednesday
- For Pastor Stacy as she leads the 'Picture the Bible' resources discussion for Wisconsin Conference churches who each received a one-month sample of the curriculum
- For our church staff as we paint the first floor office, hallways and fellowship hall which involve a lot of moving and shuffling of things—may God give us strength!
- For our Youth Minister JaNae Westrich and her husband Adam (pastor at St. Paul's UCC in Ellsworth) who have accepted a call at First UCC in Green Bay and will be moving there in May. We are planning on a farewell celebration for JaNae on Sunday, April 25th. Please pray for strength and guidance for them during this transition and for our church as we begin the search for a new Youth Minister.
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- For the joy of Spring Break (even in a pandemic—stay safe please!)
- For our nation healing after another mass shooting event, how long O God, will we keep enduring these before something will change?
- For those worried about the future, may they turn their worries into prayer
- For high school seniors contemplating college choices and plans, may they receive God's guidance
- For peace and justice in the Twin Cities as the trial for Derek Chauvin begins
- For those who have been vaccinated (hallelujah!), for those who are anxiously awaiting their turn
- For our fractured nation that we may find ways to come together and heal our divisions
- For all of us as the pandemic drags on and our energy wanes

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the birth of William Dystra, new great grandchild of Mary and Duane Church
- For JoAnne Friedell who retires this month after 33 years of social work in Rusk and St. Croix counties—may you rest from your labors!
- For the return of earthworms, a sure sign spring is coming!
- For the return of in-person confirmation classes in April
- For Lu Lueck and Linn Lawrence who painted the church nursery after Tim Bylander re-sheet rocked it from our summer flood—bless you all for your efforts!
- For the nearly 90 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God
- For Carole Mottaz who is delivering the Easter Shut-In Bags to our seniors and special friends
- For Brad Richter who has graciously and patiently been reworking our church webpage which went live on March 1 and is now working on a mobile phone app—you are an angel of blessing
- For the gift of COVID vaccines and the hope that this will all end sooner rather than later

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Polly Wymer who died peacefully at home recently and whose funeral was March 6, that she may rest in God's strong care after so many years of serving others
- For the family of Stafford Williams, brother of Bradley Williams who died recently
- For Phyllis Huber who died recently at her group home in Ellsworth. For many years Phyllis was with us in worship and will be remembered for her wonderful sense of humor and achievements in Special Olympics. Funeral services will be in Ellsworth this summer. May she rest in God's strong care
- For those in mourning, including the Filkins, Ostendorf/Schichtel, Reilly, Zeman and Greub families as well as all those who have died from Covid-19

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

Holy Week Worship

Holy Week is the most important week for Christian people. In it we see the depth and power of God's love at work in the world and our call to carry to embody that love in our living today.

All the services will offer both in-person and livestream options and our Sunday services are also broadcast on WEVR radio. Our Holy Week schedule will be:

Palm Sunday – Worship at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday – Worship at 6:30 pm

Good Friday – Worship at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday – Worship at 8:00 am Outdoors (weather permitting)

Worship at 9:00 and 10:00 am

(All Easter services will include communion)

Worship participants for this week:

Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter

Music: Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson, David Reilly

Brass Group: Jamie and Tim Mills, Andy Myers, Marsha Pearson, Emily Stifter

Vocal Group: Sue Danielson, Trish Graves, Ann Gustafson, Deb Hoffman, Carole Mottaz, Jill Paulson, David Reilly

Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers

Treasurer's Report

	Week of <u>Mar 21, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 1,815	\$ 156,826
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 111,144

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.