

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

April 10, 2022



Sunday of Palms and Passion
What Then Should We Do?

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

April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday

10:00 am

Gathering

Today's worship is a journey. We begin with Jesus' literal journey down from the Mount of Olives and into Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Passover. He was greeted with great joy. Just as the week progressed for Jesus, so too our worship moves from palms to passion, from shouts of "Hosanna" to cries of "Crucify."

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The nursery is available for young children.- Activity bags are available for children.- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.- Please stand when noted by the *- Congregation responses are in bold.- Please stop at the welcome station for a gift.	<p><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p><i>As Jesus' courageous disciples, living God's grace, we strive to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Worship faithfully</i>- <i>Welcome openly</i>- <i>Grow spiritually</i>- <i>Care passionately</i>- <i>Serve generously</i>
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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Honor, praise, and glory.

P: **Honor, praise, and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.**

L: In celebration, we join the crowds of old.

P: **We wave branches to honor the Messiah.**

L: Yet, our celebration is bittersweet, for the story doesn't end here.

P: **We know the pain of what lies ahead.**

L: Today anticipates the rest of the story:

P: **A story of betrayal and death, a story of hope and, finally, resurrection.**

All: **Come, let us worship!**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL READING

Luke 19:28-40

***HYMN**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#216

*OPENING PRAYER

- L: On this day of celebration and sorrow, let us confess our sin. Lord Jesus, we are a fickle people, quick to turn away.
- P: **We are eager to flock to you when all is well, but we quickly scatter when there is opposition or criticism.**
- L: Too often we keep silent when we should proclaim your will and your way.
- P: **We are comfortable joining the crowd's song when you are triumphant, as on the road to Jerusalem.**
- L: It is far more difficult to stand by you as the crowd cries for your crucifixion; as people defy your will and hurt your people.
- P: **Forgive our weakness when we turn away. Give us courage to shout and live our hosannas, not only today, but each and every day. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

- L: Hear and believe this good news:
- P: **In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.**
- L: Thanks be to God! The peace of the Lord be with you all.
- P: **And also with you.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

*GLORIA (Sung twice)

Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

PSALM 31:1-5, 9-10, 14-17a

R

p *p*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

- L: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.
- P: **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.**
- L: Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.
- P: **You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. R**
- L: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- P: **Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.**
- L: For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.
- P: **But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**
- L: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.
- P: **Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD, for I call on you; let the wicked be put to shame. R**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come and Sing Hosanna

Chancel Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

Celebrating the Meal

(All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord.)

The Invitation to the Meal

L: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." So come, sisters and brothers, just as you are. Let him feed you, so that you can go to feed others. Let him love you, so we can go to love others. Let him bind us together into his body, so that together we may become Christ's body at work in the world today. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

P: **Hosanna in the highest!**

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right and good always to give thanks, ...

The Words of Institution

L: We praise your name as we proclaim the mystery of faith...

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements

Hymns during the distribution of the elements:

Let Us Break Bread

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees;

**Refrain: *When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees; Refrain

Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees; Refrain

Let Us Be Bread

Congregation join on refrain:

***Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,
broken and shared, life for the world.***

Let us be wine, love freely poured.

Let us be one in the Lord

This is the Body of Christ

***This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole;
this cup, as promised by God, true to his word, cradles our Lord:
food for the good of the soul.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG (Children pre-school through Grade 5 leave for Sunday School. Middle School students remain in worship.)

In The Lord

In The Lord

*In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-
El Se-nyor és la me-va for-ça, el Se-nyor el me-u cant. Ell m'hae-stat la sal-va-ci-*

*fraid; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near. In the
ó. En ell con-fi-o, i no tinc por. En ell con-fi-o, i no tinc por. El Se-*

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 23

HOMILY

What Then Should We Do?

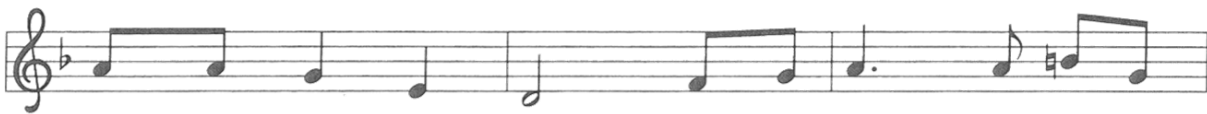
Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers

*HYMN

Tree of Life



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

*STATEMENT OF FAITH (World Council of Churches)

I believe in the living God, the Maker of all humankind who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, conquest of death, what human life ought to be and what God is like.

I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in the Word, the Sacraments, the community of the Church and all that we do. Amen.

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

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

...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.

Sending

***HYMN**

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

#448

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Note about offering: During the pandemic we are not passing the offering plate. We thankfully receive your gifts, tithes and offerings in the offering plate on the back table. You can use the QR Code to give electronically. Your generosity is the engine that powers our church community. Thank you.

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Join us *All are welcome!*

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

April 10th Palm Sunday 10:00AM
April 14th Maundy Thursday 6:30PM
April 15th Good Friday 6:30PM
April 17th Easter Celebration 9:00 & 10:30AM

 **FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
RIVER FALLS** 110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI
715-425-2052 • www.firstchurchrf.org

Easter Breakfast will be served from **8:00 am until 10:15 am** as our young people again serve the Easter Breakfast. This year's updated menu includes eggs benedict, rosemary potatoes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, and homemade biscuits with apple, peach or blueberry toppings. They will also serve French toast stix for kids and orange and apple juice, milk, water, coffee and tea. We ask for a donation of \$8 per person which goes to our Youth Fund for mission trips and opportunities. Please sign up and bring a friend!

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Larissa Lueck</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Anna Anderson</i>
Deacons:	<i>Karen Lloyd, Laura Anderson, Anna Anderson, Sheila Peterson, Cindy Gandrud, Marshall Skule</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Susan Walden</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke</i>
Trustee:	<i>Scott Nelson</i>
Counters:	<i>Jean Smith, Jane Truesdill</i>
Music Coordinator & Bell Director:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
Church Moderator:	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
Office Administrator:	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastors:	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
Minister for Community:	<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by Marsha Pearson
in memory of Maynard Pearson.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Apr 3, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 7,165	\$ 178,512
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 138,726

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Roger Hirstein, Jim Kuhn, Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), Donna Moseman, Peter Kwong, Paul Paavola (brother of Barb Stephens), David Lewis (friend of Jan Hansen), Deb Larson (Jen Meyers mother), Zeke Wells, Margaret (friend of Dave Reilly), Dan Turner (father of Mike Danielson), Dale Kliebenstein (brother of Rose Rude), Josh Loy, Chuck Eaton, Natasha Rayne, Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Loral Keil, Claire Miller, Glenn Hansen, Sydney and Gloria Johnson (Tanya Larsen's folks), Lana Tiede, Mallory and Olivia, Michele Carpenter (daughter of Art Rice), Sterling Trautmiller

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our deacons, pastors and musicians leading Holy Week worship services, that they may kindle hope and renewal in us all
- For the Krueger Clan and our youth who are gearing up for cooking and serving an awesome breakfast on Easter Sunday, may we all be fed (and make a reservation!)
- For our choir as they get ready for the first Good Friday choir cantata since 2019, may their hard work deepen our faith
- For the Among Friends Program, a respite program for families dealing with dementia, who reopened on Tuesday, March 15, that it may provide families with comfort and peace
- For Kahla Fuller, our faithful nursery worker who each week greets our youngest guests with a smile, you are a gift
- 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 peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found
- For stressed out parents trying to keep it all together, may you be given patience and strength
- For high school seniors deciding on college and post-graduation plans, may you be given wisdom and insight
- For teachers, that they may be given patience and encouragement to nurture their students and keep their sanity ☺
- For those helping refugees, especially for churches helping those fleeing in Ukraine
- For our divided nation, that we may work together to solve our real problems

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the over \$7000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For Susan Walden and Evelyn Purdy, our faithful Wednesday Night Meal volunteers who enabled us to resume this ministry, may you rest from your labors with our thanks
- For our church interns, especially Anna Anderson, Conner Rude, Ryan and Evan Luedtke along with our Youth Minister Alex Plum, who enabled us to offer drive thru service for our Wednesday meal program, bless you!
- For Caren and Neal Prochnow who joined the church 50 years ago this Sunday, Palm Sunday of 1972!
- For all those who will be fed at the Easter Breakfast, may it bring joy all of us
- For our church and musicians who each week grace us with their gifts, thank you!
- For those who will be fed from our generosity as we again support the ministry of Feed My Starving Children through our M&M Christmas offering—please have them returned by April 15!

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Barb, sister of Susan Walden, who died after a courageous battle with cancer, may she rest in God's strong care
- For the Hagberg and Permann families as they celebrated Jean's life on April 9 and the Permann family planning a Celebration of Life for Judy on June 18, may the Spirit fill you with strength and gratitude
- For those mourning Judie Henning, Peg Thompson, Dale Viney, may you not mourn alone
- For the 980,000 Americans and over 6.1 million worldwide who have died of Covid, may they not have died in vain

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

EARTH FEST 2022

PART OF EARTH MONTH:

A SERIES OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT APRIL

**SUNDAY
APRIL 24
2-5 PM**

"THE EARTH IS WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON." - WENDELL BERRY

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENT TO CELEBRATE OUR PAST/CURRENT/FUTURE
SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS AND INSPIRE ONGOING CLIMATE ACTION



**VISIT [HOPE4CREATIONRF.ORG](https://hope4creationrf.org)
FOR FULL SCHEDULE OF
EARTH MONTH EVENTS**

**GLEN PARK
RIVER FALLS, WI**

FREE EVENT - ALL ARE WELCOME!



**FREE
LED BULBS!**

WALK, BIKE, SKATEBOARD,
OR CARPOOL & RECEIVE A
LIGHTBULB!



**FREE
TREES!**

FIRST 500 IN ATTENDANCE
TAKE HOME A
SAPLING!



MUSIC!

CHRIS SILVER - THE BARLEY JACKS
RFHS UNSTRUMENTAL - UWRF PEP BAND

FOOD!

SAMPLE LOCAL & SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS

ACTIVITIES!

TREE PLANTING - ELECTRIC VEHICLES - UPCYCLING
MINI GOLF - LIVE ANIMALS & MUCH MORE!

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

EXHIBITS - ADVOCACY - PLEDGE BOOTH

WELL WATER TESTING

BRING A SAMPLE OF YOUR WATER

CLOTHING SWAP

BRING 1-2 GENTLY USED ITEMS TO TRADE



SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”