



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, March 24, 2024

1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
231-726-3254

www.fccmuskegon.org

<p>PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024</p>

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sharing the Peace of Christ

PRELUDE

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty, by Robert Hobby

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

In today's scripture reading we will hear
how the crowds gathered and cheered as
Jesus entered their city,
so in commemoration let us bless these palms:

**Almighty God, we pray that you bless
these branches and make them holy.
May they remind us to proclaim Jesus
not just as the Messiah and King
who lives and reigns forever with you,
but also as the Teacher
whose example of humility and
command of love
we follow in our lives.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

PALM PROCESSIONAL

Those who wish may stand

All Glory, Laud and Honor

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - nor to you, O Christ, we
O Prom - ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al
As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to -
sing, to whom the lips of chil - dren made
line, the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of
day, whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and
sweet ho - san - nas ring! The peo - ple of the
flesh and yet di - vine, To you, be - fore your
sov - ereign - ty hold sway. All glo - ry, laud, and
He - brews with palms a - dorned your way; our
Pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise; to
hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing, to
praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Text: Theodulph of Orléans, 9th Century, Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt., Tune: ST. THEODULPH, Melchior Teschner, 1615

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Fantasy on "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," by Jantz A. Black

The Canterbury Ringers





MESSAGE

BLESSED IS THE ONE



Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

The Old Rugged Cross



On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the
Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a
To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its



em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I
won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the
won - drous beau - ty I see, For up -
shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; When God



love that old cross where the dear - est and best
dear Lamb of God left the glo - ry of heaven
on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died
calls me some - day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.
to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
there God's glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my
cross, the old rug - ged cross,

tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged
cross, the

cross, and ex - change it some-day for a crown.
old rug - ged cross,

Text: George Bennard, 1913; alt, Tune: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, George Bennard, 1913

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . ending with the Lord's 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
 from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY REFLECTION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Hosanna! Ride On, by Carolyn Jennings

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

Hosanna! Ride on!

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.

Hosanna! Ride on!

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.

Hosanna! Ride on!

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DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Those who wish may stand



"Ho - san - na, loud ho - san na, the
From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a -
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That
lit - tle chil - dren sang; through pil - lared court and
mid a cheer - ing crowd, the vic - tor palm branch
an - cient song is ours. We hail our great Re -
tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang; To
wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud. The
deem - er and sing with all our powers: "Ho -
Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his
one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly
san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and
breast, the child - ren sang their prais - es, the
state, and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed
voice. Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for -
sim - plest and the best.
down the don - key's gait.
ev - ver we'll re - joice!"

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

The Kingsfold Trumpet, by Alfred Fedak



Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
The Motet Choir
The Canterbury Ringers
Megan Perreault
Blake Filius

Pastor
Music Director
Organist
Song Leaders
Handbell Ensemble
Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Audio and Video

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Altar flowers are sponsored by Eddie and Trina Jankowski in memory of Trina's mother, Mary Wall.

Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting on Monday, from 7 to 8 pm.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters A through D please bring cookies or treats during the month of April. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.

Every communion Sunday we ask that you consider bringing in even one canned good or non-perishable food item and place it in the bushel basket in the Narthex. This will go to Food Pantry clients. Many thanks!

*Saturday Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 30th;
Mobile Food Pantry will be on Saturday, April 6th.*

Please contact Donna Lachniet or the office if you would like to volunteer.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

7:00 PM

Good Friday

March 29, 2024

12:15 PM

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love." *Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21*

