

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 9, 2017

10:30 AM

*Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!*

*\*denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in bold print*

Today we anticipate the final victory of the resurrection as we celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Without these events of Holy Week there would be no Celebration of Resurrection, no hope, no confidence in eternal life. As we begin this week of observances, may our hearts reflect on the humility and the obedience of Jesus; and may we renew our commitment to follow the Way of Jesus, even the Way of Sorrows, so we might share in the victory and live in the light of Christ's glory.

PRELUDE – "All Glory Laud and Honor" – P. Manz

Choir Prelude  
"This is the Day"  
By John Purifoy  
Words from Psalm 118  
Senior Choir

READING OF THE GOSPEL  
St. Matthew 21: 1-11

\*Hymn # 216 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
Children of God, rejoice.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.**  
Behold, your King is coming to you.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.**  
Your king rides, not on a war horse, but on a donkey.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.**  
He comes, not to bring conflict, but to bring peace.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.**  
Yet his dominion will be from one end of the world to the other.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.**  
His reign will be from everlasting to everlasting.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.**  
Hosanna in the highest!

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as we enter this Holy Week and gather at your House of Prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem; to the life, the death, and the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. We ask that we might be united with Christ and with all the faithful so that one day we may enter in triumph the city not made with human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives forever.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we walk the Way of the Cross. In these events of defeat and victory you have sealed the closeness of death and resurrection, of humiliation and exaltation. We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us, that through us this day may announce in our time that Christ has come, and that Christ will come again.

**Amen! Come, Jesus Christ, come! Amen!**

**\*Distribution of Palm Branches**

(You are invited to come forward by the center aisle, receive a palm, and return by the outer aisles.)

ANTHEM

“A Joyful Hosanna”

*Words by Jon Paige; Music by Brian Buda*

**Senor Choir**

**Chelsea Ferraro, Trumpet**

TIME OF CONFESSION

Will we wave our leafy branches today and hide them tomorrow?

Will our hosannas melt into another chorus of death?

Will we, like the builders of old, reject the stone that is meant to hold all things together?

Is Jesus Christ truly the cornerstone of our lives?

Come let us admit the truth about ourselves.

**Humble God, we admit that we often have chosen to demand service rather than to give service.**

**We often have chosen to expect mercy rather than to offer mercy.**

**We often have chosen to exalt ourselves rather than to exalt our brother, Jesus.**

**Help us to find our way back to humility, back to an awareness of our life as servant people.**

**Give us the courage and light-heartedness to embrace that service that frees us for true discipleship.**

And now let us confess in silence those fears that keep us from loving as Christ has loved us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

Christ, have mercy on us.

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the mystery of God, One came among us, fully human yet fully divine, to lead us to the throne of grace. Though in the form of God, Jesus emptied Himself, taking a servant's role in humble service to humanity.

This was for our sakes, that we might bend our knees before God in humility and trust.

We are saved by God's steadfast love! Live in that hope and die in that hope!

A TIME OF SHARING

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace” (*John 1:16*).

In response to God's grace, let us give our tithes and offerings.

*Please sign the Registration Booklet at the end of each pew, then pass it to the next person. Thank you!*

Offertory – “Largo” – *M. Burkhardt*

\* Offertory Response # 785 "We Give You"  
We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let our minds not regard the abundance we have been given as  
our due, but let us empty out everything into your hands, O God.  
May our obedience be our confession that Jesus is our Lord.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Philippians 2: 5-11

HYMN - "Lamb of God" (*see insert*)

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QUIET PREPARATION

Congregational Prayer

Eternal God, whose whisper silences the shouts of the mighty, quiet within us every voice but your  
own. Speak to us now through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ that by the power of your  
Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show forth Christ's love in lives committed to your service.

The Passion of our Lord  
Matthew 26:14 to 27:66

\*Congregational Prayer

Have mercy on us, God, when our courage fades in the face of questioning, when  
our enthusiasm wilts into apathy, when we begin well but end miserably, when  
determination withers before challenge. Forgive us, O Merciful One, and give us the  
courage to live out our convictions and the fortitude to complete our commitments.  
For we ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

\*HYMN # 226 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

In this week ahead we will be asked to walk the hard road of faith and face the  
full cost of discipleship. The sacrifice we are called to share involves true commitment  
and devotion. May our hearts and minds follow wherever the road of faith may lead.

"Jesus, Remember Me" (sing twice)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

"Jesus Remember Me" – Words and Music: Jacques Berthier © 1981, 2005 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.  
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POSTLUDE – "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" – J. S. Bach