



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

**Sunday, March 28, 2021 – Online
Palm Sunday—Passion Sunday**



OPENING MUSIC

“Air on the G String”

Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

“O Happy Day”

Hawkins

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let's give thanks to the Lord, for God is good! God's steadfast love endures forever. Today is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and give thanks! From the House of the Lord and from our living rooms, we give you all thanks and praise! Today, as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, let our hearts be filled with joy and peace. Hosanna! Jesus is our Rock!

HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

“Hosanna, loud Hosanna,” The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple, The joyful anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them, Close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm-branch waving And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven Rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children Should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the Highest!” That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer The Lord of heav'n our King;
O may we ever praise him With heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence Eternally rejoice!

CCLI Song # 197280 Jennette Threlfall | Theodulph Of Orleans | Xavier Ludwig Hartig © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain Ellecombe from *Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Württemberg, 1784*

Entering Jerusalem Mark 11:1-11 (The Message) When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: “Go to the village across from

you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, ‘What are you doing?’ say, ‘The Master needs him, and will return him right away.’” They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, “What are you doing untying that colt?” The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted.

The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields.

Running ahead and following after, they were calling out, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in highest heaven! He entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

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.

MUSIC

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

Bach

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

It's All About the Palms

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he was a man on a mission, deliberately focused on completing the prophecy God sent him to fulfill. He knew what he needed to do, and charges us to continue with God's mission today. That takes many things; one of them is funding. As you participate from home, please take the time to keep up your pledges and offerings. We cannot be in mission without you. Thank you. To give online, you may go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

OFFERTORY

“Larghetto”

Handel

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Dinner at Bethany

Mark 14: 1-10

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

The Preparation

Mark 14:12-16

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

MUSIC

“Spirit of the Living God”

Iverson

The Betrayal Foretold

Mark 14:17-21

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?”

“It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

MUSIC

“Near the Cross”

Doane

The Last Supper

Mark 14:22-26

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

HYMN

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink the cup together on our knees, (on our knees)

Let us drink the cup together on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

CCLI Song # 28249 Traditional Spiritual © Words & Music: Public Domain

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

Mark 14:27-31

“You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written:

“‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’

But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

MUSIC

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Irish Melody

In the Garden

Mark 14:32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. Abba, Father,” he said, “Everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

MUSIC “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Converse

Jesus Arrested Mark 14:43-52

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then everyone deserted him and fled.

A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

MUSIC “Rock of Ages” Traditional American Melody

Jesus Before the Sanhedrin Mark 14:53-65

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and

asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

MUSIC “Lamb of God” Paris

Peter Disowns Jesus Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” Immediately the rooster crowd the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

MUSIC “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” Maker

Jesus Before Pilate Mark 15:1-15

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. “What shall I do, then, with the one you

call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" "Crucify him!" they shouted. "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" "Crucify him!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

MUSIC "He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word" Spiritual

The Soldiers Mock Jesus **Mark 15:16-20**

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

MUSIC "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Mason

The Crucifixion of Jesus **Mark 15:21-32**

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!"

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

HYMN "Were You There?"

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, Tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, Tremble, tremble
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, Tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

CCLI Song # 29516 Frederick J. Work | John W. Work Jr.
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The Death of Jesus **Mark 15:33-41**

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

MUSIC "What Wondrous Love Is This"

The Burial of Jesus **Mark 15:42-47**

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

MUSIC "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" Hassler

Readings are from the New International Version,
unless otherwise indicated.

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 28

Irene Joyce, Tom Foley

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Doug Thorn

Chuck McDougall

Tanis Merimee, Ken Mehalko, **Special Music**

Liturgists

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Sound/Video

Video

Special Music

NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 4

Pam & Bruce Keenen

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Doug Thorn

Chuck McDougall

Sharon Heinrich, Brittany

Fernandez, Brass

Ensemble, Venner

Clarinet Quartet

The steeple will light the sky this week—

Thank you to Doug Thorn for the great editing of our virtual worship services to make them even more memorable

Betty Craig

Many thanks to Tanis Merimee for providing cello music for today's worship service! Thanks also to Ken Mehalko for adding to our music today.

Happy Birthday today to George Kapcar!

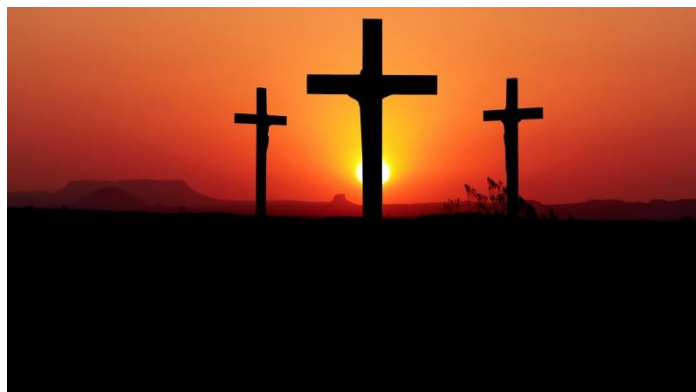
OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,649.37

Last Week's Offering Received \$ 15,665.00

Difference \$ 12,015.63

Thank you very much for your support of our church and its ministries



This is the last Sunday for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The gifts you give to OGHS are leveraged with those of others across the United Church of Christ, bringing a greater impact to the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables the UCC to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy,

sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, and disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us.

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters have occurred in our hometown, or in nearby communities or to friends and neighbors in countries thousands of miles away. Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God's love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Additional song credits

Air on the G String by Johann Sebastian Bach *from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major*, 1871 Public Domain played by the Tanis Merimee

O Happy Day CCLI Song # 2647793 Edwin Hawkins Philip Doddridge Public Domain arranged by Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Ken Mehalko

Sheep May Safely Graze Johann Sebastian Bach *Schafe können sicher weiden*, The Hunting Cantata, 1713 Public Domain, played by Tanis Merimee

Larghetto by Georg Frideric Handel from *Concerti Grossi* Opus 6, 1739 Music: Public Domain played by Tanis Merimee

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OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Richard Sazima & Kathy Sazima (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.



PALM SUNDAY—

The sanctuary of the church will be open on Sunday morning, March 28th from **9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.** to provide an opportunity for our members and friends to come in and be in prayerful communication with God. Pastor Heidi will provide a printed meditation, should you desire a focus for your quiet time, and will be available for prayer and spiritual support as needed.

At 10:30 a.m., we will go outside for a PALM PARADE around the perimeter of the church building—rain or shine!

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday – Maundy Thursday – Good Friday – Easter Sunday

3/28 PALM SUNDAY

Drop-in Meditation 9:30 a.m.

OUTDOOR PALM PARADE at 10:30 a.m.

4/1 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Drop-in Meditation/Communion 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

4/2 GOOD FRIDAY

Online rebroadcast of the Song of the Shadows
From combined choirs at the
Columbia United Methodist Church

4/4 EASTER SUNDAY

7: 30 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service

9 a.m. Easter Worship Service (Reservations required)

10:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service (Reservations required)

Of course, we will still be offering our online worship services, which you may view by going to:

<http://www.strongsvilleuucc.com/> and clicking on WORSHIP, then you can drop down and select SERVICE VIDEOS or access our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/vid>
[OS](#)



The Thrift Shop will be open for a bonus evening on Monday, March 29th from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.—Lots of great bargains! Hope to see you then!