

April 9, 2017 – 10:00 am
PALM SUNDAY
ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Our mission is to worship and serve God
in our church, community, and the world.



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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Please respond with words in **bold print**.

*Please stand if comfortably able

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: All Glory, Laud, and Honor Roger C. Wilson

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on

One: Hosanna, Child of David!

Blessed is the One who comes in the Sovereign's name!

MANY: What is this strange procession?

Why are people so excited?

One: The prophet has come!

The One who talks sense and listens.

**MANY: But good clothes are being trampled,
and they're getting dirty underfoot.**

One: Jesus has no concern about possessions;
but people have been healed by a touch.

**MANY: Why would a prophet come here?
We like things quiet and predictable.**

One: This is the One who saves us,
Who teaches us how to live.

**MANY: Will salvation bring changes I'll regret?
What will it cost to take this One seriously?**

*OPENING HYMN: NCH #214 "Filled With Excitement"

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

We come together, as believers and skeptics, to remember the drama of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We can get caught up in the excitement of a parade, especially in an important place or honoring someone we know. We like celebrations. But part of us holds back. We know the rest of the story. It involves denial and betrayal, spitting and shame, a crown of thorns, and a cruel cross. O God, it's hard to make sense out of life when goodness is crucified and evil

seems to triumph. Free us from our fear of consequences so we, too, can wave branches and sing praises. Amen.

***GLORIA: #759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: Shout, Sing, Celebrate! Parker & Raney
Duet: Nancy Eisenhower & Lew Thomasino**

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a Lay Liturgist

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11 Lay Liturgist

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21:1-11 Pastor Rosemary

SERMON: "What are We Celebrating?" Pastor Rosemary

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH #503**

"O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

You are invited to pray each week for a specific family or individual from our Congregation, in addition to those on our prayer list. Today we lift up in prayer these families. Prayers for healing:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it be your 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE: #773

Remember me, remember me, O Jesus remember me.

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: Ride On in Majesty Dorothy Wells

*DOXOLOGY: # 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

When you ask for what we have to give or lend, we want to offer it gladly. Open our ears and hearts to your requests. Open our eyes to see the needs of others that can be helped by our efforts. Loosen our tongues to tell the world of the opportunities to be found in your service. Bless now the gifts we bring in Jesus' name. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: **NCH #213 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"**

*BENEDICTION:

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: #393 First Verse

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE: March Triumphant into Jerusalem Thygerson

Serving in Christ's Name:

Ministers – All members of St. John UCC

Participants in Today's Worship:

Pastor – Pastor Rosemary Captain

Minister of Music – Sharon Banjavcic