



March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Keith Ciccone, Organ
Kiyoshi Hayashi, Violin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. Michael Frady

INTROIT

Tree of Life

Valerie Johnson, Soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Open the gates of justice, that we may enter and praise God within them.

Here, at the gate of the Holy One, we bring our thanks and praise.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Blessed are you who gather to worship the one who calls us and leads us into life.

We bring our thanks and praise to God, for if we were silent, the very stones we tread would shout out!

This is the day that God has made.

Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious and Loving God,

We gather in the presence of your Holy Spirit this morning to recall that day when Jesus entered Jerusalem to joyful shouts of “Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” Lord, God we open our hearts to receive Christ our redeemer this day. Give us the courage to not betray him as so many have. Guide us as we strive to follow the path of Jesus the Christ, whom you sent to show us the way. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11: 1-11

Carl Francis

SERMON

“Triumphant Entry”

Rev. Suzy Aja Burba

MUSIC RESPONSE

Ride on! Ride on in Majesty!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Michael Frady

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN

Are Ye Able,” Said the Master

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures, here, below.
Praise Him, above, ye heav’nly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

We thank you, O God, for your generous Spirit; for Christ’s gift of self and for your never-failing love. For your many gifts, we thank you. For caring enough to walk with us in our weakness, we praise you. Receive these gifts we bring in gratitude for the love you offer us, a love that makes us well and whole. Amen.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



The History of Palm Sunday

The celebration of Palm Sunday originated in the Jerusalem Church around the late fourth century. The early Palm Sunday ceremony consisted of prayers, hymns, and sermons recited by the clergy while the people walked to various holy sites throughout the city. At the final site, the place where Christ ascended into heaven, the clergy would read from the gospels concerning the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In the early evening they would return to the city reciting: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord." The children would carry palm and olive branches as the people returned through the city back to the church, where they would hold evening services.

By the fifth century, the Palm Sunday celebration had spread as far as Constantinople. Changes made in the sixth and seventh centuries resulted in two new Palm Sunday traditions - the ritual blessing of the palms, and a morning procession instead of an evening one.

Palm Sunday is an occasion for reflecting on the final week of Jesus' life. It is a time for us as Christians to prepare their hearts for the agony of his death and the joy of his resurrection.

The Meaning of Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter, and marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week of events leading up to Jesus' death. Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" to honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King.

The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way paved with palm branches is a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9). In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph. The regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions.

~Excerpts taken from "What Does Palm Sunday Mean?" by David Katski
www.sharefaith.com



If you wish to receive **palms for your home** and you are not attending worship in-person, you may pick them up at the church. We will place them near the front door of the church after

Easter Flower have been ordered. If you ordered a plant for personal use, you may pick it up after worship on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. If you are not attending worship in person then you may pick it up during regular business hours Monday—Friday, 9-1. Please contact the office if you are unable to pick it up and you wish to have your plant delivered.



Thank you for attending this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us.



About Today's Service: We are thrilled to welcome members and friends back into the Sanctuary for today's service. It is also being live-streamed.

Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTaGrBGnYzfM66pS7Bd4PvA>

Non-perishable Food Pantry donations are collected for The Marge Crispin Center on the first Wednesday of the Month in front of the church. Contact free! Just drive by and drop. Or place your donations in the basket in LPH or the Narthex. Thank you!

Televised Worship Services are broadcast on BCAM: Verizon Channel 28, Comcast Channel 9, on Saturday at 8:00 AM and Sunday at 10:00 AM.

First Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am—1:00pm.



Rev. Michael Frady, Senior Minister ❖ pastormichael@firstchurchbraintree.com

Rev. Suzy Aja Burba, Associate Minister ❖ suzy@firstchurchbraintree.com

Keith Ciccone, Director of Music ❖ keciccon@aol.com

Mattie Gietman, Dir. Children's Ministry ❖ mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com

Deb McMartin, Administrator ❖ office@firstchurchbraintree.com

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper ❖ finance@firstchurchbraintree.com

