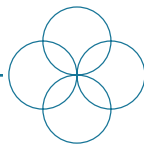


We embrace all as we journey  
**the way of Jesus**



CHRIST  
CHURCH UCC





April 2, 2023

Welcome

Prelude

**"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

Toni Sheffer, organ

*Eric Wyse*

*arr. James Pethel*

Call to Worship

Marcia Storm

One: Oh God, you are interrupting us with eternity once again.

**All: Open our hearts and minds and eyes and ears to hear what you have to teach us.**

One: On this Palm Sunday, time is marked as one small donkey plods toward Jerusalem, One with a face set like flint, feet almost grazing the ground, walks forward toward the Eastering of all sorrow — not in the power of horses and swift victory, but in small, steady steps...

**All: ...toward the mystery that through suffering, healing comes, that through shame, dignity is restored, that through the cross that powers are disarmed, and death done away with forever.**

One: Blessed are all those walking forward into the great, small work they do: in hospitals, homes, grocery stores, classrooms, churches, and cubicles.

**All: And blessed are we joining the crowds waving palm branches to shout ourselves hoarse:**

One: "Hosanna! Save us! Save our world."

**All: God, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Spirit, have mercy.**

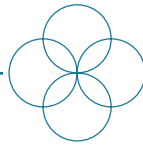
Black Hymnal #216

**"All Glory, Laud and Honor"**

*Theodulf/Teschner*

Praying Together

Ever constant Love, mixing love and hope together, you pave the way to the kingdom, but we prefer to stub our toes on the potholed roads of temptation. You would touch the cup of grace to our parched lips, but we seem to hunger for the ashy taste of bitterness. You beg us to learn the songs of salvation, but we hum along with the chorus death plays in the background of our lives. Have mercy upon us, God of Holiness. As you come to us, you bring healing for our brokenness, peace for our troubled lives, hope for our doubting minds. May we empty ourselves of everything which keeps us from following you, so we may receive these gifts, and more, from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



### Assurance of God's Presence

One: Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us. This is the good news, my friends: God's steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Hosanna! Hosanna!**

**Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.**

### Offertory

**"Ride On, King Jesus"**

Justin Glaser, solo

*Spiritual*

*arr. Hall Johnson*

### Prayer of Dedication

### Scripture Readings

**Matthew 21:1-17**

### Sermon

**The Palm Sunday We Actually Have**

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

### Black Hymnal #213

**"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"**

*Jennette Threlfall*

### Our Lenten Creed

One: We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,

**All: who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

One: We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,

**All: and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

One: We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God

**All: who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

One: We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,

**All: and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

One: We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,

**All: and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

One: We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,

**All: and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

One: And we join together

**All: This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen!**

### Sacrament of Communion and the Lord's Prayer

**"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"**

*Southern Folk Melody*

*arr. Mark Hayes*

### Black Hymnal #214

**"Filled with Excitement"**

*Rubin Ruiz Avila*

### Benediction

### Postlude

**"Lift High the Palms!"**

*Joseph M. Martin*

Chancel Choir; Evan Stuart, solo