



**NEWTON
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking,

An Open and Affirming Congregation

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Virtual Worship • April 5, 2020 • 10:00am • Palm Sunday

Digital Bulletin

This document is prepared so you can join our Sunday morning live-stream worship via our Facebook page (facebook.com/NewtonUCC) or call in via Zoom (Dial 312-626-6799, when prompted enter Meeting ID: 624 681 423 followed by #) or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—uccnewton.org).

We are new to online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and still working on smoothing out a few “hiccups” and technical difficulties. Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do to “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency.

We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- Prepare a piece of bread or a cracker and a small glass of grape juice or wine (if you do not have these items on hand, you may use any “nibble” and “sip” that is convenient for you)
- Find a small branch or scarf or other piece of clothing for the “Call to Worship”
- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
- Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to Matthew 21:1-11
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*The crowds—those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed—were all shouting,
“Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David! Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Most High! Hosanna in the highest!”*
Matthew 21:9

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

One: As we prepare ourselves to join together in worship,
let us remind ourselves who we are
as members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.

**All: We are a community of God’s beloved
dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith
by loving and serving all of God’s creation
and striving for justice and peace
throughout our community, our nation, and the world.**

THE BREATH OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP *Pave the Way with Branches* by Bret Hesla
(*You are encouraged to safely wave your palm frond/branch/piece of clothing as you sing aloud
the response.*)

One: Jesus is coming. Pave the way with branches. Jesus is coming. Hosanna!

All: Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace!

One: Hope for the downtrod. Pave the way with branches.
Hope for the downtrod. Hosanna!

All: Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace!

One: Land for the landless. Pave the way with branches. Land for the landless. Hosanna!

All: Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace!

One: Debts are forgiven. Pave the way with branches. Debts are forgiven. Hosanna!

All: Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace!

One: Release for the captives. Pave the way with branches.
Release for the captives. Hosanna!

All: Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace!

One: The suffering servant. Pave the way with branches. The suffering servant. Hosanna!

**All: Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace!
Hosanna! Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the Prince of Peace!**

OPENING PRAYER

One: On this day, O God, we join with Jesus
as he enters the holy city of Jerusalem riding humbly upon a donkey.

**All: On this day, O God, we join with his earliest followers
as they spread branches and their coats on the road
proclaiming the arrival of the Prince of Peace.**

One: Today, we gather, Spirit of Peace, as witnesses to another way.
We gather trusting in the power of humility and love.

All: We join together to pray, to repent, to worship.
We come seeking to follow your way of peace and justice for all.
Fill us with your sustaining love as we begin the difficult week ahead,
a week full of adversity and confrontation.
And, make us bold that we might stay the course
following Jesus even to the cross. Amen.

OPENING HYMN 192

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

St. Theodulph

*All glo-ry, laud, and hon-or, to you, Re-deem-er, King,
to whom the lips of chil-dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!
You are a child of Is-rael, Great Da-vid's great-er son;
you ride in low-ly tri-umph, Mes-si-ah, bless-ed one!*

*The com-pa-ny of an-gels are prais-ing you on high,
and we with all cre-a-tion in cho-rus make re-ply.
The peo-ple of the He-brews with palms be-fore you went;
our praise and prayer and an-thems be-fore you we pre-sent.*

*To you be-fore your pas-sion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high ex-alt-ed, our mel-o-dy we raise.
As you re-ceived their prais-es, now hear us as we pray.
Since you de-light in good-ness, rule in our hearts to-day.*

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION (unison)

Since the very beginning, O God, you have shown us that love
is the only way to true life, to peace, to truth, to wholeness.
Yet, somehow that message has gotten turned around.
Our fear, our arrogance, our greed has led us to follow another path,
to trust in the power of domination, coercion, and violence.
Forgive us for actively joining in that procession,
and forgive us when we stand on the sidelines
quietly offering our support through our silence.
Forgive us, yes, but also transform, inspire, and embolden us
that we might join in your counter-procession
that faces domination and oppression head on
and proclaims the power of unconditional love
to bring forth peace and well-being for all of your beloved.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who led such a procession so many years ago. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN

Lead Us from Death to Life

World Peace Prayer

***Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth,
from de-spair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our u-ni-verse.***

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11

GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex

***Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ, the Ho-ly Spir-it, Three-in-One;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be,
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.***

SERMON

Which Side Are You On?

Rev. Jessica Petersen

PAUSE

HYMN 393

One Bread, One Body

One Bread, One Body

***One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all, one cup of bless-ing which bless.
And we, through man-y through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this Lord.
Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free, wom-an or man, no more.***

***One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all, one cup of bless-ing which bless.
And we, through man-y through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this Lord.
Man-y the gifts, man-y the works, one in the Lord of all.***

***One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all, one cup of bless-ing which bless.
And we, through man-y through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this Lord.
Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown, gath-ered to one, for all.***

***One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all, one cup of bless-ing which bless.
And we, through man-y through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this Lord.***

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Swing wide the doors your hearts.

All: We open them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to our amazing God.

All: It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.

One: We thank you, O God, and we praise you

for you have provided for all the worlds that ever were or will be
by giving yourself to them, to us in love.

If we go to the heights of the mountains,

or if we make the grave our bed, you are with us.
If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast.
We thank you for your ever-abiding presence that infuses all of creation.

All: We thank you, O God, and we praise you.

One: We thank you, Loving Spirit, for your teachers, your preachers,
your prophets, your messengers who proclaimed your way of love and justice,
who continue to call us to live according to your way even this day.

All: We thank you, O God, and we praise you.

One: We thank you for Jesus, who shows us most fully who you are:
a God of love, a God of justice, a God of peace.
Through his words and through his actions,
he has shown us what it looks like to live fully, faithfully, and authentically
as a human member of your creation.
We thank you that you stamped his death, his execution with victory
and that Life, not Death, that Love, not Fear, was the final word.

All: We thank you, O God, and we praise you.

One: We thank you for your life-giving spirit that calls us to come together as the church,
to follow in the way of Jesus,
to show forth your love that all might experience the good gifts of your creation,
to co-create with you and one another the just world for which you long.

All: We thank you, O God, and we praise you.

One: As we now prepare to come to your table,
we recall that story of our tradition so rich with meaning.
On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This is the cup of the new covenant poured out in my blood for you and for many.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.
We ask now that you bless this bread and this cup,
and bless those of us gathered here, as we share this meal at your table of grace,
that we might be nourished by that same unbounded love
shared forth by our crucified and risen savior.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

*(Please pray the Prayer of our Savior in the language familiar to you or the words found below. *Other options for "Father" include "Mother," "Creator," "Parent.")*

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

We thank you, O God, for the gift of your table,
for the gift of your relentless love
that persists and guides us even through our greatest struggles.
Held in the safety and security of your love,
empower us and inspire us to live more faithfully
loving more fully even as we have first been loved. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN 193

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

Morning Song

*A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.*

*They laid their garments in the road and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and psalms.*

*When day dimmed down to deep'ning dark the crowd began to fade
'til only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.*

*Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.*

*Instead of palms a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprinting and Streaming of Hymns:

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Hymn numbers are from "Chalice Hymnal."