



**First
Church**
Bridgton, ME
An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Palm Sunday

Order for Worship | April 5, 2020 | God is still speaking

Congregational responses are in bold, • means “please rise in body or spirit.”



PRELUDE AND INTRODUCTIONS

WELCOME

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
See page 6

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Matthew 21:9

We repeat this call and response three times

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Many: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

WE PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WE SOUND THE BELL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh God of Palms and God of Passion, remind us that what we consider triumphant and what You consider triumphant are often different. Too often our pride conceals You from us, and conceals Your working in plain sight among the poor, the marginalized, and the overlooked. Creating God, create in us new hearts, which can give us hands to do the work of your justice in this world. Amen.

BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS

Romans 8:38-9

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

“If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.”

-Meister Eckhart

As we name the abundant blessings of our lives (anniversaries, birthdays, clean-and-sober milestones, and many more!), we offer a gratitude gift in any amount, so that the blessings we have received from God may be multiplied and shared with all who long to experience God’s extravagant welcome in this church and beyond.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

*Go now in peace! Go now in peace!
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go!*

SHARING OUR SACRED STORY

Reader: Friends, hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today.

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

MATTHEW 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Reader: This is the story of life for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Rev. Emily C. Goodnow

• HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together
See page 7

HOLY COMMUNION

As you're comfortable, you are invited to have bread and juice or wine from home this morning, trusting that the most ordinary things can become sacraments in God's presence. To that end, you are also welcome to be creative - a donut and coffee could be your communion elements if that's what's in your kitchen and would feed your spirit this morning.

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WE SHARE THE HOLY FEAST TOGETHER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge.

God who is Love, hear us now as we call out the prayers of our own hearts to You:

We name our prayers to God, aloud or in our hearts

Loving God, hear our prayers. And in one voice we join in the prayer Jesus taught us saying...

THE 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 done in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF LOVE AND PROMISE

• WORDS OF THANKSGIVING

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

**Holy God, we lift these, our gifts, to You,
And we name You Lord of all.**

**We pray that You would use these gifts to write a new Hosanna song
In our church, our community, and our world.**

We pray that You would use these gifts to make our church and our world even more:
We call out words like “joyful, kind, just” to bless our church and world

• HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
See page 8

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jeremy Hill

SERVICE CREDITS

Service written by the Rev. Emily C. Goodnow. Prayer of Confession written by the Rev. Shane Montoya. Communion Liturgy adapted from the Rev. Maren Tirabassi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We would love your input on what kinds of virtual programming you would like during this time. [Click here to fill out our survey!](#)
- We are organizing volunteers to help those most at-risk in our community; you can sign up [here](#).
- Our staff is mainly working remotely during this time. Here's how to reach us:
Office Manager Molly Wunderli: office@bridgtonucc.org
CE Director Sandy Wissmann: swissmann@bridgtonucc.org
Associate Pastor Lisa Burger: associatepastor@bridgtonucc.org | 890-4318
Senior Pastor Rev. Emily Goodnow: seniorpastor@bridgtonucc.org | 200-8891

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each event is hyperlinked to the zoom meeting link, except for the livestreamed events, which links to our Remote Worship page on our website.

Today, Sunday April 5

Livestreamed Worship, 10 am

Zoom Coffee Hour, 11:15 am

Tuesday, April 7

Parenting During a Pandemic, 12 pm: Set your little people up with lunch or a project (or screen time, no judgment here!) and connect with other parents and Rev. Emily about what's going well and what's challenging in this time.

Prayer Group Online, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, April 8

Story time with Sandy, 10 am - For our youngest disciples, Sandy will be reading a story book and offering a short prayer.

Tea time with Rev. Emily, 2 pm - An informal check-in and catch up over tea

High schooler zoom game time, 3pm

Thursday, April 9

Preschool story time with Bailey & Wensday, 10 am - Our preschool class is invited to a special zom story time with Bailey Crawford and Wensday Morse.

Grades 4-7 zoom meet up, 3 pm

Livestreaming Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm - Join us for a worship service streamed on Facebook Live as members of our church tell the story of Jesus' last days from their own tables in their own homes. This service will include communion, so you are invited to come with bread and juice/wine, or whatever you have on hand, to join in this sacred feast from your home.

Friday, April 10

Good Friday Prayer,* 12 pm: A brief service of music, quiet, and scripture on this hard & holy day.

***Good Friday Where You Are** - Rev. Emily has put together a pre-recorded Good Friday Service on our church website that you can listen to at whatever point in the day makes sense for you. It's 20 minutes long, and includes silence, prayer, scripture, and "Were You There," sung by former choir member Charlotte Nolan. Listen while you take a walk or sit by the fire or find a quiet time for contemplation and prayer on this holy day.

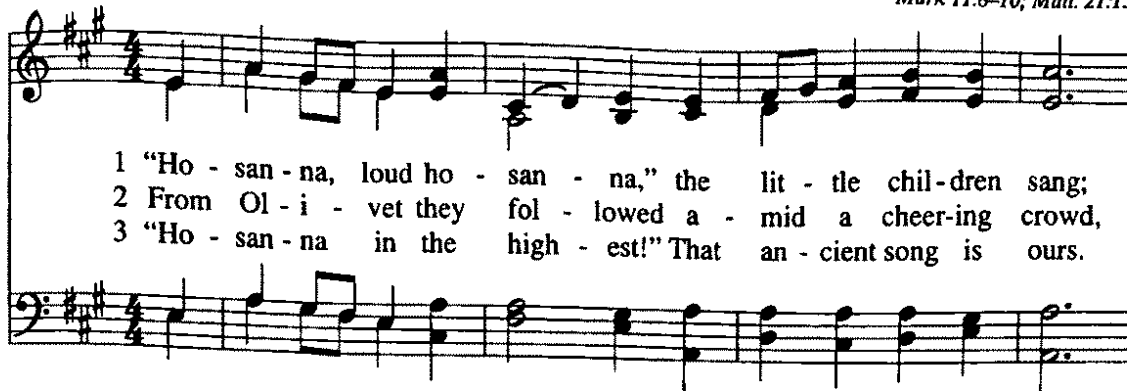
Easter Sunrise Where You Are - Rev. Emily has put together a brief Sunrise Service for you to use at first light on Easter Sunday, where you find yourself.

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

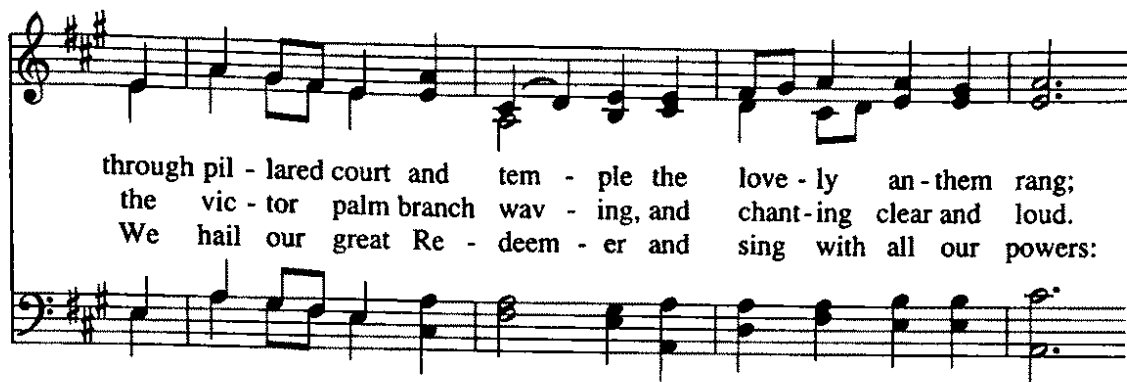
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Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

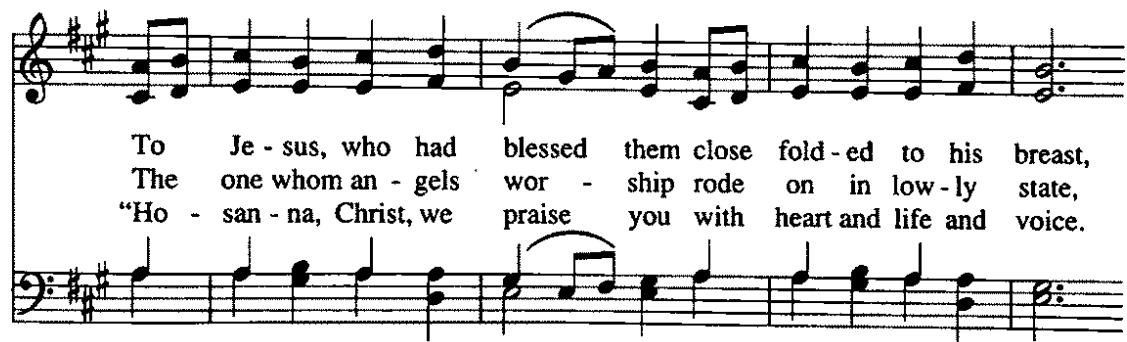
Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15



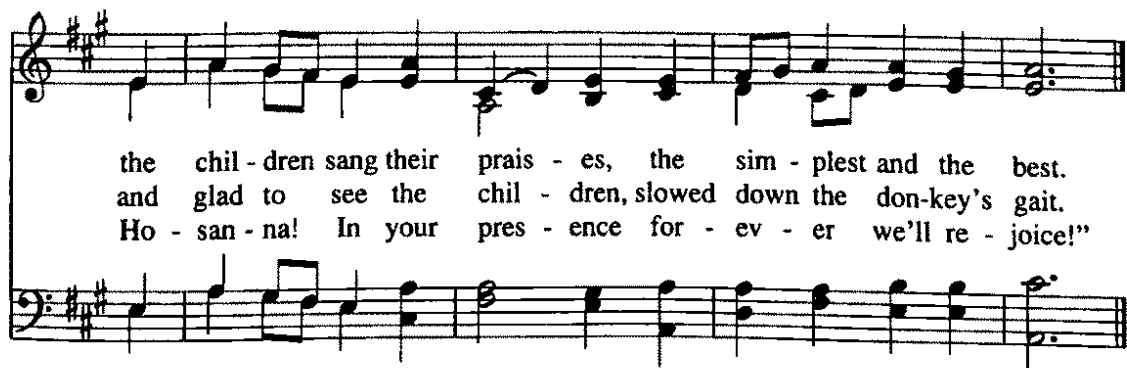
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection Sunshine and Shadow.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,
 My God, have mer - cy on me.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

Matt. 21:8-9

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da-vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re-ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - -cy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.

The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo-ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,

our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became bishop of Orléans but was later imprisoned by Charlemagne's successor. According to legend, he was released when the king, Louis the Pious, heard him sing this hymn from prison.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615
 For another setting, see 217