

WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 24, 2024, 10:00AM
PALM SUNDAY

PRELUDE

Lo, He Comes John Horman
Cherubs, Spirit Singers, Joyful Noise, Church School

*HYMN #178

All Glory, Laud and Honor St. Theodulph

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Psalm 51*)

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to Your steadfast love.

**People: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach us wisdom in our secret heart.**

Leader: Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean;
wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

**People: Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Leader: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation,
and sustain in us a willing spirit.

**All: O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall declare your praise.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross,
sign of human shame and divine wisdom. Like Jesus, we would
follow faithfully in Your way. Like Jesus, we would live to You
and die to You. We are Your people. We belong to You. We offer
You our worship and our lives. We believe; help us in our
unbelief. We love You, yet not with perfect hearts. We long for**

you, yet not with our whole selves. O Lord, our Christ, may we have Your mind and Your spirit. Give us new hearts that we may rise to serve You as new people, according to Your will and for the sake of Your glory, as we now offer our silent confessions...

Silence

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In the days of the prophet Isaiah, God declared,

People: “I, I am the One who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

Leader: Be assured, dear friends, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

Hosanna to the Son of David

David Morgan

Chancel Choir

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

THE ROLL CALL OF THE CANDIDATES

(New members, please come forward as your name is called.)

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH (unison)

We, as members of this church, gladly welcome you to join with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of the Church of Christ. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy; that we may together grow in the Christian life.

*THE CHURCH COVENANT (unison)

**We do covenant with the Lord and with one another,
and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk
together in all His ways, according as He is pleased to
reveal Himself unto us in His blessed word of Truth.
Amen.**

*All Children through Grade 7 recess to Smith Hall to meet your teachers for a special
Palm Sunday Chapel service*

*HYMN (*see page 5*)

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 11:54-57, 12:12-19

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Palms and Crosses”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Blessings

Laura Story

Darren Anderson, tenor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and
The Lord’s Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

Guide Us, Lord

Mark Patterson

Joyful Noise

AMO WITNESS AND CALL TO OFFERING

Jini Martens

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Were You There?

Barbara Kinyon

Joyful Ringers

*DOXOLOGY (unison)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #179

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

St. Drostan

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Majestic Peal

John Leavitt

Joyful Ringers

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to the McLain and Parkhill families for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

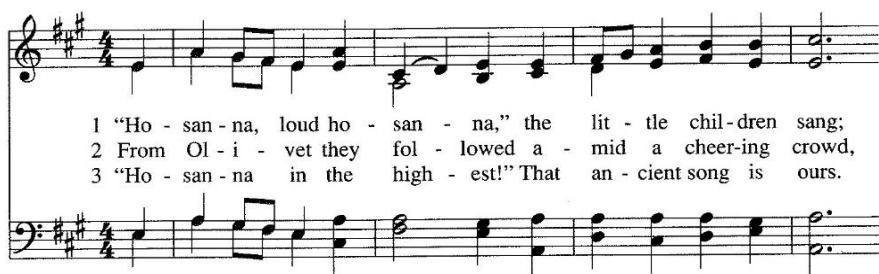
The flowers in the Meeting House are given in loving memory of Nick Nicolosi from the Reed family.

We welcome trumpeter Tony Kadleck to our service this morning. Guest instrumentalists are funded through the Mary Bradley Clarke Fund. Established in 1973 and designated for instrumentalists and singers, the fund underwrites special music programs at CCNC. Sincere gratitude is extended to all our generous contributors!

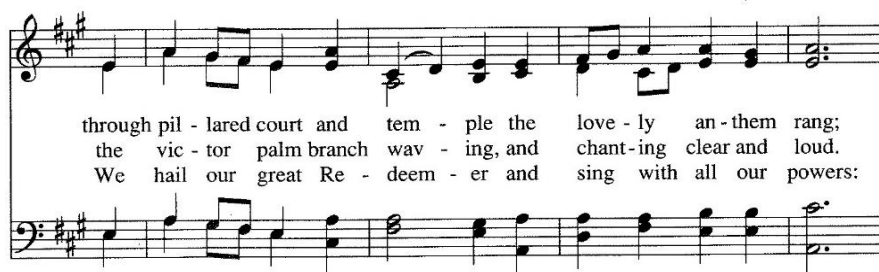
ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Courtney Flynn at (203) 594-1850 or welcoming@godsacre.org.

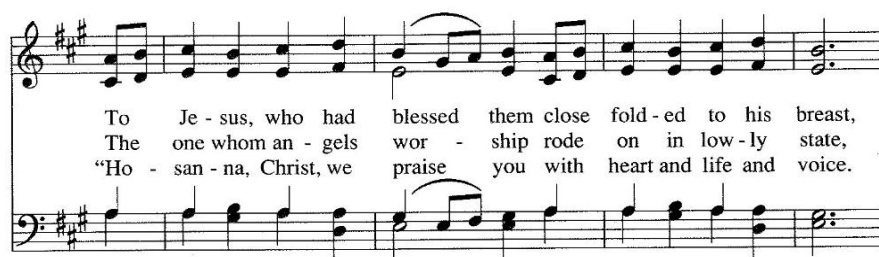
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



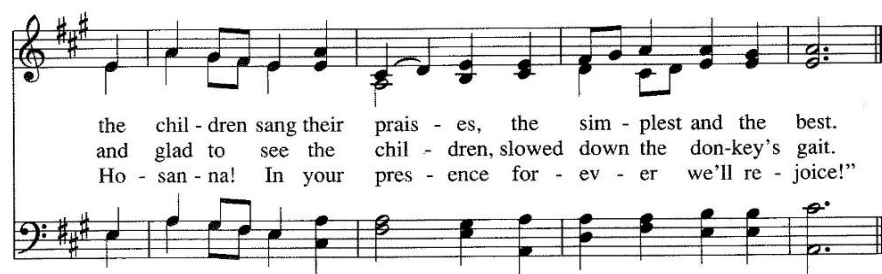
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer-ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



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!"

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

John & Anita Bausman
Hoyt Street
Thomas, Jake & Pia

Bill & Emily Candee
Main Street
Cole, Amelia & Gray

Andrew & Sarah Dugal
Summer Street

Jeff & Jenn Fittipaldi
Forest Street
Julia, Rocco & Jameson

Drew & Elizabeth Garrabrant
Salem Road
Grace, Montgomery, Ann & Henry

Walter & Sharon Kress
Hurlbutt Street, Wilton
Walter III & Andrew

Alden Meintzer
Hickory Drive

Andrew & Abby Stinchfield
Brooks Road
Bea

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ON GOD'S ACRE

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, MAUNDY THURSDAY

Tenebrae Service, 8:00pm, Meeting House

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, GOOD FRIDAY

The Chapel is open for prayer; the Church Office is closed.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, EASTER SUNDAY

Contemporary Sunrise Worship Service, 6:30am, Church Steps: Led by our YG Fish and YG Worship Team. A light breakfast follows in the Parlor.

Traditional Worship Services, **9:00am** and **11:00am**, Meeting House: Preludes will begin at 8:45am and 10:45am. The nursery will provide childcare for infants up to age 2. Chapel Service will be available for children aged Pre-K through 4th grade.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship, 10:00am, Church Lawn: Between the 9:00am and 11:00am services please join us for an Egg Hunt on God's Acre. We will have different egg-hunting sections for each age group, several golden eggs with mystery prizes inside, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! We invite you to sign up to bring a baked good or drink to our family fellowship that will also take place outside during the egg hunt. We look forward to a special Easter morning with all of you! Contact Lindsey Daly, lindsey@godsacre.org.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL SIGNUP IS HERE!

This year, the children's musical is an interactive program about the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-25. We will learn memory verses, songs, and dances to correlate with each "fruit." Our program will be a part of the 10:00am worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Rehearsals will be held during Church School and Children's Choir, with only a select few after-church rehearsals. Signup flyers can be found in Smith Hall. Contact Greer Lyle, greer@godsacre.org

EASTER FLOWERS – LAST CALL

The congregation is invited to make contributions given in celebration of the season and/or in memory of loved ones. Contributions and bulletin listings should be sent to Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org by Monday, March 25. You can donate online and designate Easter Flowers or use the envelope in this bulletin and drop it in the collection plate. The flowers will be on display on Easter Sunday.

GET INVOLVED WITH NEW MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

Through the lens of a foundation of faith, spirituality, and hope, a new ministry team at our church has formed to raise awareness around how these important pillars can positively impact our mental health and that of our loved ones. Our goal is to support each other and bring resources to our community. We seek members who feel called to help build a new ministry involving book groups, workshops, teen-focused programs, and more. Contact Kim Hall (917)690-3700 or Martha Palmer (919)593-6173 to learn more.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY-RESURRECTION STORIES IN THE GOSPELS

Join us to reflect on the resurrection stories as evocatively told in the Gospels.

Monday, March 25, 7:00-8:00am, Library

Tuesday, March 26, (Women's) 9:30-10:30am, Parlor

Contact Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.

LENTEN COLLECTION - LITTLE FREE PANTRY OF STAMFORD

The Little Free Pantry of Stamford offers free food and other necessities from the small outdoor and always open pantry located at St. John's Lutheran Church. As a Lenten practice during the month of March, we will partner with LFP supplying their most difficult to collect items. Please bring small laundry detergent jugs, bar soap, shampoo/conditioner, hand soap, toothpaste, diapers, toilet cleaner, household spray cleaners and/or feminine care products to the bin in Smith Hall by March 31. Contact Tracy Goldman, office@godsacre.org.

LENTEN PODCAST: PRACTICING WHAT JESUS PREACHED

Each weekday in Lent, Chapin offers a daily podcast with reflections, questions, practices, and prayers, on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Take time to journey with Jesus this Lenten season, by striving to put what Jesus preached into practice. The podcast is available on all major podcast platforms. Chapin's book, *Practicing What Jesus Preached* is available at the church, Elm Street Books, Wipf & Stock Publishers www.wipfandstock.com, and other online vendors.

MARCH PLATE OFFERING

The March plate offering will be split between Inspirica (in Stamford), Pacific House (in Stamford), and Open Doors (in Norwalk). Your generous donation will directly benefit the homeless in our local communities.

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Please join us for this meaningful Holy Week service, Thursday March 28, 8:00pm. Tenebrae is an ancient service of Shadows and Light that dramatizes the departure and desertion of Jesus' disciples shortly after their Last Supper.

MEALS ON WHEELS – VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Our long-standing partner, Meals on Wheels, is looking for drivers to deliver meals to New Canaan residents who are unable to provide a meal for themselves. Meals are picked up at Waveny Care Center at 10:30am and delivery usually takes about an hour and a half. Feel free to bring a friend or your kids along while serving your community. Sign up today using the following sign-up genius or contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa5a72ba2f94-january#/>

PALM SUNDAY AT CHURCH SCHOOL

Today we will hold a special Palm Sunday Chapel service for children through grade 7. Middle School will help to guide the younger children through the events of Holy Week in preparation for Easter Sunday.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

3/24 MSYG (Grades 7-8), Create in Me, 4:00-5:30pm

3/24 YG (Grades 9-12), Create in Me, 7:00-8:30pm

3/26 JYG & Guppies (Grades 3-6), 4:30-5:30pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Courtney Flynn

Welcoming Team Chair

Jini Martens

AMO Witness

Dr. Michael Burnette

Interim Director of Music Ministries

Greer Lyle

Director of Children's Music & Drama

Tony Kadleck, trumpet

Soloist

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Teri Reed

We are a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make your 2024 pledge today.

