

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

From Palms to Passion: The Story of Jesus' Last Days in Jerusalem



March 24, 2024

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

☪ We Listen for the Still Speaking God

We are striving to be an Anti-Racism church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Our Palm Sunday service this year is called From Palms to Passion. **There is no Good Friday service this year**, but we cannot go from the joy of Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter Sunday without facing the sorrow of Good Friday. The Palms to Passion service allows us to take that journey of sorrow with Jesus.

We will begin the morning with Luke's story of Palm Sunday
and then we will hear the story of the Passion from Luke's gospel.

We hope you will attend the Maundy Thursday service March 28th at 7 p.m.

Prelude

Intrada

Ovid Young

Welcome & Announcements

Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

If you want to know more, email the office at office@uccplymouth.org.

Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.

Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.

Choral Introit:

Hosanna to the Son of David

by Healey Willan

Invocation:

One: Lent began in the wilderness; it concludes in Jerusalem.

Two: We now come near to the end of one story. Another will soon begin.

Three: We have followed Jesus this far; today we remember how he faced betrayal, falseness, rejection, and torment.

Four: And we witness, once more, that he taught and walked in love through every step of the journey.

***Procession of the Palms:**

All Glory, Laud and Honor

PH (red) #155

The Entry Into Jerusalem

Luke 19:28–38

Luke 19: 28–38: The Triumphal Entry

Readers: Abby Ball & Alastair Goundrey

Choral Response:

Lift Up Your Heads

Unison Gathering Prayer

by Steve Garnass-Holmes

Creator God, we praise you, for your Love rules over our lives with grace and beauty, creating us anew each moment. We thank you, for your Christ

rules over us in humble tenderness, healing and redeeming us. We open our hearts to you, for your Spirit rules us from within with power, filling us with compassion. Grant that we will always turn to you alone for our salvation, and for the gift of life. Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in your name! Peace on earth, and glory in the highest! Grant us your salvation, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation

by Thom Shuman

One: Where do we hide our palm branches when the parade is over? When do our hosannas become cries for punishment? How do we, like those before us, turn our backs on the One who comes to us in the name of the Lord? As we begin Holy Week, let us admit what is true about us, as we pray together, saying,

All: Steadfast Lover: when things go well for us, we can easily sing loud hosannas, but the words turn to ashes in mouths full of anger and bitterness. We hide behind our palm branches, hoping you will not see the doubts we have about what you call us to do. We eagerly feast on your blessings, but are reluctant to offer even crumbs to those around us.

Forgive us, Approaching God. Now, more than ever, forgive us. May we be as eager to lay down our fears and doubts, our sins and pride, as we are to lay down our coats for you. May we praise you for your victory over death, as well as for the promise of resurrection to new life, the promise given to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

One: At his birth, Jesus comes bringing us hope. Entering Jerusalem, he brings us assurance. Walking to Calvary, he leads us to new life. All this was for us – so we could bend our knees before God in humility and praise. God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.

Word for All Ages

Sung Response

Go My Children, with My Blessing

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Joys & Concerns of the People

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Offertory

Hosanna

by Marie Pooler

We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Unison Offertory Prayer

We cast these gifts before you, O God, as palms were cast before Jesus long ago. We lay them on your altar in praise, thanksgiving, and joy. Receive them back from our hands, that they may become a greater blessing in your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Passion

Luke 22:14–23:56

Please remain seated during congregational singing.

Hymn Insert: An Upper Room with Evening Lamps, *verse 1*

Luke 22: 14–38: The Upper Room

Reader: Bev Newton

Red Hymnal #158: Go to Dark Gethsemane, *verse 1*

Luke 22: 39–46: Garden of Gethsemane

Reader: Alison Thatcher

Musical interlude: *Stay with Me*

Becc Kulengosky

Luke 22: 47–53: Jesus Arrested

Reader: Alison Thatcher

Red Hymnal #158: Go to Dark Gethsemane, *verse 2*

Luke 22: 54–63: Peter Disowns Jesus

Reader: Ann Thurston

Hymn Insert: To Mock Your Reign, *verse 1*

Luke 22:66–23:12: Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

Reader: Bill Heron

Hymn Insert: To Mock Your Reign, *verses 2 & 3*

Luke 23: 13–25: Before Pilate

Reader: Rev. Ruth Martz

Musical Interlude *Were You There*
Luke 23: 26–43: The Crucifixion of Jesus Reader: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Choir: There is a Green Hill Far Away by Jeffrey Blersch
Luke 23: 44–49: The Death of Jesus Reader: Steve Majeski

Red Hymnal #158: Go to Dark Gethsemane, *verse 3*
Luke 23: 50–56: The Burial of Jesus Reader: Alison Thatcher

***Red Hymnal #163:** Ah, Holy Jesus (*all verses*)

Postlude Elegie Martin Reinhardt
Please refrain from applauding so that we may depart in silence.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Eileen Torrey’s brother-in-law Carl, who is being treated for throat cancer
 Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.
 Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy
 Prayers for the people of Ukraine
 Prayers for Eleanor Spencer’s brother, Ron Ury
 Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O’Connor, who will be undergoing radiation therapy
 Prayers for Kristin, friend of Alice O’Connor, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer
 Prayers for Paulette Brace’s son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues
 Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
 Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer, family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher
 Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj
 Prayers for our partner church in Zimbabwe, Masvingo UCCZ
*If you have a prayer request, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or
 send an email to plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org*

This Week and More at PCUCC

Sunday, March 24	One Great Hour of Sharing UCC Special Mission Offering
Monday, March 25	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, March 26	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 27	11:00 am Lectio Divina (Lenten Book Study)
Thursday, March 28	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, March 29	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, April 1	10:00 am Book Group
Sunday, April 7	Post-worship congregational with gathering led by our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin
Sunday, April 14	4:00 pm Concert: Baker Valley Band

CHURCH LIFE

Preaching Schedule:

Palms to Passion, March 24: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Maundy Thursday, March 28: Rev. Ruth Martz

Easter Sunday, March 31: Rev. Ruth Martz

April 7: Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, NHCUCC

Sanctuary Artwork: Thank you to everyone who shared their winter artwork in our sanctuary. With the changing of the season, we'll be changing our sanctuary art exhibit. Please pick up your artwork in the chapel at your earliest convenience.

Lenten Book Study Wednesdays at 11am: The Wednesday Morning Bible study group will be reading "The Last Week: What the gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. We'll read a chapter a week during Lent beginning Feb. 14th. All are welcome to join in, or you might consider reading this book as your own Lenten devotional.

Book Group is reading The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver. Join the discussion on April 1 and 15 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin, will be staying after worship to lead a discussion for all of us to help us navigate our interim period. **Please submit your suggestions in the Suggestions Box outside the office.** These will help direct the discussion in the way that is most helpful to our congregation. And please stay for the gathering!

Get your solar eclipse glasses: The total solar eclipse will be visible from NH on Monday, April 8. See Sally Jensen to get a pair of solar eclipse glasses.

Spring Plant Sale Upcoming in May: Calling all green thumbs! We're looking for donations of a variety of indoor and outdoor plants AND veggies plus pots to use for the sale. More information coming soon! Please reach out to Jenny Thibeault at ThibeaultJennyR@gmail.com or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

UCC New Hampshire Women!

On Sat. April 20, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., our church will serve as host for the NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting. Please pick up a Registration Form and flyer with details about the day's program, outside the church office. Would you be willing to serve as greeter at 9:30 a.m., read Scripture, and/or help with Communion? Please contact Ruth Martz (603-630-7936).

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

"One Great Hour of Sharing;" UCC Special Mission Offering: It's Time to "Share the Light!" –*You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world* (Matthew 5:14 MSG)
This UCC Offering supports sustainable development and refugee needs internationally and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. We also support

direct mission efforts through partnerships with Global Ministries and Church World Service. Please give generously! Checks may be made out to PCCUCC with “OGHS” in the memo line.

Habitat Lunch Update: PLEASE SIGN UP on the sheet in Fellowship Hall to bring a hot lunch to the 6-10 workers at the Habitat for Humanity House at 61 Pleasant St. in Plymouth. Warmest thanks to the church members who have brought lunches. Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/fruit/dessert are optional. Some paper goods and plastic ware are on site; for more details, please contact Ruth Martz: ruthm.joy@gmail.com.

FROM FINANCE

Support PCUCC with no cost to you! Purchase a **Hannaford Gift Card** in the amount of \$100, \$250, or \$500 by contacting Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% with no additional cost to you.

We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely. You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in March in our Community

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next, please email to: office@uccplymouth.org

Jean Swindell	March 8	Julie Kelsey	March 30
Caleb Sweedler	March 26	Megan Magrath	March 30

Palm Leaf Cross Directions

Supplies: One palm leaf strip about 24-26" in length, 1/2" in width, tapering to the end.

