
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559

www.uccmedina.org



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LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

PALM SUNDAY

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Take a moment to think about the people who sit beside, behind, and in front of you in church. Connect with them by phone, email, or text to pass the peace of Christ and offer support and encouragement. Write "Peace" on our Facebook live or turn to someone in your house and offer peace.

VISIONING PRAYER

by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.
God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to
A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...
To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving.
To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;
To celebrate in service and love.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pete Metzloff

(written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light. <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>)

Leader: The king enters the city on his war horse
People: **while across town love rides a donkey.**
Leader: Guns and towers, vast machines, engines.
People: **Generals boast of victory over the child, the hard edge over soft flesh.**
Leader: The powerful strut and shamble, loudspeakers announce their lies.
People: **If there were money in darkness they'd dismiss the sun.**
Leader: God slips in through the locked gate, the high wall.
People: **In their high offices the light is invisible to them.**
Leader: The judge, the warden, the guards believe you're nothing.
People: **You'll never convince them otherwise. But the stars know. The air knows.**
Leader: Your peasant heart rides a donkey, small and tender.
People: **Honor the Royal Majesty of the heart that belongs to love**

Verse 1

He has come
To bring light into the darkness
He has come
To bring freedom to the captives
He has come
To restore the brokenhearted
It's time to proclaim
The year of the Lord

Chorus

Prepare the way (prepare the way)
Prepare the way for our Redeemer
Prepare the way (prepare the way)
Prepare the way for our Restorer
Make ready your heart
Make ready your home
Make ready the people of God
(Prepare the way)

Verse 2

He has come
To bring hope to the hopeless
He has come
To comfort all who mourn
He has come
To heal our ev'ry sickness
It's time to proclaim
The year of the Lord

Bridge

Prepare prepare
Preparing the way of the Lord
Prepare (prepare)
Prepare (prepare)
Prepare (prepare)

CCLI Song # 2791649
© 1999 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

CENTERING POEM

Karen Brocco-Kish

"What You Missed That Day You Were Absent from 4th Grade" by Brad Aaron Modlin,
posted on <https://onbeing.org/poetry/what-you-missed-that-day-you-were-absent-from-fourth-grade/>

Mrs. Nelson explained how to stand still and listen
to the wind, how to find meaning in pumping gas,

how peeling potatoes can be a form of prayer. She took
questions on how not to feel lost in the dark

After lunch she distributed worksheets
that covered ways to remember your grandfather's

voice. Then the class discussed falling asleep
without feeling you had forgotten to do something else—

something important—and how to believe
the house you wake in is your home. This prompted

Mrs. Nelson to draw a chalkboard diagram detailing
how to chant the Psalms during cigarette breaks,

and how not to squirm for sound when your own thoughts
are all you hear; also, that you have enough.

The English lesson was that *I am*
is a complete sentence.

And just before the afternoon bell, she made the math equation
look easy. The one that proves that hundreds of questions,
and feeling cold, and all those nights spent looking
for whatever it was you lost, and one person
add up to something.

PRAISE RESPONSE

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.
To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.

WORDS: Jeanette Threlfall, 1873 (Mt. 21:8-9; Mk. 11:8-10; Jn. 12:12-13)

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784; adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE

76.76 D

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Stacie Yates

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 in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Luke Lindon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer "Paul's Advice Pastoral Prayer" by Rev Lori Walke

You already know what we're worried about, Holy One. 'Worried' seems a bit of an understatement, though. Some of us have already been laid off. Some of us were already working three jobs. Some of us are already living paycheck-to-paycheck.

Yeah, worried doesn't quite cover it. We are tired. We are scared. We are grieving.

So because we're really not sure what's next or when 'next' will even come, we're going to take the advice Paul was said to have given Timothy, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone." So here we go.

For the teachers and education staff who know exactly how much their students rely on school for routine, inspiration, relationship, and their next meal, we pray.

For every soon-to-be-graduate who worked so hard to get to the finish line, but now everything is cancelled, we pray.

For the parents who are trying to work from home, but who now have tiny coworkers who really do not care about deadlines or restroom breaks or conference calls, we pray.

For the truck drivers, food preparers, shelf stockers, care givers, farmers, produce pickers, and the overlooked and underpaid on whom we are discovering the world actually turns, we pray.

For first responders and medical personnel who keep showing up, keep gloving up, and keep masking up, we pray. For first responders and medical personnel who keep showing up, even when there are no more gloves or masks, we pray.

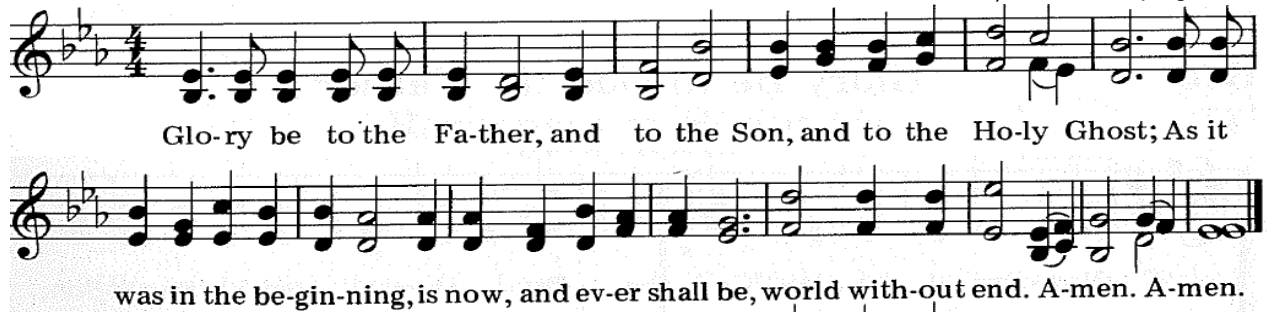
For the spirit of community effort that puts the whole before the one that we might all get through this, we pray.

Help us hold fast, Holy One, for we have a ways to go. You'll be hearing from us. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri"

Traditional/Henry W. Greatorex, 1851



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 118

verses:1-3

verses 4-7

verses 8-12

verses 13-16

verses:17-21

verses 22-23

verses 24-25

verses 26-29

read by the Lindon family

read by the Nolan family

read by the Bixler family

read by the Finley family

read by the Johns family

read by Harry Buch & Pam Branscome

read by Vicki & Dan Marty

read by the Burdick family

SERMON "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places: Expect the Unexpected" Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

Jim Kiser

Please continue to financially support the work and mission of the church, as you are able. If it's a lean time or you're furloughed, we understand. That is not the purpose of church. This is just a gentle reminder with grace to mail your contribution to the church at 217 E. Liberty Street, Medina OH 44256 or give online at www.uccmedina.org/give. Setting up a recurring online gift is an easy way to provide consistent financial support to the church.

As we enter into this time of giving, let us pray:

Holy One, we your gathered flock give you this small offering for the sake of your larger flock, for you have other sheep than these.

Offering Meditation

"All Gory, Laud and Honor"

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

Prayer of Dedication

Jim Kiser

(from the *Weekly Worship* (previously *Monthly Prayers*) page of the *Christian Aid* website.)

Leader: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of Lord!

Gracious God, as we stand at the gates of the city,

People: give us grace to recognize the king we proclaim, and courage to be a part of your kingdom - even when it goes against our ways and the ways of the world, even when it leads us where we do not want to go.

Leader: Empower us to free ourselves from the tempting alternatives

People: of power and wealth and status, and embolden us to live lives of thanksgiving and praise.

Leader: Peace in heaven

People: and glory in the highest heaven! Amen!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Virtual Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be With You"

God be with you 'til we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you: God be with you 'til we meet again.

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Joe DeSario, Custodian

EASTER BAG PROJECT

Please don't forget to bring your decorated and filled Easter Bags no later than Friday, April 10th (for the children whose parents are incarcerated). They will be delivered to those children on Saturday, April 11th.

EASTER LILY UPDATE

All lily donors' names will be printed in the Easter bulletin which will be posted online. If you indicated that you would like to take your lily home, they will be available for pick up on Tuesday, April 14th.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

If you have sponsored the Altar Flowers for the month of April, please be aware that we have cancelled ALL altar flower orders. As of right now, we plan to resume in May. If we are not gathered at the church by then, we will cancel until we are all in church again for worship.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 5, 2020

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

April 5, 2020 thru April 12, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun PALM SUNDAY

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

You may give online or mail in your offering

10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/livestream

Mon

Tues Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00 am Children's Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Wed

Thurs

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00 am Children's Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Fri **GOOD FRIDAY**

Church office closes at 12:00 pm.

Sat

Sun **EASTER SUNDAY**

The Wolff Fund Offering

You may give online or mail in your offering

10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/livestream

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places:
Expect the Unexpected"

Rev. Luke Lindon

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know, blesses in ways we can't expect and become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. We can make a difference more than we can imagine. **We will continue to collect for this through Easter.**

EASTER OFFERING – APRIL 12th

The Mission Leadership Team thanks you for your continued support of special offerings this year! The **Wolff Fund** was created for Recruitment and Funding for Theological Education. Through this fund, financial assistance is given to members of the Ohio Conference who will be attending UCC seminaries and entering ministry in our denomination. The Fund was established by UCC ordained Minister Rev. Richard Wolff and his wife, Rachael, a church educator. Please give generously on April 12th to this special offering to ensure the education of future UCC ministers

**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON
EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 13TH**

You may pick up your Easter Lilies on
Tuesday, April 14th 9am – 3pm

GARFIELD HUNGER OUTREACH UPDATE

The MUCCC Community Outreach Garfield Hunger Support Program (GHSP) wants to thank the congregation for their heartfelt, generous support of our Garfield Elementary School families. For health safety of all participants of GHSP, the committee has made the executive decision to temporarily suspend our Garfield menu sign ups until further notice. We will continue to support the families with gift cards during this time.

Anyone interested in providing "indirect" support of GHSP is welcome! Please make checks payable to "Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational" and write "Garfield Hunger Support Program" in the memo line and mail to the church. An online donation option is also available. Go online to the church's website and click on the "Give Online Here" button and select "Community Outreach Project" from the dropdown list.

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and continued support of Garfield Hunger Support Program.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME IS HERE!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their **Annual Reports** to be presented at the

May 17th ANNUAL

(Stay tuned for updates... this date may change)

**The due date for your report is
APRIL 27TH.**

I am still missing some reports. Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page for the purpose of space limitations.

I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time.**

Please email to: office@uccmedina.org or uccoffice@zoominternet.net.

NEW ARRIVALS

Charles Alan Smith, son of Katie & Brad Smith, grandson of Jim Kiser. 7 lbs, 4 oz, 20 & ¼"
Born March 28th.

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

CANCELLATIONS: ALL CHURCH IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Join us for Live Stream at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mornings <https://www.uccmedina.org/live/>

All Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services have been cancelled

2:00 pm Bible Study – Join us on Facebook for live streaming on Tuesdays & Thursdays at
2:00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Children's Bible Study "A Journey Through the Bible" on Facebook Live on Tuesdays &
Thursdays at 11:00 am <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Please check out Facebook, the church website or call the church office for further updates
as things unfold in this time of uncertainty.

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/> *** www.uccmedina.org *** 330-725-4559

EASTER WORSHIP WILL BE LIVE STREAMED SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH @ 10:30 A.M.

Matthew 26:14-27:66 (*Liturgy of the Passion*)

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 5 *Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem during the festival of Passover.*

Read Matthew 21:1-11. The crowds welcomed Jesus, yet they still continued to question who he was. Allow yourself to be surprised by your own response to the question, "Who is this?"

Monday, April 6 *Jesus enters the temple and clears out the signs of commerce.*

Read Matthew 21:12-17. Those in power are threatened by Jesus, but the common people continue to cry "Hosanna" or "save us!" What places in our own lives and world need cleansing or purifying? Who cries to Jesus for salvation today?

Tuesday, April 7 *Jesus tells wisdom stories to those gathered in Jerusalem.*

Read Matthew 22:34-40. In your prayer time today, ask Christ to open your eyes to the ways in which your love of God or neighbor is less than authentic or ways in which your lifestyle leads to the oppression of others. Pray for the strength and courage to change.

Wednesday, April 8 *Scripture says nothing about what Jesus did this day. It is sometimes known as "rest day" and some believe it was on this day that Judas betrayed Christ.*

Read Isaiah 53:1-12. Bring to your prayers today an urgent plea to God to open your eyes to the suffering of the world, and to be an agent of healing in those places of suffering.

Thursday, April 9 *Jesus celebrates Passover. Afterward, he is arrested and tried.*

Read Matthew 26:17-27. You hear these words when we celebrate communion together. Read them now and listen for what is new or challenging in this message.

Friday, April 10 *Good Friday. Jesus is crucified.*

Matthew 27:27-66. In his darkest hour, Jesus felt alone and abandoned. In your prayer today, speak directly to Jesus. Acknowledge and ask forgiveness for times you have turned from him or betrayed him.

Saturday, April 11 *Holy Saturday. Jesus lies in the tomb.*

Scripture says nothing about what Jesus did this day and there is no scripture reading for this day. In your prayer time, light a single candle, and meditate on the illumination cast by even one small flame. How has God been steadfast, even in times of seeming absence?

Sunday, April 12 *Easter Day! On this exhilarating, although at times bewildering, day we celebrate the resurrection of the Risen Christ.*

Matthew 28:1-15. Although the angel's first words to the women are "do not be afraid," still the women leave the tomb, "afraid." How does the resurrection touch you with fear or awe? How does it touch you with joy?