

PALM SUNDAY



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

Live Stream Worship Only

March 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

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

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

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “The Palms” – J. Faure/arr. Lani Smith Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE 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 (posted by Rev Gord on his blog, **Worship Offerings**. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>)

Leader: God, we gather on this day to begin a week of contrasts.
People: **From hope to despair to hope again.**
Leader: As we begin the week, as we join with the crowd
People: **help us cut through the noise to see what is happening,
to see what is at stake.**
Leader: As the story unfolds,
People: **open us to both the hope and the pain.**
Leader: In this time of worship,
People: **prepare us to celebrate, to weep, and to wait.**
Leader: We pray in the name of the one who leads the parade
People: **as we share the words he shared with his closest friends:
*Our Father, which art in heaven....***

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Sam Lindon, Piano
Eve Lindon, Piano

SCRIPTURE Mark 11:1-11

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Stacie Yates

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Palm Sunday"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"



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.



1 You are the King of Is - rael, and Da-vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com-pa - ny of an - gels are prais-ing you on high,
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
5 As you re - ceived their prais - es, ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and bless - ed One!
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply:
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent:
to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise:
for you de - light in good - ness, O good and gra - cious King!

WORDS: Theodulph of Orleans (ca. 760-821); tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866), alt.
MUSIC: Melchior Teschner (1584-1635)

ST. THEODULPH
7.6.7.6.D.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Blessing of the Easter Bags

Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God,

you have fed us all
out of your own generous and gracious hands.
From them, we have received welcome,
nourishment, hope, and consolation.

May these things grow in us,
alongside the gift of faith,
so that we may plant their seeds
in the world around us.

Through the Holy Spirit,
guide us in the days ahead
to remember our place
in your great and on-going story
of resurrection, redemption, and restoration
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION (written by Jeanyne Slettom, and posted on [Process and Faith](#).)

Leader: This is a vision of the way it can be, the way it should be—

People: **Shouts of welcome, a joyful procession,**

Leader: a community celebrating together.

People: The same vision is offered to us today:
We can welcome Christ into our lives;
We can celebrate his transforming power.

Leader: How swiftly things changed back then,
People: **How swiftly we, too, can be distracted.**

Leader: May we hold fast to his vision of goodness—
People: **Peace from the practice of justice,**
equality from the practice of respect.

Leader: As this week unfolds,
People: **We will let ourselves be overtaken by God’s love**
We will pour it back out into the world.

Leader: Go and respond to what we have received! For this service has ended...
People: **And our service now begins. Amen!**

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.

POSTLUDE “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” – setting Michael Burkhardt Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Laura Garcia, Assistant Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Jack Manhoff, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 28, 2021

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

March 28, 2021 thru April 4, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **PALM SUNDAY**
10:00 am Online worship only
Blessing of the Easter Bags
11:30 am **Palm Parade Around the Square
and Outdoor Coffee Hour**

Holy Week Outdoor Scavenger Hunt Begins!

Mon

Tues

Wed 7:00 pm **Lenten Journaling Series
FINAL Weekly Zoom Call**

Thurs 7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday Service**
Online Worship Only

Fri **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON**
7:00 pm **Good Friday Service**
Online Worship Only

Sat

Sun **EASTER SUNDAY**
9:00 am **Communion Service Outside**
10:00 am Online worship only

ANNUAL REPORT TIME IS NEAR!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their **Annual Reports** to be presented at the **May 16th Annual Meeting**. The due date for your report is **April 26th**.

Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page. I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time**.

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

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Sermon: "Palm Sunday"
Rev. Luke Lindon

Table Flowers: The flowers are given in honor of the Livestream Team for keeping us connected! Thank you!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
Monday, April 5th, 2021.

EASTER OFFERING – APRIL 4th

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 4th to this special offering to ensure the education of future UCC ministers.

Holy Week Scavenger Hunt

Starting Palm Sunday, the whole family can learn the story of Holy Week with our hidden symbols posted around the outside of our church building! Come and find them throughout the week!

PALM PARADE TODAY @ 11:30 am.

Gather in the church parking lot and grab some palms and parade through town. We'll end up back at the church parking lot and have a distanced coffee hour outside.

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Maundy Thursday: We will observe the evening of the Last Supper and the command (where the Latin term “maundy” comes from) to “Love one another as I have loved you.”

This livestream will be at 7 p.m. on Facebook and our website.

Good Friday: Christ died. What kind of God does that?! We will, too. We are future dead people. This service will talk about the importance of having Advanced Directives.

This livestream will be at 7 p.m. on Facebook and our website.

Holy Saturday: Easter Bags will be delivered thanks to the work of Ryan Collins and the Mission Team.

Easter Sunday: Once again, we’ll have an empty sanctuary for this Sunday. However! We’ll also plan on a

9 a.m. outdoor communion service and a song, along with our

10 a.m. live stream.

CLAGGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY

The Mission Team is beginning a campaign to **restock the food pantry at Claggett Middle School.** The students are taking advantage of your generosity during Advent when we collected three SUV loads of food. The following items are the focus of this campaign. Please keep the sizes small as they need to fit into backpacks and must not be in glass containers.

The items most often needed are:

peanut butter	squeeze jelly
pasta	pasta sauce
canned chicken	cereal
granola bars	canned soup
Ramen noodles	

There is a table in the Welcome Area marked for this collection. **The final day of the campaign is Sunday, May 2nd.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY PRAYER VIGIL

Jesus requested of his disciples in the garden, for one hour “stay awake and pray.” We’ll hold a **Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil** on Maundy Thursday 8pm until 11pm and 8 am until noon on Good Friday. Those of you at home, please be in prayer with those who are praying in the church.

FINAL WEEKLY LENTEN JOURNALING SERIES

Wednesday 3/31 @ 7pm

This will be our last Wednesday Zoom call for Lent where we will **read** the upcoming scripture, **reflect** together in community, then prepare to **receive** the upcoming sermon and choose to **respond** by putting our faith into action in some way.

We still have plenty of journals left in the library!

You must be registered to receive the zoom link.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#) or call the church office for help registering.

POSITION OPEN

Kelly Charnley has announced her retirement in May as our Financial Manager for the Church and Hobby Horse Preschool. We are beginning the process of searching to fill this position. If you or someone you know think you might be interested in this part-time position, you can contact the church office at office@uccmedina.org, 330-725-4559 or Pete Metzloff, Staffing Team at pmetzloff@gmail.com or 330-241-1316 for more information.

EDIE LARSEN MEMORIAL GIFT

Edie Larsen, who died on December 21, 2020, was a longtime member of UCC. She was very active in the church sewing and quilting groups and enjoyed attending the Gathering service. Plans are underway to have a communion table built in Edie’s honor for Fellowship Hall.

Those who wish to contribute to this memorial fund can send a check to the church office. Please write Larsen Memorial Gift in the memo line

PRAYER CONCERNS



SUPPORT

Richard Aberegg	Strength and healing
Dublyn Alt	Strength and healing
Betty	Strength and healing
Natoma Canfield	Strength and healing
Kym Lucas	Strength and healing from Covid
Judy Dawson	Strength and healing
Betty Einhart	Strength and healing from broken leg
Jean Fricker	Strength and healing from broken hip
Ron Foster	Strength and healing
Ruth Gay	Strength and comfort
Linda Hjort	Strength and healing from breast cancer
Alan Kautz	Strength and healing from a fall
Jeanie Kerns	Strength and healing
Sam Langol	Strength and healing
Jean Livingston	Strength and comfort
Thomas Miller	Strength and healing
Dr. Will Nichols	Strength and healing
Phil Nicholson	Strength and healing from lung surgery
Peyton Nolan	Strength and healing
Emmitt Novak	Strength and healing from rare cancer
Dave Powell	Strength and comfort
Jack Sharpe	Strength and healing
Lorrie Storch	Strength and healing
Terry Yancer	Strength and healing

MILITARY SUPPORT

CPT Dakota Thomasini	Air Force, San Antonio, TX (Carolee Rafn's granddaughter)
CPT Kyle Thomasini	Air Force, San Antonio, TX (Carolee Rafn's grandson-in-law)
LCpl Andrew Root	Marines, Quantico, VA (Brad & Kathy Root's son)
SFC Roberta Craigo	Army Reserve, Kuwait (Pastor Luke's half-sister)
PFC Joe DeSario	Army/National Guard, OH (Paul & Kelly DeSario's son)
LT Patrick Donnelly	Navy, Virginia (Joe & Lori Donnelly)
PFC Travis Dunn	Marines, San Diego, CA (Ruth Dunn's grandson)
AFC Michael Fikter	Air Force, Italy (Greg & Barb Shaffer's nephew)
CPL Greg Swayer	Army, Philadelphia (Stacie Yates' cousin)
SGT Tyler Walschon	Army/National Guard, OH (John & Joan Walschon's son)
Kyle Weekley	Army (Daubner Family)
SFN Evan Phillips	Navy, SC (Xanthe & Jim Phillips' son)

A Trinity of Book Studies: “Welcome, Love, Serve”

Apr. 14th – May 19th Zoom call @ 7 p.m.

***Welcome: Stephanie Spellers *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation*.** Realm Registration here: [Register for Book Study Series](#)

Spellers' book enriches the value of welcoming. Speller defines what radical welcome is and gives tangible examples of congregations living out that value. Radical welcoming communities are committed to the values of hospitality, connection, purpose, conversion, comprehension, and compassion. Here's the chapter and date breakdown of our journey through *Radical Welcome*:

April 14: Introduction

April 21: Part 1

April 28: Part 2

May 5: Part 3: Re-imagine your common life and Check your reality

May 12: Part 3: Reckon with your fear and Where do we go from here?

May 19: Conclusion

***Love: Sue Monk Kidd's *The Book of Longings: A novel*.**

We'll reflect on this book Wednesday, August 25th at 7 p.m.

This work of fiction isn't new. The question of “What if Jesus had a love interest/wife?” has been written about in “The Last Temptation of Christ” and Dan Brown's “The DaVinci Code.” I'm not scandalized by such a question, but for those who are, that's not why I think it's important to read this book. The reason I want to raise this work up is to hear a story that shows the context of Palestinian Jewish life in the first century. I really loved this work.

***Serve: Ryan Collins** – To be announced at a later date.

**The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am
Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

March 28, 2021
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday

Mark 14:1-15:47

Into Jerusalem

Imagine you were there that day.

Today, the day is known as Palm Sunday and we celebrate mostly sedately, with children waving palm leaves and songs of joy.

But it would not have been so that first day. On that first day of the first holy week, it was dusty and noisy, crowded and chaotic. On that day, Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem was just one more distraction and delight, a spectacle for a city in a festival mood. On that day, no one but Jesus could imagine the week that was to come, with its loyalties and betrayals, politics and pieties, losses and griefs. No one could have anticipated that the week would end in death and in resurrection.

What would it be like to enter the city again, as they did that first day so long ago? What would it be like to come to this day with no knowledge, no expectation of how this week would end? Each year, we are invited to re-enact the events of this week. Not as a tired recitation of a story whose ending is already known, but as living and breathing people, ready to experience each day anew.

Many faith communities will worship together several times this week. Even if your community does not gather for all these days, how can you mark each day this week?

You can find guides and resources to creating fresh and imaginative worship this Holy Week, and every week, at: https://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Palm Sunday: Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday: Jesus' last supper with his disciples

Good Friday: A day of mourning

Easter Vigil: Keep awake through the night in prayer, grieving and anticipation

Easter: Resurrection Day