



  
**PARABLES**  
LENT 2024



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

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

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade

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

*Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.*

*\*Those who are able please stand*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

**PRELUDE** “Partita on All Glory, Laud, and Honor: Maestoso” – Michael Burkhardt Cathy Fafrak, organ

### WELCOME

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “Al Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Theodulph of Orleans C. 821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, alt.

ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.  
Melchior Teschner, 1615; harm. William Henry Monk, 1861



1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or, to you, Re-deem-er, King,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high,
3. To you be - fore your pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!  
and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.



You are a child of Is - rael, Great Da-vid's great-er son;  
The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms be-fore you went;  
As you re-ceived their prais - es, now hear us as we pray.



you ride in low - ly tri - umph, Mes - si - ah, bless-ed one!  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
Since you de - light in good - ness, rule in our hearts to - day.

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Once more we will gather to hear parables told.

**Once more the stories of Jesus will challenge and inspire us.**

Hosanna to the Son of David! Let us celebrate his arrival with waving palms.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Salvation is here today! God, deliver us, we pray.

**We have been invited to the wedding banquet, and we will show up!**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" – arr. Joel Raney

Chancel Choir, Children's Choir and Alleluia Ringers

### **SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 22:1-10 (N.T. pg. 23)

Ashley Bonsell, Liturgist

### **MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD**

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**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

### **SERMON**

"The Wedding Banquet"

Rev. Meghan Malone

## REFLECTION HYMN

## "As We Gather At Your Table"

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

### Offertory Invitation

Let us bring our offerings with the audacity of Christ, bravely choosing actions that make a difference. This banquet is a potluck. We each bring gifts to our collective well-being. Let us rise in body or spirit and sing our thanks to God who blesses us all.

**\*Doxology** (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.**

### \*Dedication

Bread of heaven, nourish us. Use these offerings to fill our hearts with your law, which is love. When we would rather stay home and rest in privilege, teach us to practice courage. Instead of hiding from trouble, teach us to face it together. Amen.

### \*CLOSING HYMN

#### "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

Henry H. Milman, 1827, alt.

CANONBURY LM  
Adapt. From Robert Schumann, 1839

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty". It features a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. Below the staff, there are four numbered parts (1. through 4.) that provide the lyrics for different voices or instruments. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to one of the numbered parts. The first line of lyrics is "1. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! As", "2. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! In", "3. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! The", and "4. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Your". The second line of lyrics is "all the crowds ho - san - na cry; through wav - ing branch - es", "low - ly pomp ride on to die; O Christ, your tri - umph", "an - gel ar - mies of the sky look down with sad and", and "last and fierc - est foe de - fy; bow your meek head to". The third line of lyrics is "slow - ly ride, O Sav - ior, to be cru - ci - fied.", "now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.", "won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.", and "mor - tal pain, then take, O God, your power and reign."

1. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! As  
2. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! In  
3. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! The  
4. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Your

all the crowds ho - san - na cry; through wav - ing branch - es  
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now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
mor - tal pain, then take, O God, your power and reign.

### \*BENEDICTION

Friends, Jesus is sending you out into the streets,

**To gather everyone invited to the table.**

Look, there is an abundance prepared for us!

**We will not make light of the invitation.**

Go and share the good news that the kingdom of heaven is stirring up trouble,  
for our service here has ended.

**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, organ**

**“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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\*\*\**Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\**  
***Coffee Hour is hosted this week by The Metzloff Family***

***\*\*\* If you would like to host a coffee hour, please sign up in the East Room Hallway\*\*\****  
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**PASTORAL STAFF**

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)  
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MARCH 24, 2024

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.**

**MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**March 24 thru March 31, 2024**

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sun PALM SUNDAY/6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children's Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
11:30 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon

Tues

Wed

10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Fri 2:00 pm Good Friday Bible Study  
7:00 pm Good Friday Bible Study

Sat 10:30 am Easter Music Rehearsal

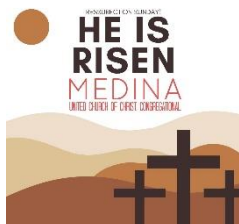
#### Sun EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 am Sunrise Service @ Spring Grove Cemetery  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship (livestreamed)  
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

### EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 31<sup>st</sup>

7:00 am – Sunrise Service at Spring Grove Chapel  
8:15 am – UCC Chapel  
9:00 am – Fellowship Hall  
10:30 am – Sanctuary (Livestreamed)  
11:30 am – Easter Egg Hunt



**Worship Highlights:** 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-10

Sermon: “The Wedding Banquet”

Rev. Meghan Malone

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Chuck & Nancy Masi in honor of their 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Our Maundy Thursday service “Love One Another” will take place at 7 pm in the Sanctuary and will include foot and hand washing. This service will not be livestreamed.

### GOOD FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

Come to either class at 2 or 7 pm! Jesus' crucifixion is a central part of Christianity, but why Jesus died is anything but simple to explain. Atonement theories try to make sense of Jesus' death and explain salvation in different ways. We'll survey the major atonement theories and their strengths and weaknesses in explaining salvation.

### EASTER OFFERING MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>

This year's Easter offering will support our Shepherd's Fund, which assists local community members who need a helping hand. Many members of the community come to the Church in need of gas for their cars, food, laundry money, hotel stays and help with their utilities and other bills. The office staff provides a list of local agencies that support their needs and some monetary assistance. Any money collected during our Easter service will build up the Shepherd's Fund so we can continue to help our neighbors.

## EASTER CANDY NEEDED

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The DELTS will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at church after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday. We are asking for **individually wrapped** Easter Candy donations to stuff the Easter Eggs with. There will be a container outside the church office to put your donations in. Thank you in advance, the kids appreciate it!

## EASTER EGG HUNT

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### **Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> After the 10:30 service**

On Easter Sunday, after the 10:30 service, we will have a quick Easter Egg Hunt for the children. The children should bring their Easter Basket or a bag so they can add a few more eggs to their collection. We will have the hunt in the grassy area by the pergola. Hope to see you then.

## LITURGIST SIGN-UP

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Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. The new sign-up sheets are up for April – June.

## EVANGELISM TEAM NEEDS YOU!

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The Evangelism Team is looking for men, women, and teenagers that are members of the church to join the team. We do activities throughout the year to pull people into the church. If interested, please contact Jen Cockrell at [jenn27@zoominternet.net](mailto:jenn27@zoominternet.net)

## COFFEE HOUR

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Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for April and May are still available in the East Room hallway. If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour, so would you please consider hosting one Sunday?

## MEN'S BREAKFAST - NOTICE

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The next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on MONDAY, April 1 (the first Monday of the month). Not Tuesday as previously. We will meet at the same time at Buehler's, 8 am. This is not an April's fool's joke but will be a Monday trial time.

## THANK YOU

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Thank you to everyone who purchased Solar Eclipse glasses! We sold out within 3 days! We were able to collect \$409.00 from the sale. After the purchase of the glasses, that allows us \$304.00 to split between the operating fund and the Shepherd's Fund to help our neighbors. Thank you!

## OGHS THANKS YOU!

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Thank you to all who gave so generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. We collected \$260.00. Your gifts will help provide aid and relief to our neighbors affected by poverty, war, and natural disasters, locally and globally. Thank you!

## LAWN MOWER CREW

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*"The Lord God took humans and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." – Genesis 2:15*

If you admire the beautiful landscaping of our church's grounds, please consider joining the mowing crew. The time commitment for mowing the lawn averages about 1½ hours every two weeks in the spring and once a month in the summer and fall. The Property and Grounds team provides a riding mower, push mower, gasoline and trimming tools. Please contact Carl Skorepa at [carlskorepa@yahoo.com](mailto:carlskorepa@yahoo.com) or call 330-421-3189 for more details.

## LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

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The Ladies and Girls Tea will be held on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm – 2 pm** in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be sold every Sunday in the East Room after the services from April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 21<sup>st</sup>. The price is \$15 for ladies and \$10 for girls under 10.

We are excited to share that the program will be "First Ladies Tea" presented by Women in History from Lakewood, Ohio.

**Once again, we are in need of teacups and teapots. Please let us know if you can share your items and how many of each are available.**

If you have questions, please contact Beth Hari, Darlene Fazekas or Becky Weber.

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) NOTES

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Each member of the ONA team has his or her reasons for wanting our church to be Open and Affirming and reasons that we are passionate in our commitment. Here's Alan Parkhurst's reflection (he will be speaking in worship on April 28<sup>th</sup>):

I am passionate about our church being a church with the Open and Affirming designation because I believe at its core, that is what it really means to be a UCCC member.

I was taught empathy and acceptance as well as patience and understanding of people who were considered different. I was fortunate that my parents believed in these characteristics. Although I was baptized a Presbyterian, they found their way to the UCCC in Edina, Minnesota, where we lived prior to moving to Ohio, and of course then eventually found our Medina church for these reasons.

Our neighbors in Texas where I was born had a child with disabilities and my mother would often help out that family despite her busy and active schedule. When we moved to Medina, a neighbor girl my age had a disability that I then helped learn to ride a bicycle. We became good friends even though her classmates bullied and made fun of her. I witnessed the pain firsthand that she experienced simply by being different. It is my hope that our church can find it in our hearts to accept anyone that is different, including the LGBTQ and minorities in general.

Questions/comments? Email [ONA@UCCMedina.org](mailto:ONA@UCCMedina.org)

Your Open and Affirming Task Force: Dan Daubner, Vicki Marty, Lily Wolff, Brad Rice, Pam Branscome, Alan Parkhurst, and Mike Sferro.

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm**

Mark 14:1 - 15:47

### **“Into Jerusalem”**

Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of the Holy Week that culminates in the passion and resurrection of Christ. The path of Holy Week is strewn with symbols to remind us of how Christ's ministry, mission, suffering and new life continues to be reflected in the ministry, mission and suffering of God's people today.

Take some time to sketch, journal about or pray the following words, visual symbols of this time. Which already have meaning to you? Which do you want to find out more about, either through reading and research or in contemplation and prayer? Which do you need to set aside as less meaningful for you, for this season at least?

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Donkey                  | ▪ Bread and Cup      |
| ▪ Beautiful alabaster jar | ▪ Place of the skull |
| ▪ Crown of thorns         | ▪ Torn cloth         |
| ▪ Women disciples         | ▪ Blood              |
| ▪ Cross                   | ▪ Coins              |
| ▪ Men disciples           | ▪ Sponge             |
| ▪ Loincloth               | ▪ Rooster            |
| ▪ Chalice                 | ▪ Evening            |
| ▪ Overturned table        | ▪ Morning            |
| ▪ Robe                    | ▪ Tomb               |
| ▪ Rock                    | ▪ Angel              |
| ▪ Washing bowl            |                      |