

ENTERING
THE
PASSION
OF JESUS
LENT 2025

A photograph of a church interior, likely a sanctuary or altar area. In the center, a large, dark wooden cross is mounted on a brick wall, illuminated from within, casting a warm orange glow. To the left and right of the cross are tall, narrow stained glass windows with diamond-shaped patterns. The floor is dark, and the overall atmosphere is solemn and contemplative.

Jerusalem

This Sunday, we will examine the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. This series is based on *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. We also meet with St. Paul's Episcopal and St. Matthew Lutheran to watch and discuss the video series by Dr. Levine each Wednesday in Lent at 6 p.m.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" – arr. Stan Pethel

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

George William Kitchin, rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.

© 1974 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER 10.10. w/ refrain

Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916

Refrain, in unison



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim; Let



all a - dore and praise that sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, the

2 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears

3 O Christ, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your

4 Set up your throne, that earth's de - spair may cease, be -

5 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise



Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.

on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.

neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.

to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have heard the story so many times—Jesus, a donkey, and waving palms.

But what if we have seen what is not there?

Matthew tells of branches, cloaks, and a road paved with expectation.

But no palms, no victory parade—just a city that does not yet understand.

Jerusalem, open your eyes. The King is coming, but not as you expect.

Let us look again. Let us see clearly. Let us welcome Christ as he truly is.

SPECIAL MUSIC “The Children of Jerusalem” – Cyprian Consiglio

Children’s Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:1-11 (N.T. pg. 21)

Deb Waldron, 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 “Jerusalem”

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

“God Loved the World”

ROCKINGHAM LM

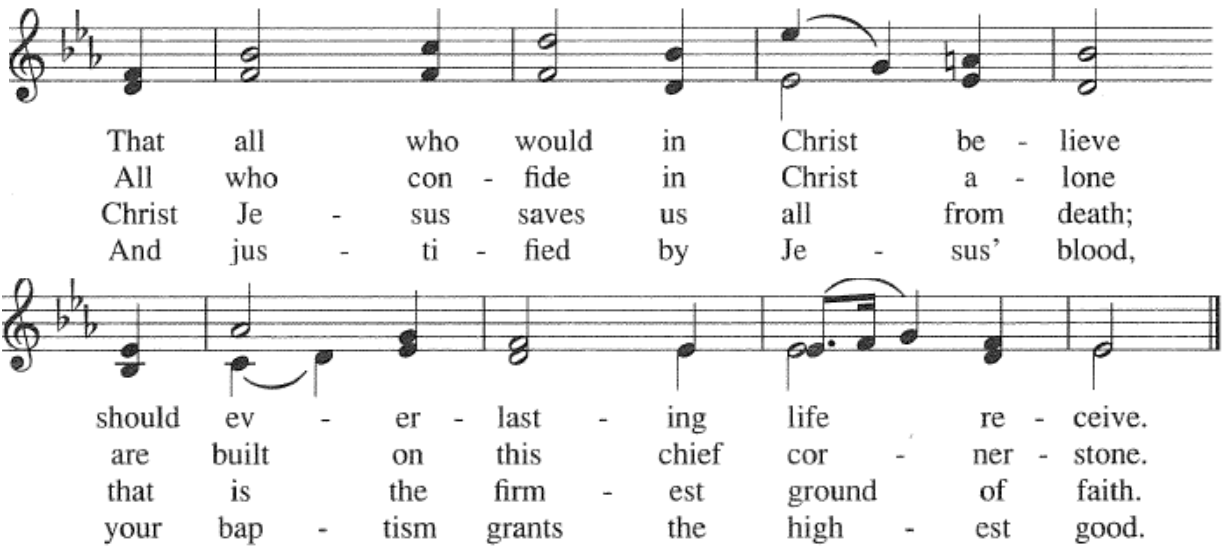
Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778; trans. August Crull, 1845; alt.

Anon., adapt. Edward Miller, 1790



1 God loved the world, and lov - ing gave
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith,
3 If you are sick, if death is near,
4 Be of _ good cheer, for God in Christ

a won - drous gift, the lost to save,
who was made flesh and suf - fered death;
this truth your trou - bled heart can cheer;
for - gives the flock, by sin en - ticed,



That all who would in Christ be - lieve
 All who con - fide in Christ a - lone
 Christ Je - sus saves us all from death;
 And jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood,
 should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

*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. You can also give through VENMO. Thank you for your prayerful
 consideration!*

UCC Medina
 @uccmedina



venmo

Offering Invitation

God of truth, we confess: we have filled in the blanks of the Gospel with our own desires.

**We have seen victory where there was humility, power where there was service, palms
 where there were only broken branches.**

We have cheered for a Christ of our own making,

But when he does not meet our expectations, we turn away.

Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes. Help us see what is real.

Christ is coming—not to take a throne, but to take a cross.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, show us the way.

Lenten Reflection: What or Who Do I Need to Look at Again?

*Write your answer on the colored paper in your bulletin and come forward to offer it up to God. You
 can also take more time to reflect and make an offering at the end of the service.*

***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.

*Give Thanks

God of the unexpected, we give thanks that your kingdom is not what we assumed.
Thank you for a Savior who defies our easy answers,
Who comes not with conquest, but with compassion.
Bless this moment, this new way of seeing.
May we walk with Christ—not just into Jerusalem,
But beyond it, to the cross and the empty tomb.
Amen.

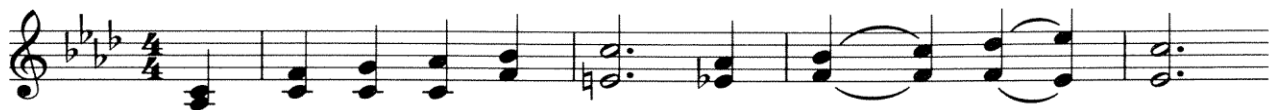
*SENDING HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.

Moses Maimonides. 12th c., versification attrib. Daniel ben Judah c. 1400;
trans. Max Landsberg & Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

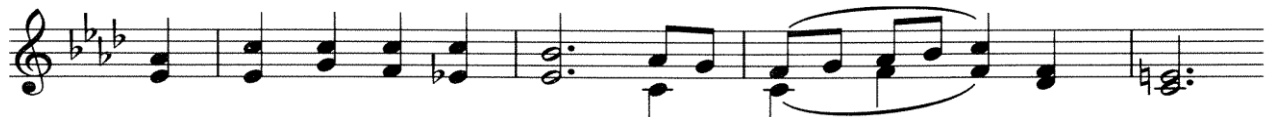
Trad. Yigdal melody
Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770



1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,
2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;
3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;
4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,



who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!
God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.
who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!



The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;
Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change-less it shall stand,
All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,
The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;



the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!
deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.
who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!
the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now, and look again.
Do not mistake the branches for what they are not.
Do not assume the parade is the whole story.
Jesus is on the road ahead of you—
Not in the places you expect,
But in the places you most need to see.
Go with open eyes, open hearts, and open hands.
And may the peace of Christ go with you.
And also with you. 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 “Lift High the Cross” – setting by John A. Behnke Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Wolff Family on behalf of the Costa Rica Mission Trip Team.

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 16, 2025

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

Live streaming of the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

March 16, thru March 23, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Blake Donations Due
10:00 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
11:30 am Hospitality Team Meeting
4:30 pm Family Game Night

Mon

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
**6:00 pm Ecumenical Lenten Study
St. Matthew**

Thurs 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Bible Study

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:00 am Blake Donation List Posted
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

YOUTH LOCK-IN

- **Fri. April 4 @ 6:00 pm:** 8th-12th grade lock-in

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

Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11

Sermon: “Jerusalem” – The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table today are given by Connie & Bruce Anderson in honor of Connie's sister, Barb Mouton.

LENTEN SERIES

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERIES:

March 16: Jerusalem

March 23: The Temple

March 30: Teachings

April 6: The First Dinner

April 13: The Last Supper, with Dr. Greg Carey
preaching

April 13 at 4 p.m.: **Guest Speaker: Dr. Carey in
the Sanctuary**

ECUMENICAL WEDNESDAYS

WEEKLY AT 6 P.M.

Join us for our Wednesday Lenten series, along with St. Matthew's and St. Paul's churches.

March 19 - Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
St. Matthew Lutheran - 400 N. Broadway St.

March 26 - Teachings: Risking Challenge
St. Paul's Episcopal - 317 E. Liberty St.

April 2 - The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
UCC, Congregational - 217 E. Liberty St.

April 9 - The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of
Friends

St. Paul's Episcopal - 317 E. Liberty St.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School will be held June 9-13!
More details will be available soon and registration
will begin in April.

PARKING NOTICE TODAY

There is a Shamrock 5K running race today, March 16th from 8:00-10:15 am. The start and finish will be located in the County Administration building lot next door and the County will close the entrance to that lot. Please adjust your parking routine if you're planning on coming to worship during that time and regularly park there.

VBS MEETING

There will be a meeting after the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 23rd for anyone who would like to help with VBS. During this meeting we will go over all that is needed to make VBS 2025 the best one yet.

EASTER CANDY NEEDED

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. There will be a container outside in the welcome area to put your donations in. Thank you in advance! The kids appreciate it!

HUGS IN A BOX

Our graduated UCC, C students were so touched by our "Hugs in a Box" care packages, we are going to do one more round this academic year: "GOOD LUCK ON FINALS" boxes.

The lists will be posted online on Sunday, March 16th. Any unclaimed items will be put on paper lists (near the Blake Family sign-ups) on March 31st.

All donations due to the church on Sunday, April 13th.

If church members would prefer to donate to defray shipping costs, they can do so via the church Venmo:

<https://account.venmo.com/u/uccmedina> (last four digits of the church phone number is 4559). Type "Hugs in a Box" in the 'what's this for' box.

Thank you! Ellen Nolan & Liz Wolff

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO USHER @ 10:30 SERVICE

Do you enjoy interacting with people, making them feel comfortable in the church environment? Then what better way to demonstrate a servant's heart, welcoming, loving and serving, than by ushering at the 10:30 am church service.

Responsibilities include:

- Greet and welcome people
- Hand out bulletins
- Familiarize first time guests with the church and assist them in finding a seat
- Collect Offerings
- Count the number of people at the church service
- Collect Friendship Pads
- Assist on Communion Sundays by passing trays of bread/juice
- Aid in preparation for baptisms
- Provide general assistance to congregation during services/funerals and memorial services
- Be familiar with general physical environment of the church (exits, fire extinguishers)
- Know how to respond in the event of an emergency

Ushering is a wonderful way to get to know your church family. Please consider being an usher at the 10:30 am service. Please contact the church office at 330-725-4559 if interested.

THANK YOU FROM PROJECT LINUS!

Thank you to all who donated your time, talent, and treasures to Project Linus! The recent youth group event along with hand-made blankets donated by others in our church resulted in a delivery of 46 blankets to the local Project Linus chapter. This brings us to a grand total of 89 blankets donated by our church over the past few years. Your kindness and caring touches children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere else children might be in need of a warm blanket "hug".

Hand-made blankets for Project Linus will continue to be collected by the Mission Team. See the donation box and additional information near the stairs in the welcome area.

MONTHLY DONATION FOR MARCH:

- o Snacks for Claggett Middle School
- o Shelf stable and individual packages

Please place your donations for the Mission Team in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table. Thank you for your generosity!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

March 30, 2025

One Great Hour of Sharing is a UCC Church Wider Mission that can help those in need and change the trajectory of their lives! This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty the wider church ministries provides resources, educated staff, and volunteers to help shelter, calm, uplift and guide others through these devastating times. Immediate help is given along with long-term guidance. Your contributions make a difference! Please consider a generous donation on March 30. Checks should be made payable to our church with "OGHS" noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm - see the line item for OGHS.

EASTER FLOWERS

This year will be a little different for ordering flowers for Easter.

If you would like to order an easter flower, please plan to take it home after 10:30 worship on Easter Sunday, or plan to deliver it to someone yourself.

We no longer have a "flower committee" to deliver flowers

*An assortment of lilies, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths will be used to decorate the Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Easter services
(type of flower claimed will be on a first come, first served basis)*

Please fill out a form (available from the ushers or in the church office) and turn it into the office OR you can purchase directly through REALM.

[Order Easter Flowers Here](#)

\$10.00 each

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 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm

JUNK DRIVE 2025

A Medina UCC Youth Trip Fundraiser

RECYCLE YOUR OLD, BROKEN, & UNUSED TECH TO SUPPORT OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SUMMER TRIP!

PLEASE READ THE LISTS BELOW CAREFULLY BECAUSE WE EDIT THEM YEARLY
BASED ON WHAT WE CAN RECYCLE TO RAISE FUNDS

We Can Recycle

Cellphones, Tablets, MP3 players and Smart Watches
Laptops, Desktops, and All-In-One Computers
Gaming Consoles and Video Games
Metal Encased Stereo Receivers
Small Metal Appliances
VHS/DVD Players
Cords and Cables



We Cannot Recycle

Printers, Fax Machines, and Plastic Analog Phones
Refrigerators or any items containing refrigerant
Plastic or Wood Encased Radios and Speakers
Thermostats or anything containing Mercury
Vacuum Cleaners and Plastic Appliances
Marine, Deep Cycle, or Car Batteries
Humidifiers or Air Conditioners



Recycling Guidelines

- 1) Please remove your personal data before donating, or let us know if you need help doing so.
- 2) Smart phones and tablets must be unlocked and removed from your personal accounts before donating.
- 3) Please remove disposable batteries (AA/AAA/C/D batteries) from your devices and recycle appropriately.
- 4) We will take CRT/Tube TVs and Monitors for a \$20 donation and LCD Monitors and flat screen TVs up to 55" for \$10. We still want to help you recycle them, but these cost money rather than make it!
- 5) If we can't take your items, you can find an e-waste recycling bin near you at <https://summitecycle.com/bin-locations/>

Drop-Off Schedule and Locations

At Medina United Church of Christ
217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio

TUES. APRIL 8, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 12, 8:30-11:30AM

TUES. APRIL 22, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 26, 8:30-11:30AM

Questions?
Call the church office at 330-725-4559
or email meghan@uccmedina.org

At The Lodi Family Center
301 Mill St. Lodi, OH 44254

SAT. APRIL 12, 4:30-6:30PM

TUES. APRIL 15, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 26, 4:30-6:30PM

We are excited to partner with
the Lodi Family Center
Robotics and Tech Club
who will help us with
disassembling computers
for better recycling!



With each step toward the cross, Jesus' reveals sides to him that are rarely seen. Like his feisty side here in Luke's Gospel. After being warned by some Pharisees to leave because Herod wants him dead, Jesus replies, "Go tell that fox ... I will keep driving out demons. I must press on."

Strong words, indeed. Yet soon after those words are uttered, Jesus laments over Jerusalem. It is in this lamenting we see a softer side, as he expresses a tenderness in wanting to take the Holy City's children and protect them under his wing like a mothering hen.

Anyone who has raised chickens — or perhaps knows of someone who joined the backyard flock craze a few years ago — knows how sweet it is to gaze upon balls of yellow fluff peeping underneath their mother's wing. It tugs at the most hardened of hearts.

There once was an old farmer who admitted that there were many nights where he would sit in the barn and watch a hen and her chicks, noting that he could stare at the endearing scene forever.

Yes, we know Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We know him as the Prince of Peace, Counselor, Friend, Teacher and Healer. Yet how many times does the image of Jesus as Mothering Hen come to mind?

Take a moment now and hold that side of Jesus in your mind. Envision yourself being protected from the harsh world underneath the mothering wings of Jesus. How does that make you feel? Warm? Loved? Secure?

It was that image that held Karolina Sandell-Berg in her time of grief. When she was 26, Sweden's prolific poet and hymn writer, witnessed her father, a Lutheran pastor, being swept over the side of a ship during storm. There was nothing she could do to save him.

So distraught, she did what she knew best. She wrote a hymn focusing on the protective wings that shield us in times of danger and sorrow. "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior" (1865), set to a Swedish folk tune, soon became a beloved hymn often sung as a children's lullaby.

This Lent, let us spend more time getting to know Jesus' soft, mothering side. Find a day this week and light a candle, read Luke's Gospel lesson for today again, and search for Sandell-Berg's hymn on Apple music or Spotify. If you don't have access to these, ask a friend to help you find "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior." Then let its words and melody lull you into a place of healing and serenity.

Lord, God, may the words to this hymn be our prayer for today: Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee. O be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my every moment be lived within thy grace. Amen.