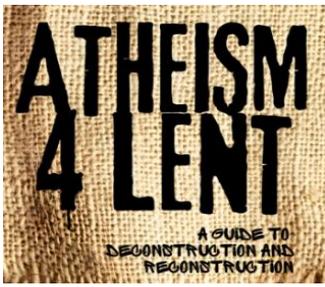


TRIUMPHAL
MISUNDER
STANDING

PALM SUNDAY



Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, reflection, and spiritual honesty. In this series, we create space for deep questioning and unflinching honesty — even doubt. Inspired by the provocative practice of Atheism for Lent (popularized by theologian Peter Rollins), we enter the wilderness of deconstruction — not to lose faith, but to encounter God beyond our idols and illusions. The goal isn't nihilism, but spiritual rebirth. What if we give up idolatry? What if we turn to ash false images of God and embrace the Living Word?

**Those who are able please stand*

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

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest heaven.

Yet Jesus weeps over the city.

Love sees what triumph cannot.

Come with your palms and your questions.

Come with hope refined by loss.

Let us worship the God

whose power is love and whose victory is compassion.

***OPENING HYMN**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.

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

Melchoir 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor". It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are for the vocal line, with lyrics underneath. The third and fourth staves are for the organ accompaniment. The music is in 4/4 time and has a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "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.

***CONFESSION**

Let us pray,

God of love, we confess how easily we misunderstand you.

**We cheer for a Messiah who conquers,
 when you come to heal.**

**We long for certainty,
 when you offer relationship.**

**We have mistaken volume for faithfulness,
 confidence for truth,
 and success for blessing.**

Strip away what does not last.

Release us from beliefs that wound.

Free us from faith that serves ego more than love.

Hear now our silent confessions.

Silence is kept

**When our hosannas fade into silence,
 teach us what remains and what really saves:**

A people choosing love and community.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

"Your Words are Spirit and Life"

Text and music © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord: rich - er than
gold, strong - er than death. Your words are spir - it and
life, O Lord; life ev - er - last - ing.

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

*PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"

Psalms 134:1, Music by George Whelpton, 1897

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

SERMON "The Triumphal Misunderstanding"

Rev. Meghan Malone

HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11. w/ refrain

Fanny J. Crosby, 1875

William H. Doane, 1875



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done! So loved he the
 2. O per - fect re-demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to ev - ery be -
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re -



world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
 liev - er the prom-ise of God; the vil - est of-fend-er who
 joic - ing thru Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high-er, and



tone-ment for sin, and o-pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be-lieves, that mo-ment from Je - sus a par-don re - ceives.
 great - er will be our won-der, our trans- port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the



Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re - joice! O come to the Fa-ther thru



Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done!

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

Offertory Invitation

As we rebuild faith on love,
we give as an expression of what endures.

These gifts support a community
committed to grace over fear,

beauty over dominance,
and love that remains even when certainty fades.

Let us rise in body or spirit and sing praise to our
 loving God!

***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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of love that never ends, receive these gifts and the fragile faith behind them.
Use what we offer to reflect your grace in the world, to heal what is broken, and to embody
the love that outlasts all misunderstanding.
Build us into a community rooted not in triumph, but in love. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ST. PETER CM

John Oxenham, 1908, alt.

Alexander R. Reinagle, c. 1830

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev' - ry - where their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
4. In Christ now meet both east and west in

him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -
high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be; all chil - dren of the
him meet south and north; all lov - ing hearts are

ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 29, 2026

**“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 29 thru April 5, 2026

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun PALM SUNDAY

Blake Donations Sign ups
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
& Children's Palm Parade
10:30 am Jesus Vibes

Mon

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band

Thurs 7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday Worship
in Fellowship Hall**

Fri 7:00 pm **Good Friday Documentary
“Bad Faith” - in Fellowship Hall**

Sat

Sun EASTER SUNDAY

Blake Donations Due
7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service
Spring Grove Chapel
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

EASTER BAGS DUE BACK TODAY

To those who picked up an Easter Bag, make sure you fill the bags with age-appropriate items, **and return them today, March 29th (Palm Sunday)** to be blessed. Thanks for helping the Mission Team spread some love to kids whose parents are not able to celebrate Easter with them!

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

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 & Luke 19: 28-44
Sermon: “The Triumphal Misunderstanding”
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table Flowers: The Communion Table flowers are given by Nancy Masi in memory of Chuck Masi & Anne Masi Reed.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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 today! Checks should be made payable to our church with “OGHS” noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm

Easter Worship

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 5th

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 grass area by the pergola. Hope to see you then.

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 with. There will be container outside the church office to put your donations in. Thank you in advance, the kids appreciate it!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour. **April 26th and May 10th are still open to host!!** If you have any questions, you can contact someone on the Hospitality Team or call the church office. Signups are in the East Room Hallway. **If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour.**

BIBLE SUNDAY - April 19th

Join us on Sunday, April 19th as eight very special 3rd graders receive their very own Bible. They have worked very hard for this day and are very excited about receiving their Bible. Please join us to help them celebrate.

APRIL DONATION OF THE MONTH

Help the Mission Team supply local elementary schools with year-end treats! We are collecting individually wrapped snacks, such as granola bars, Goldfish, pretzels, or fruit snacks. Please ensure that all donated items are individually packaged.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Please plan to join us on **Sunday, May 17th** at **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP @ 10:30 a.m.** **THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL TEAM MEETING WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW WORSHIP.**

This will also be our final coffee hour gathering until next fall

ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

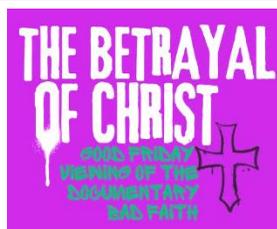
Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their Annual Reports to be presented at the May 17th Annual Meeting immediately following **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 am.** The due date for your report will be Thursday, April 30th. Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page. **Also, please inform me as to any changes on your team.** I appreciate all your efforts in getting these to me on time. Please email to: office@uccmedina.org

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE



Follow in the footsteps of the disciples. Share in a meal in the upper room (Fellowship Hall) and then visit prayer stations in the indoor garden. A service for both extroverts and introverts.

GOOD FRIDAY DOCUMENTARY



Judas betrayed Christ. Peter denied him. Jesus went to the cross. Explore how the church still betrays and denies the way of Christ by watching and discussing the 2024

documentary film "Bad Faith."

PINWHEEL GARDEN SIGNUP!



We'll be caring for the Medina Library's pinwheel garden for the Children's Center once again this year! All you need to do is stop by with your family to pick up any fallen pinwheels and replace those that are obviously missing or broken. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/MedinaPinwheels2026>

IT'S COMING!!! SAVE THE DATE!

Junk Drive: Wednesday April 22nd and Saturday April 25th

We'll take donations from 4:30-6:30pm on Wednesday (Earth Day!) and 10:00am-2:00pm on Saturday!
More details to come!

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

March 29, 2026
Palm/Passion Sunday
Sixth Sunday in Lent

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Guilt and Forgiveness

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Not the best dinnertime conversation to initiate but leave it to Jesus to bring it up just as everyone is enjoying a meal. We are there as well, at the table gathered for what will become known as The Last Supper. It is a night to wash feet, break bread and drink from the common cup. It is also the time for Judas, one of Jesus' 12 followers, to excuse himself from the festivities to sell Jesus out to the chief priests for 30 pieces of silver.

We already know what comes next as the Holy Week drama unfolds. Jesus is arrested, tried and crucified. We also know that Judas, so overcome with shame and guilt, will kill himself.

What we don't know is that there is more to Judas' story. Often seen as the scapegoat in the story of salvation, Judas' real failing goes deeper than greed.

The ultimate betrayal was that Judas failed to believe in the depths of God's love for him — a love that forgives the deepest of betrayals. Rather than remember the grace Jesus spoke of, Judas allowed his guilt to consume him.

When I think of Judas' betrayal as one not trusting God's redemptive love, I begin hearing Jesus' dinner conversation differently. When he declares one of us will betray him, I squirm in my seat as others protest "Surely not I, Rabbi?" I know that many times I have run from God all because I couldn't trust the extent of love waiting to absolve me of my guilt and give me a new lease on life.

My friends, don't be like Judas — or me. Run to the loving arms of God, unafraid of the confessions that will come from your lips. Run, confess, repent — let it all out. Not only can God handle it, but God will also forgive.

Forgiving God, as much as we would like to say that we would not betray You, we know better. We are human and we are flawed. In this life, we will stray from Your ways. When we do, give us the courage to return to You, seeking the forgiveness You will not withhold from us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.