



Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC

We share God's love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

Gather

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually, we too are yearning for his presence, for peace and for help.

Welcome

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Prelude

The Palms
Ji Hye Jung, organ

J. Faure

Threshold

Lew Hathaway

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

Repeat after me and start waving those branches!

Leader: "Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: "Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes

Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord!

in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Invitation

Leader: We continue our Lenten "season of restoration" as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

Virtual Chancel Choir Members:

Vessels, holy and whole

Broken, needing the One

Open, body and soul

Healer, come.

Leader: We have seen that the stories of Jesus' healing ministry are filled with words and deeds. When he rides into Jerusalem, the people had hopes he would heal the oppressive system they were living under. We know that his healing was not confined to that moment in history, but offers a new way of life that has made a case for compassion for all, especially "the least," ever since. As we head into the events of Holy Week, we begin to see that our ability to forgive ourselves and others is the foundation that can transform infirmities and allow us to move on. We integrate our beliefs and actions for the health of the whole. The parade of compassionate power we celebrate today is underscored by another healing story

of transformation, symbolizing our ability to fuel our movement of recovery. We glorify God for beautiful words and works of wholeness and share that treasured beauty with others. We know there will still be pain, but we also know love will win.

Musical Refrain:

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul, come.**

Opening Prayer of Confession

Leader: We have approached confession each week in Lent in such a way that we lay bare the brokenness in order to begin the process of healing. Along the way we have acknowledged our need to restore our own Holy Vessels while attending to our role in the healing of the community and the world. The work of healing will continue as we integrate all we have learned with all that we will do moving forward. For now, we remember how hard it is to move from thinking to doing.

Let us pray:

Forgiving God, we have opened ourselves to healing and sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers than to do the hard work of putting into action what needs to happen.

Help us remember the sacred nature of the holy vessels that we are, fragile and susceptible to shattering and yet capable of transformation.

Help us to see ourselves as you see us.

Help us to believe in our ability to change and heal as you believe in us.

Help us, Healer. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care. In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silence

Musical Refrain:

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come**

Assurance of God's Presence

I invite you to return to that warm orb of light that lives deep within you once again. It may already be aglow with the excitement of the parade—the presence of Jesus leading us on. But if you are struggling, or have struggled in this season of healing, to feel this warmth of assurance within you, do not despair. You are not the one who has to create the light. It just is. And it is a pilot light that never goes out. You will at some time begin to notice it returning to your awareness. Know this: You are never alone in the struggle. No. Matter. What. Jesus is on the journey with us. Life's parade is not passing you by. You are part of this Body of Christ, a community seeking healing. For you, for me, for all. Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you... and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

Peace

I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending to those who may be next to you in close proximity. Imagine it extending beyond your walls to
the neighborhood...
the wider community...
the church...

and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the world.

Let this be our peace. Amen.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Believe

People were fortified by Jesus' words and deeds that revealed care for all—especially those marginalized. We strengthen our beliefs in the possibility for renewed health and vigor for all.

Scripture—Matthew 9:1-8

Message

"I See, I Hear, I Feel"

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Musical Refrain:

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come**

Prayers of the People

Rev. Douglas Vooy

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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
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

Wondrous Love
Kathy Gross, flute
Ji Hye Jung, piano

Tune: SOUTHERN HARMONY,
arr. John Purifoy

Offering and Dedication

Closing Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Tune: ST. THEODULPH

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
The one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang your hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
Whose justice and whose mercy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Benediction

Postlude

The Holy City
Ji Hye Jung, piano

Stephen Adams

*The altar flowers are in loving memory of
Stephen Napolitano
Remembered by his wife Jennifer and daughters Francesca & Miranda*

Announcements & Events

Sunday, March 28 at 10am: *Palm Sunday Worship & Parade of Cars after the Service*

Tuesday, March 30 at 2pm: *Tea for the Soul on Zoom*

Thursday, April 1 at 7pm: *Maundy Thursday (Virtual Worship on Zoom)*

Friday, April 2 12-6pm: *Good Friday (Sanctuary open for Self-Guided Stations of the Cross. Masks required)*

Sunday, April 4: *Easter Sunday*

at 8am: Easter Sunday Outdoor Service in the Memory Garden

at 10am: Easter Worship Service at 10 AM (Virtual Service Online)

*at 11am: Easter Communion Blessing & Fellowship (In-Person outdoors in church parking lot)
Come and receive communion, join in fellowship time, and Easter egg hunt for the kids.*

Tuesday, April 6 at 7pm: *Church Council Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, April 11 at 10am: *Second Sunday of Easter followed by **Congregational Mtg on Bylaws on Zoom***

Tuesday, April 13 at 7pm: *Deacons Mtg on Zoom*

Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30pm: *CE Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, April 18 at 10am: *Third Sunday of Easter Worship*

Tuesday, April 20 at 7pm: *World Service Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, April 25 at 10am: *Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship*

Tuesday, April 27 at 7pm: *Trustees Mtg on Zoom*

Email the Church Office for the Zoom meeting links: info@maplestreetchurch.org

Every Tuesday at 6pm: Prayer & Table

Every Wednesday at 12noon: Chat with the Pastors via Zoom

April 1: No Virtual Bible Study this day

World Service Committee

Palm Sunday & Sharing with the Community

Sunday, March 28th: Parade of Cars and Palm Sunday Procession

After the service, hop in your car and bring to the church parking lot:

Money/Checks for the Danvers Food Pantry

(Remember no food, they are under construction and are only collecting money.) Checks should be made out to Maple Street Church with Danvers Food Pantry in the memo. You can also mail your donation to the church by March 28.

Cereal for Bootstraps

Please bring adult & children's name brand cereals (not store brands)

Tea for The Soul: March 30th, at 2pm

We will come together, share in tea, snacks, and conversation together on Zoom. Mark your calendars!

Sunday Flowers

Giving flowers in celebration or in memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to commemorate them and beautify the sanctuary. We have an open date in the flower schedule for **Sunday, May 2nd**. Anyone interested can call Judy Drouin: 978-774-7455.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY, APRIL 11

The meeting will follow the church service (about 11:00 AM) on Zoom. This is a very important meeting to vote on changes to our Bylaws. Since we have not had a quorum since our last Annual Meeting in May 2020, we must reaffirm all our previous votes this year at our Annual Meeting, and the first step is making changes to the Bylaws at this meeting. Please mark your calendar and join us on the 11th either online or by calling in. We want your vote; you are going to be counted. Instructions for joining the meeting will be in the Weekly Update on April 7th or call the office for help 978-774-4510. If you don't have access to technology, you can still join us by telephone. If you have a friend that can join you and share a screen, that would work too. - Marjory Simpson, Moderator

WARRANT FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

To the legal voters of Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC:

You are hereby notified that a Congregational Meeting of Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC, Danvers, Massachusetts, will be held on Sunday, April 11, 2021 via Zoom/Video Conference at the close of the Worship Service (11:00 a.m.). (The link to this meeting (for Zoom) and a call-in number (non-Zoom) can be found in the Weekly Update and/or in the email meeting reminder.

Agenda:

1. Receive a presentation from the Maple Street Church ("MSC") By-Laws Review Task Force on proposed changes to the MSC By-Laws.
2. Consider and discuss the Task Force's recommended changes to the MSC By-Laws such as reducing the quorum requirement at congregational meetings from fifty (50) voting members to 10 percent of MSC's current active members and the make-up of committees.
3. Vote to accept the recommended changes to the MSC By-Laws.
4. Transact any other business that may legally come before it.
5. Adjourn.

Documents to support the warrant:

Copy of the MSC By-Laws with recommended changes.

Scott Spearing

Clerk