

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

O God of Welcome and Waving Palms, as the crowd offered to you their praise and the palms on the road, so we share these gifts out of the abundance you have provided. May they be for the healing salvation and work of justice you are bringing about in the world through your unending love. Amen and Amen.

GRATITUDES, PRAYER REQUESTS, LIGHT OF GOD MOMENTS

Lord's Prayer - Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: .

BENEDICTION

Right Side: Having entered through the gates in power and prestige, this Jesus has called us to go out in love, compassion, and humility.

Left Side: Having entered through the gates on donkeys and waving palms, this Jesus has come to save and now calls us to go out in hope, justice, and love.

All: Together, we are embraced by an enduring and boundless love that forges us together in shouts of "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"

One: Friends, Go forth humbly to serve the God whose love endures forever.

Go forth in the name of the Christ who entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey.

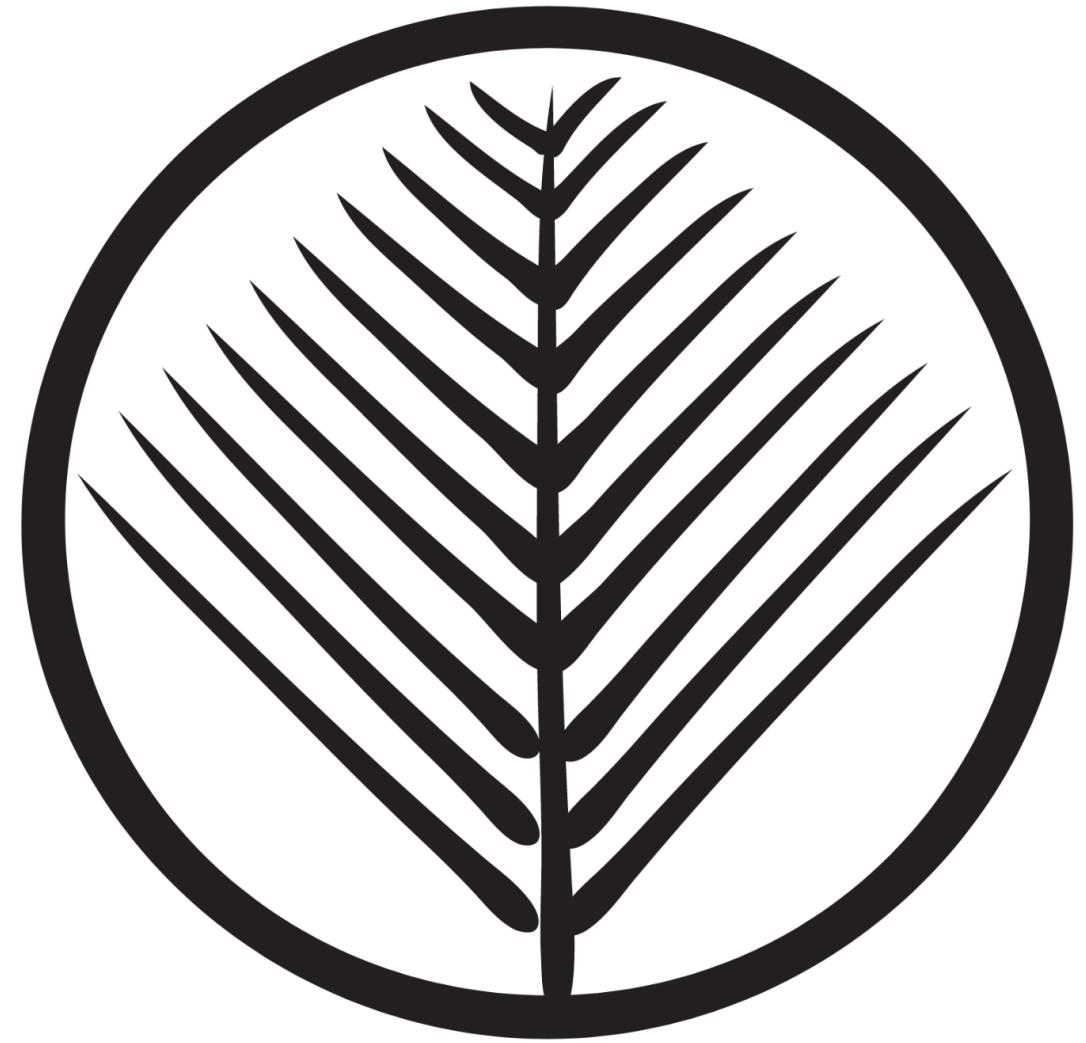
Go forth in the strength of the Holy Spirit, that calls us to rejoice in this very day God has made. God's love endures forever.

All: God's love endures forever. Amen! **Amen** 🎵

Bulletin Sources:

Open the Gates: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday was written by the Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, the Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ who resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**If you are visiting for the first time today, know that we are happy and blessed to have you with us.*



Palm Sunday



Mont Vernon Congregational Church

UCC - United Church of Christ

April 2, 2023 - Abbie Velez

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Calling in the Light

“This is the Day”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Right Side: Open the gates, for on this side of Jerusalem, a grand parade of Rome brings the pomp and circumstance of power and prestige to the streets for the Passover Feast.

Left Side: Open the gates, for on the other side of Jerusalem, a humble procession enters the city among the lives of the Jewish poor and marginalized.

Right Side: Entering through the gates, we ride in on horses with the powerful armor of Rome, bind the festal procession with power. Let the feast begin!

Left Side: Entering through the gates, Jesus comes riding on a donkey and the crowd binds the festal procession by laying down palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna!”

All: (Waving branches) Open to us the gates of God and together we will proclaim, “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”

Opening Hymn:

Hosanna! Loud Hosanna

#228

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem today, open the gates of our hearts that we

might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly, we pray. Amen.

Matthew 21:1-11

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#227

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbor with our whole lives. At times we can enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, or a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbor. Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements or our obsession with seeking the approval of others. Come and save us now. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray. Amen.

*Moment of Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

The good news of God this day is this: This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. For on this day, God has entered into our lives with love and compassion for all who surrender and lay down their lives in Christ. Friends, you are loved. You are embraced. You are forgiven. Amen.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

So Many Traditions! Palm Processional

SCRIPTURE: *Reading of the Passion - Matthew 26:14-*
Gloria Patri - Glory be to the Father

THE MESSAGE

Hymn of Response:

Sweet Hour of Prayer

#389

OFFERING INVITATION

Kindred, God is good, and God’s steadfast love endures forever and ever. Because of God’s enduring love, we cherish and give thanks for every good gift in our lives. Today, on this day God has made, we come to share out of the abundance of God’s love and light among us so that the world may know this boundless love that knows no end.

OFFERING

Doxology - Praise God from whom all blessings flow