

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

An Open and Affirming Congregation

All are Welcome!

April 5, 2020



The Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor  
Michael Hatala, Worship Leader, Roots & Roofs  
& Interim Director of Music Ministry  
Jen Troutman, Administrative Assistant

1201 North Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Office: 610-692-2951

[office@ucceastgoshen.org](mailto:office@ucceastgoshen.org)

[www.ucceastgoshen.org](http://www.ucceastgoshen.org)

# Living In God's Love Together, We Gather Palm Sunday – Virtual Worship

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Ride on King Jesus, Ride on, Ride in majesty, and open our hearts to the fullness of your Glory, Ride on your colt, with your love and humility, Ride on as the cloaks are spread out for you, Ride on Bringing Hope to all your people, setting us free from isolation and fear, Ride on King of Kings and prince of Peace, your people long to greet you and hail your reign, on this morning of Hope, ride on!

## HYMN

*“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

P. 213

“Hosanna, loud hosanna,: the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best

From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.  
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,  
And glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours.  
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:  
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.  
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!”

# HEARING GOD'S HOLY WORD

Psalter Lesson      Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

## SUNG RESPONSE

HYMN      *God Whose Will Is Health and Wholeness*

(To the tune of "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy")

God whose will is health and wholeness, hear your people as we pray:  
Many now are facing illness; more face sickness every day.  
As we lift our song toward heaven, may we use the gifts you give—  
science, justice, and compassion— to help others safely live.

Jesus taught that your commandments call for us to use the mind.  
May we use the gifts of science to seek health for humankind.  
Bless the ones who work for healing; bless the ones who seek to be  
Builders of a health care system that protects society.

God, you call for love and justice, yet our laws are far from wise:  
Many don't have good insurance; lack of health care threatens lives.  
Many workers must keep working, sick or not, to pay the bills.  
Turn us round when we have sanctioned greed that leads to greater ills.

Loving God, we ask your blessing on the sick and those they love,  
And we pray for those now grieving as they lift their cries above.  
There is trouble all around us; illness causes pain and fear.  
Give compassion, love and kindness as we serve your people here.

Tune: Traditional Dutch melody

Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Permission is given for use of this hymn for local church use.

## OUR LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.**

## CHILDREN'S CHAT – Cathy Yost

## HEARING GOD'S HOLY WORD

Gospel                      Matthew 21:1-11

## SPECIAL MUSIC: *PSALM OF HOPE*

Al Benner-Smith, Cathy & Eva Yost (congregation sings refrain)

### PSALM OF HOPE

John Newton Ps. 22 (adapt)

Felis Goebel-Komala

#### Refrain

A - maz - ing grace how sweet the sound that  
saved and set me free. I once was lost, but  
now am found; was blind, but now I see.

#### Verses 1-3: Cantor

#### Verse 4

4. I shall pro-claim your name to the full as - sem - bly.  
Those who fear God, ex-ult and praise: Glo-ri - fy the Lord.  
All gen - er - a - tions, all chil - dren of the earth:  
Pro-claim for ev-er the won-drous deeds of God.

*To refrain*

Copyright © 1994, 1995 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

SERMON

“STONE OF HOPE AND LIFE!”

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.  
Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

780

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;

Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The image shows a musical score for a doxology. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system of music is for the first line of the doxology, and the second system is for the second line. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and moving lines.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We cast these gifts before you, O God,  
as palms were cast before Jesus long ago.  
We lay them on your altar in praise, thanksgiving, and joy.  
Receive them back from our hands,  
that they may become a greater blessing in your hands.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

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.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,  
 Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.  
 All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
 To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

HEARING THE PASSION STORY: Pastor Angelee  
 Matthew 26:14-16, 20-23, & Mark 15:1-13

SPECIAL ACAPELLA MUSIC      *“Stay With Me”*  
 Al Benner-Smith, Cathy & Eva Yost

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Announcements:**

**April 9 - Maundy Thursday** - we are planning a virtual Maundy Thursday worship service on [Facebook Live](#) at 7 pm on Thursday of holy week. We will not have communion, but we will have a time of candle lighting, music and prayers & remembrance of Jesus' words at the last supper.

**Easter Flower Dedications** - NO ACTUAL FLOWER ORDERS are being taken, but we will still take your flower dedications. Please [email them to the church office](#) by Wednesday, April 8 if you want them to appear in the 'bulletin' for Easter Sunday. Thank you!

**UNITED  
CHURCH  
OF CHRIST****Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464  
484-949-8774

April 5, 2020

## The Temptation to Rush

This Lenten season has been unlike any I can remember. It has felt like a journey in a wilderness and yet I know that I like many people have been privileged to have safety of shelter and nourishment, both physical and spiritual while I have endured these days. This has been a moment of fully accepting my own humanity, limitations and interconnectedness of all creation.

We have now arrived at Holy Week once again. It is one of my favorite liturgical moments because it invites us to be fully present in this last week of Jesus' earthly life. This is where the fullness of his humanity is in full view and it is uncomfortable. It can be so uncomfortable that we might be tempted to rush to Easter Sunday and get it over with. Let's hurry up and rush to the joyful part, the fun part, the happy part. But I know you know... life just isn't like that. Resist the temptation to rush and BE fully present. Perhaps these most recent days have made that spiritual practice of sitting in the uncomfortable moments more possible.

Maria Harris was a religious educator who gave the inaugural lecture of the Ward Lecture Series about the subject of wonder at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She addressed the gathered community and invited us to slow down and be in the present moment. I think she tried to help us understand that to be really open to wonder...to really be able to recognize wonder...we must slow down. It isn't just about shortening the "to do" list or "staying in place" orders. It is about slowing down our hearts and minds so we can recognize the incarnation of God in our midst. During her talk she paused to teach us a responsive chant. It goes like this,

*Sisters, brothers-  
take your time go slowly.  
Listen deep within yourself,  
every hour is holy.*

Psalms Sunday is an entry point...not just into Jerusalem...but an entry point for us to embrace the humanity of Jesus. The One whose journey was a very human journey. This is a week when he experienced the ultimate hypocrisy, betrayal and suffering of human existence. While we may want to rush past this...while we may want to quickly trade in the palm branches for what is to come next Sunday...don't give in to the temptation to rush. Go slowly. Listen deeply. Every moment of this journey is holy.

In the United Church of Christ, we love to say "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey...you are welcome here." This week, I want to invite you to remember...No matter where you are or how you are observing the journey of Palm Sunday to Easter...we are people on a journey together...in body and spirit. BE present...surrender the temptation to rush. Surrender the things of this world that distract you from being fully present as a human being. The spiritual practice of our human experience will lead us to that day of extraordinary wonder.

Siblings of the faith...take your time. Breathe and go slowly. Listen deeply within your own location and remember...every hour is holy.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Rev. Dr. Susan A. Minasian,*  
*Interim Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call*



---

## **Palm Sunday / Easter Activities for Youth**

Parents, if you are looking for ways to engage your younger family members and bring Easter week into your home in a fun and meaningful way, below are just a few of the websites that are available for your use.

[ministry-to-children.com](http://ministry-to-children.com) and [sermons4kids.com](http://sermons4kids.com)

---

## **From the UCC: COVID-19 facts without falsehoods or fears**

The United Church of Christ started a new website with daily updates on the COVID-19 pandemic with "facts, not falsehoods or fears. To access this website, use the following web address:

[https://www.ucc.org/daily\\_covid\\_19\\_brief](https://www.ucc.org/daily_covid_19_brief)