



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Preparing the Way”
6th Sunday in Lent
April 5, 2020
10:30 a.m.**

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church’s Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Chad Frost, Preacher
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist
Nicole Finney, Child Care

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text, and an asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, as you are able. Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin, so feel free to locate them ahead of time.*
Helpful worship notes and information on the church can be found in the brochure by the hymnals.
Guests and visitors – a special welcome! Please fill out a “Welcome” card (in the pew pocket) and put it in the offering plate so we may send you a small gift.

GREETING

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The way has been prepared

Many: For the crowds it is the way of celebration

One: For Jesus it is the way of completion

Many: Amid shouts and waving palm branches, he comes into the holy city

One: Open your hearts this day to receive the Savior

Many: We open wide our hearts and spirits to receive Jesus

*OPENING HYMN #213

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*COLLECT PRAYER

One: Let us pray

Many: O Lord God, whose Son followed your will, both as Servant and Savior, and now rules in the hearts of those who accept him as King: Open our hearts to his rule, that we may rejoice in the blessings of his kingdom and share with those who honor him with their lives. In his name, we pray. AMEN.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Hosanna Loud Hosanna”

Threlfall/Emig

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 (pg. 554)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:1-11 (pg. 898)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE #283

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

SERMON

“Preparing the Way”

Chad Frost

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

(from YouVersion)

God, You alone are worthy of honor, glory, and praise. With You, we can overcome every storm-including the global impact COVID-19 is having on our world. Right now, we are asking You to:

- Heal those who are sick and protect those who are not.
- Give our leaders extra wisdom as they navigate this pandemic and economic uncertainty.
- Strengthen Your global Church. Reveal to us how we can partner together to reach the needs of those around us.
- Calm our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in You.
- Use our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in You,
- Use this pandemic to pave the way for spiritual renewal. We want Your glory, power, and healing to be on display.

This we pray as we pray the Lord’s Prayer in one voice in the language that speaks to each of our hearts:

OFFERING

*(Please give what you can when you can, by mail or by prayers.
If you have question please reach out to Lynn Hart, hartacre3@aol.com)*

*DOXOLOGY/SONG OF PRAISE

OLD 100TH

*DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: As we offer our gifts to you, Loving God, remove any doubts about how they might be used, as you offer food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, joy to the grieving and peace to the broken. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN #216

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE.

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung twice)

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful

In the Lord, I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“Happy Trails”

Worship Resources for this Sunday:

- Unless otherwise listed all hymns and responses come from the New Century Hymnal

Chad Frost - Preacher

Brandon Frost – Choir Director

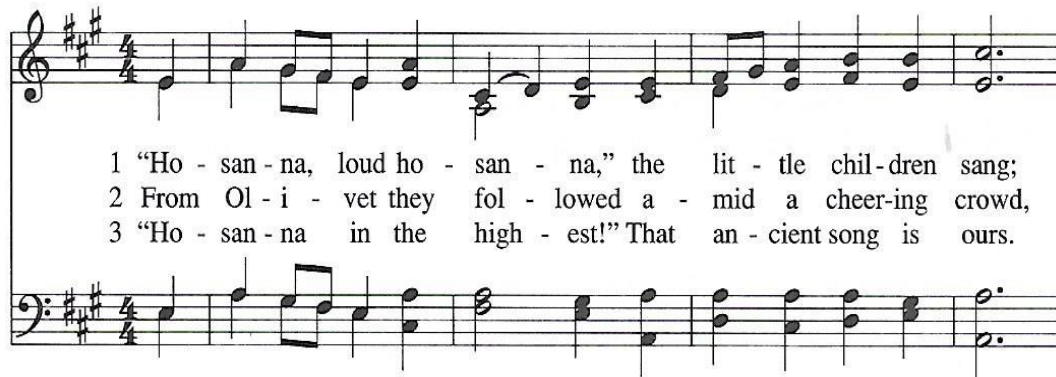
Chuck Byam – Choir Accompanist

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

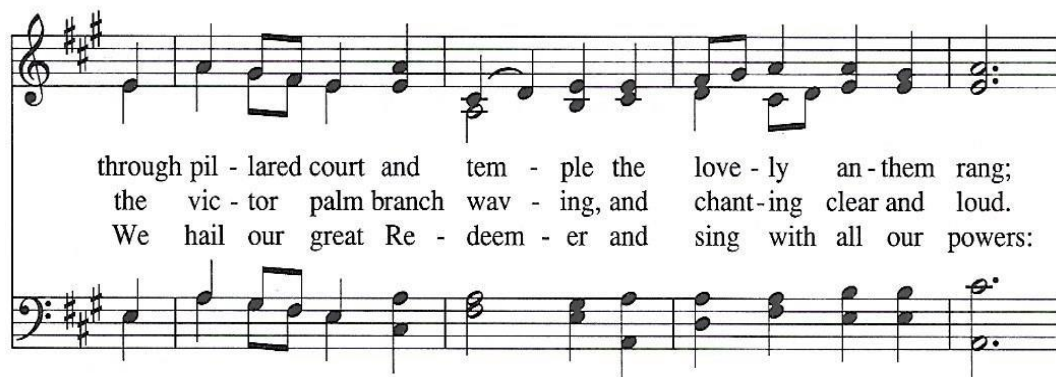
213

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

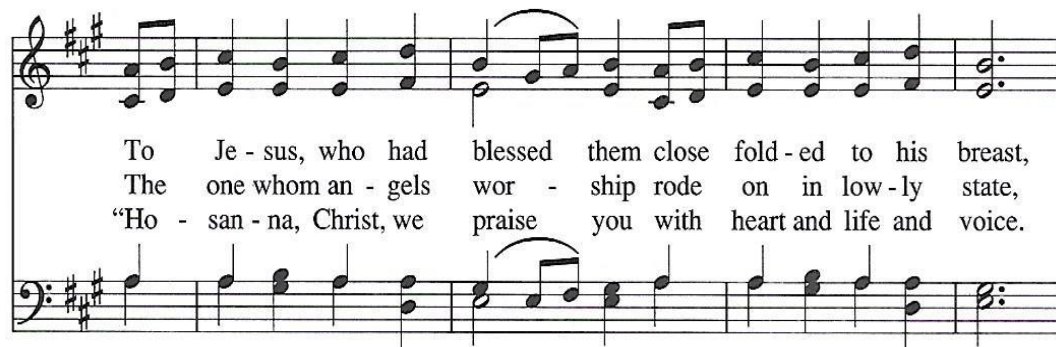
Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15



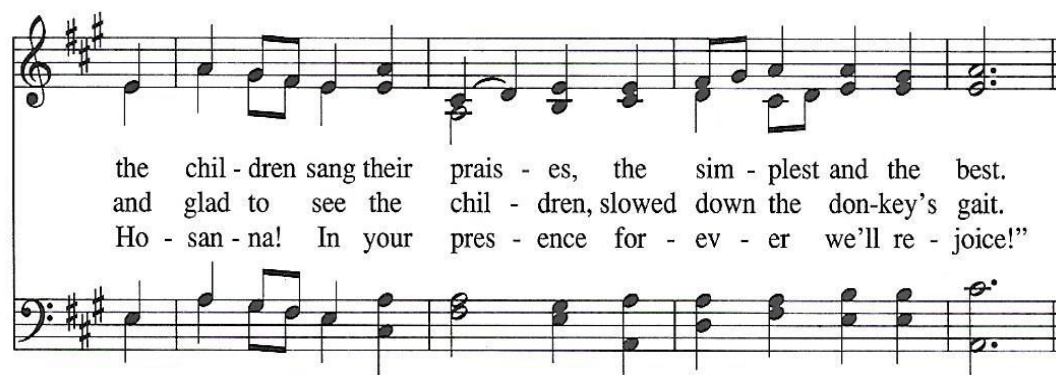
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
"Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Psalm 118:1-2**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Psalm 118:19-29**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵ "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."

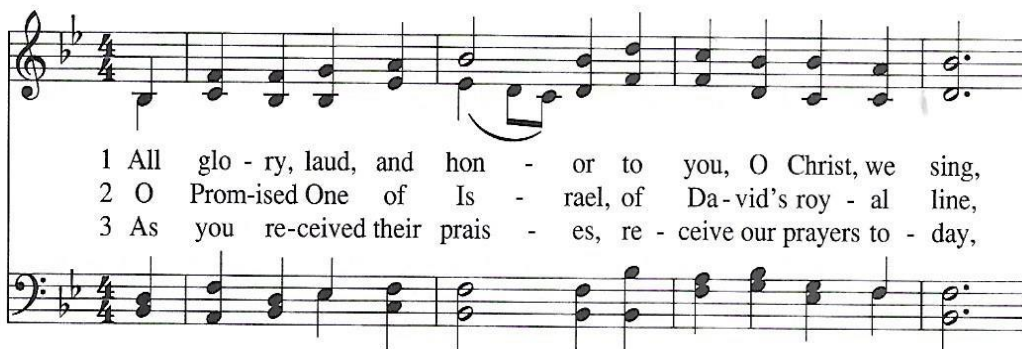
⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

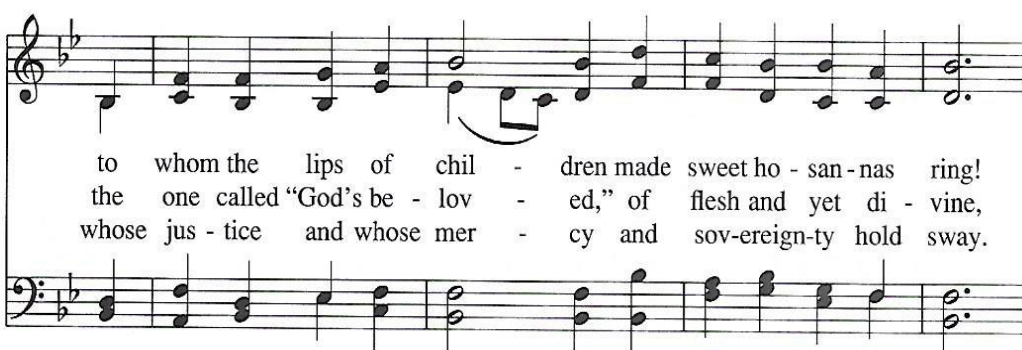
216

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

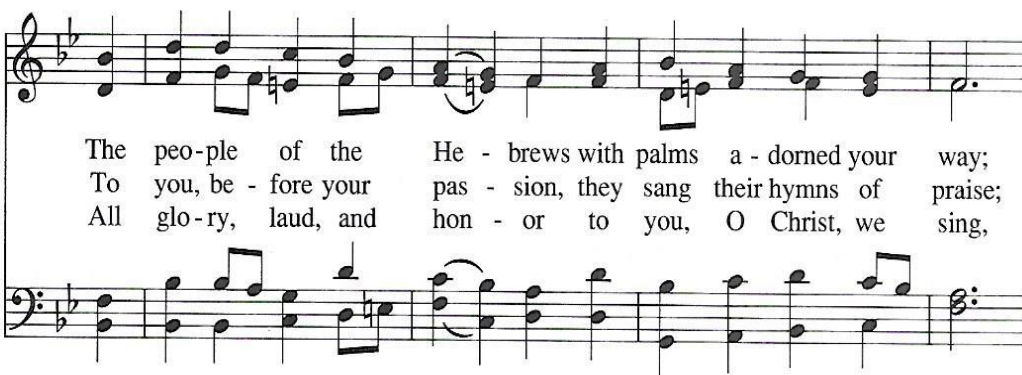
Matt. 21:8-9



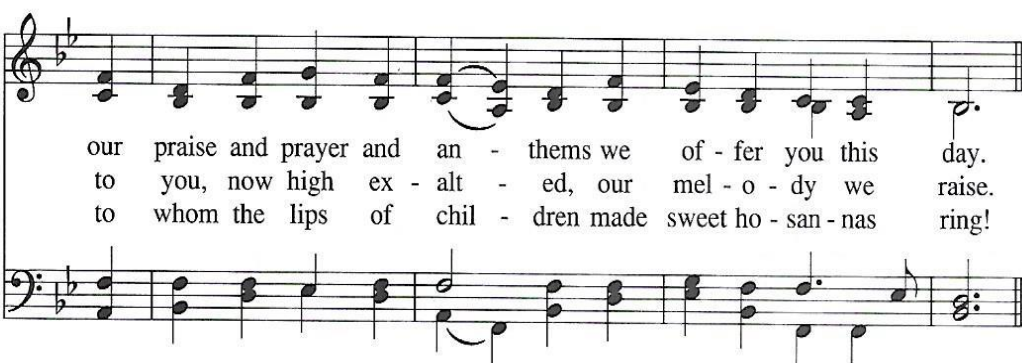
1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da-vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re-ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san-nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.



The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo-ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,



our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Dear Ones,

Because we are apart during worship service, we are unable to celebrate communion together. Yet, if you would like to have communion at home you can use the prayer below and know that your friends and members of FCUCC will be reading the same prayer.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: Please join me in prayer.

Many: Dearest God, on this One World Communion Sunday, we are struck by the lack of unity in our world. Around the world, in our own country, in our cities, in our families, we fight with one another. In anger, we lash out at those who disagree with us, at those who disappoint us, and at those who we think have failed us. We do violence against one another with our words, with our bodies, with our actions and inactions. We refuse to help others in the world, sometimes because they are of different nationalities, ethnicities, races, or faiths. We also abuse ourselves with self-criticism, with substances, with over-work, or with physical violence. Sometimes, it seems as though we have forgotten that every one of us is your beloved child. God, we ask for your forgiveness. Help us to remember to love one another and ourselves, as you have loved us. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Dear ones, God knows that we feel guilt when we harm others and ourselves, and that we seek forgiveness. Therefore, God sent Jesus to help restore and reconcile us. If you are seeking reconciliation with one anyone—another person, God, or even within your own self--know that Jesus' teachings give you a path to follow. Know also that nothing, not even the errors or sins of your life, will keep you from the love and grace of God.