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**March 24, 2024    10:30 a.m.**

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE    "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Setting by Paul Manz

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (3)

We gather together in this place,

**Raising our branches in joy!**

We gather together in this place,

**Raising our branches in hope!**

We gather together in this place,

**Raising our branches in prayer,**

Walking toward the Cross and the empty tomb.

\*PALM PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #216

*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**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 their 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 sovereignty hold sway.  
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)

Holy God, sure of your faithfulness even in your journey to the cross, comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age, we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude.

**We have looked to you for paltry favors, when you have given everything.**

We have often withheld from your people and your creation the care they deserve.

**Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision for a just and peaceful world. *(silent confession)***

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Siblings in Christ, beyond the shadow of doubt, know that our sins are forgiven.

By the grace of Christ, we stand together forgiven and free.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God” #760

*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**Amen, we praise your name, O God. Amen, we praise your name, O God,**

**Amen, amen, amen, amen! Amen, we praise your name, O God. *(repeat)***

\*PASSING THE PEACE

*All are invited to greet one another with the following words:*

Person 1: **“Hosanna!”**

Person 2: **“Hosanna in the highest!”**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

## LISTENING

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE READING: THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Mark 11:1-11      Pew Bible p.823

*When indicated by reader, congregation is invited to say:*

**“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

### SILENT RELECTION

#### HYMN OF REFLECTION “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #213

*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**“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!”**

## RESPONDING

*We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

### NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

OFFERTORY "Prayer" from "Suite Gothique" Leon Boellmann  
*(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)*

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "We Give You But Your Own" #785 *New Century Hymnal*  
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SENDING**

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

SCRIPTURE READING: THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Mark 15:1-15

Pew Bible pp.828-829

\*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "What Wondrous Love is This" #223 (*New Century Hymnal*)  
*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this that Christ should come in bliss**

**to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing;**

**To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme,**

**I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity**

**I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on!**

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION: A LITANY FOR HOLY WEEK (1)**

Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed you as our hero.

**Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.**

Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.

**Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide we can take care of ourselves.**

Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.

**Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.**

Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

**Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we've never met you.**

Today we have stared at you with the star struck eyes of ardent fans.

**Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because it's too painful to see you on the cross.**

Today we have expressed our unsuppressed hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.

**Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.**

Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

**Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION "O Sacred, Wondrous Love" Heather Sorenson

*Thanks to God, we at Hope United Church of Christ have good news to share. And we should feel compelled to share it, because there are people in St. Louis who are looking for a progressive and loving faith community. When we share Hope, we make it easier for them to find us!*

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Worship Endnotes

- (1) Written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson,
- (2) Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1; Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.
- (3) Worship Ways, United Church of Christ, 2019.

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***March 24, 2024 Worship Leaders***

Pastor: Sarah McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Alice Galt

Ushers: Representatives from the Environmental Justice Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Jack Jennings, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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to the ministries of Hope UCC!*