



PALM SUNDAY

*Palm branches in hand, we join a procession begun centuries ago in Jerusalem,
as part of a long line of people in need of God's saving grace. We rejoice as
Christ comes to open the gates of justice and bring heaven's peace.*



STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

10am, April 13, 2025

Welcome to the Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ! As we say at nearly every worship service, “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey God welcomes you... and so do we.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God knows we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather as the Body of Christ.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the feast table of Christ. Some of the songs we sing are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. Yet, in our preaching and prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of everyday living. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

Mission of the Storrs Congregational Church:

We share in God’s love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.

These May Help During the Service... If you would like a **large-print** copy of the bulletin and hymns, would like seat or back cushions, or are looking for a wheelchair or accessible seating, please ask an usher. **The restroom in this building** is at the front of the church behind the doors to the right of the chancel (in the northeast corner of the building).

Children, too, are welcome at all services. It is important for families to worship together. We are glad to have children—and all their wiggles and giggles—as part of our community and worship life! Families are welcome to visit our PRAYGROUND toward the front pews, on the right side of the meeting house. There are books and quiet activities available for little ones. We also have a fully-staffed Family Room available for child care, if desired. Our ushers will be happy to direct you. Whenever worship is blessed with the presence of children, the liturgy will include a “Time for All God’s Children”. Welcome!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: All are welcome, including children, to share in the feast at Christ’s table. Communion is shared the first Sunday of each month.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: We gladly offer the sign and seal of God’s grace in the waters of baptism, both to children and adults of any age. *For more information, contact the pastor.*

The language of worship is rich and diverse, and yet always inadequate to express the fullness of the divine. In our worship life, we strive to use inclusive language for humanity and expansive imagery for the divine, while respecting the poetry and imagery of texts handed down to us from the ages. Honoring our diversity, in those places where we speak or sing together, worshippers may use language with which they are comfortable or familiar

Please stand as you are able “.”*

*Please remember to **silence cell phones** and other devices, and be mindful of those who wish to use the prelude as a time of prayer, meditation, and preparation for worship.*

Please know that our services are recorded on Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube.

LITURGY OF PALMS

As you arrive in the Narthex, ushers will hand out palms to all to wave!

*Opening Acclamation

One: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Many: **Hosanna in the highest!**

*Blessing of the Palms

*Procession

One: Let us go forth in peace,

Many: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Hymn – “All Glory Laud and Honor” St. Theodulph

this bulletin p.4



*Christ Upon the Donkey for the Palm Procession
1520*

“All Glory Laud and Honor”

ST. THEODULPH

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

to Refrain

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

GATHERING

Welcome

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Call to Confession

Christopher Dustin

The word ‘hosanna’ is often sung with joy and glee on this day. We process in, we wave palm branches, and it feels like a celebration. But the truth is, the word ‘hosanna’ actually means, “save us.” The people along that parade route so many years ago were crying out to Jesus for help, because they knew—this world is not as it should be. There is still too much hurt here. They were crying, “Save us!”

In the prayer of confession, we have our own hosanna moment, because we cry out to God, admitting the ways in which we have fallen short, and we ask for God’s saving hand. So friends, let us pray together, for there is still too much hurt here.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Christopher Dustin

**God of street parades and hosannas,
we know that you are counting on us to speak out against oppression, to speak up for love and to speak hope to fear, but so often we are silent. We worry that we’ll say the wrong thing, so we don’t say anything at all. We worry that we’ll offend, so we keep our convictions to ourselves. We worry that we’ll speak up and won’t be heard, so we are quiet. And meanwhile, the parade marches on. Unravel our fears. Spark conviction in us. Give us the courage to yell, “Hosanna!” Gratefully we pray, amen. (time of silent confession)**

Words of Forgiveness

Christopher Dustin

One: Friends, even when we are silent, even when we are scared, even when we miss the moment, even when we choose to speak and say the wrong thing— we belong to God. Let us rest in this good news:

Many: We are forgiven. We are known. We are called as the Body of Christ. We belong to God, and serve God, every day and always. Amen.

*Whenever worship is blessed with the presence of children,
the liturgy will include ‘A Time for All God’s Children’. Children are welcome to remain in worship afterwards, or to come play in our staffed “Family Room” for the balance of the service.*

WORD

God Speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Prayer of Illumination

Christopher Dustin

Holy God,
sometimes life feels like a parade rushing by us
as we stand on the sidelines and try not to miss it!
There are hundreds of things that catch our eye,
but the thing we fear missing the most is you.
So slow down the speed on this parade.
Paint the colors of this world a little brighter.
And dance through the words in our scripture passage
until it is almost impossible for us to miss you there.
God we are here.
We are trying to pay attention.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture Reading

First Reading

Christopher Dustin

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

pew bibles p.492

REFRAIN – from “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

Second Reading

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Luke 19:28-40

pew bibles p.854

Sermon – “Even the Stones Cry Out”

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

***Hymn** – “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

*New Century Hymnal [black] p.215
this bulletin p.9*

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

As the offering is collected, prayers of either joy or concern may be written on the purple prayer request cards found in the pew rack and placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Call to Offering

OFFERTORY MUSIC – “Ride On, King Jesus” spiritual arr. by Parker & Shaw

Adult Choir

Refrain: Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinduh me,
Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinduh me.

I was but young when I begun.
No man can a- hinduh me
But now my race is almost done.
No man can a- hinduh me. Refrain

King Jesus rides on a milk white horse.
No man can a- hinduh me
The river of Jordan he did cross.
No man can a- hinduh me. Refrain

If you ever want to find your way to God
No man can a- hinduh me
The gospel highway must be trod.
No man can a- hinduh me. Refrain

***PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

*Embodying the more-simplified mood of Lent, there is no **Song of Praise (Doxology)**.*

*As you are able, in body or in spirit, **please rise when invited as the offering is brought forward.***

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Merciful God, once again we add our voices to the throngs who, across the ages, have shouted "Hosanna!" at the coming of your Son. Some meant it and followed. Others would later add their voices to the ones that shouted "Crucify Him!" May our songs, may our prayers, and may our gifts this morning reflect our deepest desire to be more than spectators. Help us truly be followers of your Son, the Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer

Many: Our Creator/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 glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God Blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

We Turn Towards Passion/Maundy Thursday

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Anthem - “Crucifixus” from Mass in B minor by J. S. Bach

Adult Choir

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried

Moment of Silence

***Hymn** - “There in God’s Garden”

this bulletin p. 10

***Benediction**

Beloved wanderers,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs,
you always belong to God.
Go trusting that good news.
Go in peace.
Amen



Postlude - "Paean from Diptych" by Brenda Portman

Adult Choir

Worship

Every Sunday, 10:00 am, in the Meeting House and on Zoom & YouTube. Expressive, participatory liturgy; thoughtful preaching; and a soul-stirring blend of new and traditional music are some of the elements you can expect to encounter each Sunday.

Thank You Sunday Morning Servers for Assisting in today's service ...

<i>Liturgist:</i>	Christopher Dustin
<i>Greeter:</i>	Katie Bienvenue
<i>Ushers:</i>	Cass Crewdson, Malta Bailey, Dana Gregus, Carolyn Holmy, Paul Schur
<i>Welcome Table:</i>	Sue Schur
<i>Tech Team:</i>	Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine, Bryan Klimkiewicz

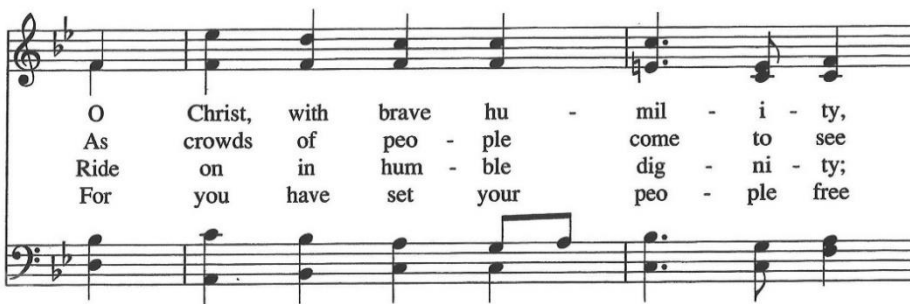
Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

Luke 19:36-38; Zech. 9:9

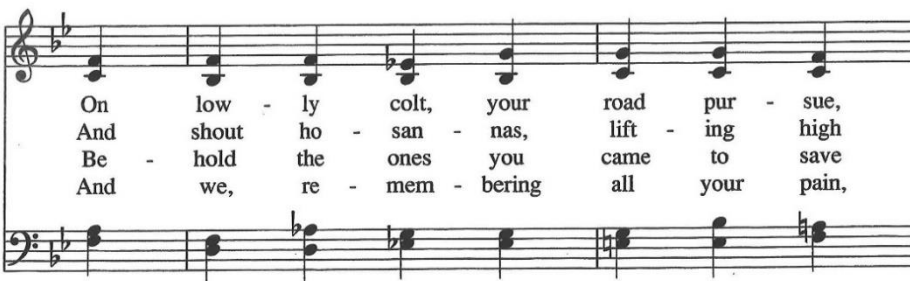
Henry H. Milman, 1827; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1993



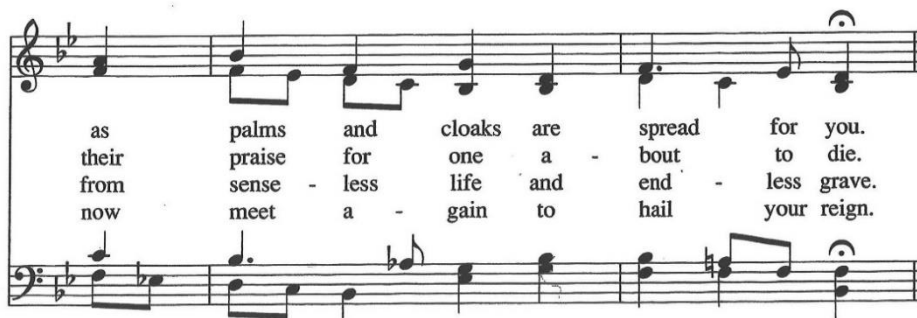
1 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 2 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 3 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!
 4 Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty!



O Christ, with brave hu - mil - i - ty,
 As crowds of peo - ple come to see
 Ride on in hum - ble dig - ni - ty;
 For you have set your peo - ple free

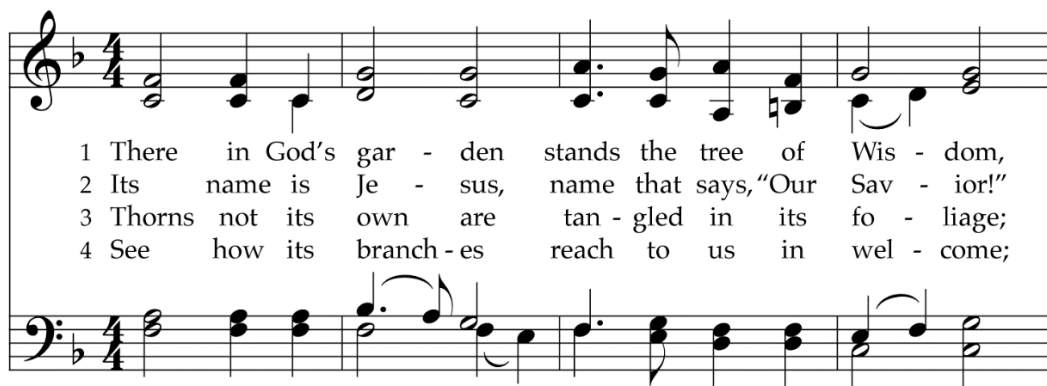


On low - ly colt, your road pur - sue,
 And shout ho - san - nas, lift - ing high
 Be - hold the ones you came to save
 And we, re - mem - bering all your pain,



as their palms and cloaks are spread for you.
 from praise for one a - bout to die.
 now sense - less life and end - less grave.
 meet a - gain to hail your reign.

226 There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - fering;
 our greed has starved it; our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



tree of all knowl - edge, tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness; give me all your

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH



pas - sion, tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row; I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending;
this, my resurrection;
into your hands,
Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heaven is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it; take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER IS THE TERRITORY OF THE MOHEGAN, MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT, EASTERN PEQUOT, SCHAGHTICOKE, GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT, NIPMUC, AND LENAPE PEOPLES, WHO HAVE STEWARDED THIS LAND THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE IN PROTECTING THIS LAND, AND ASPIRE TO UPHOLD OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO THEIR EXAMPLE. FOR MORE

INFORMATION: <https://nacc.uconn.edu/land-acknowledgement/>



Full to the Brim { *Even the stones cry out* Even the Stones Cry Out

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 19:28-40

Digital painting with photo collage

When I began this image, I wanted the medium to be the message. Initially I thought I might make a mosaic of stones, however, I was wisely encouraged by my colleagues to try photography and digital collage. I went out into my side yard and picked up rocks to take pictures of them. As I quickly scanned for interesting rocks, I was underwhelmed by what I was seeing. I had already decided that the rocks were going to be dull and boring. My color enthusiast self was annoyed by the prospect of dusty neutral tones and minimal contrast.

This was an interesting place to begin my process, considering the text I was working with. I was definitely underestimating what the rocks would have to offer the piece, and was preemptively disappointed about the mundane color schemes and textures I would have to work with from my photographs. Gosh, was I wrong. As I downloaded the images and began to edit them, a wide spectrum of color came into view. Most of the hues were entirely shocking and unexpected: periwinkle, magenta, turquoise, mauve, rust, orange, gold, and plum, just to name a few. It was as if God was saying to me, “See, even if you turn a blind eye, and your assumptions distract you, the stones will cry out.”

In this piece there are three stones bordered in gold to reference the voice of God, the truth that will not be quelled. Down the sides of the image are the Pharisees or the “silencers” in postures of quieting judgment. My hope was for the silencers to be completely visually enveloped and drowned out by the stones. I left the silencers simplified and unfinished to signify that their attempts at diminishing the truth would ultimately and always be in vain.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Join us for the

**ANNUAL
SCRUMPTIOUS
SOUTHERN BRUNCH**



Following Worship in the Auditorium.

Didn't RSVP?

That's okay!

All are welcome!



Holy Week at SCC

April 13th, Palm Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Sunday Brunch following worship

April 17, Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Meeting House.

A Service of Communion and Tenebrae.

As Christians, we tell this story; we are part of this story, and it is part of us. We share the bread and cup of communion, we experience receding light and growing shadows, we hear the Word, we are moved through sacred music and shared voices, and we remember the Passion of Christ. Come into this holy night of our life together as disciples of Christ.

April 18th, Good Friday, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Waggoner Chapel

A Time of Silent Reflection

Step away from the world for a little while. Come into our Chapel. Rev. Diane will be present for a shared prayer, if you so wish. Light a candle, or sit in silent reflection. As Christians, so too do we know that Jesus' death was not the end of the story. It was not the end of God's love. A final prayer will be offered at 1pm. All lighted candles will then be extinguished; however, you are welcome to remain in the Chapel as long as you wish.

April 20th, Easter Sunday - Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

***Sunrise Service, 6:15am, Storrs Cemetery**

***10am Easter Worship Service, SCC Meeting House.**

Join us in the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord in an uplifting service with scripture, glorious music, and a special Easter message.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Scripture readings: The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
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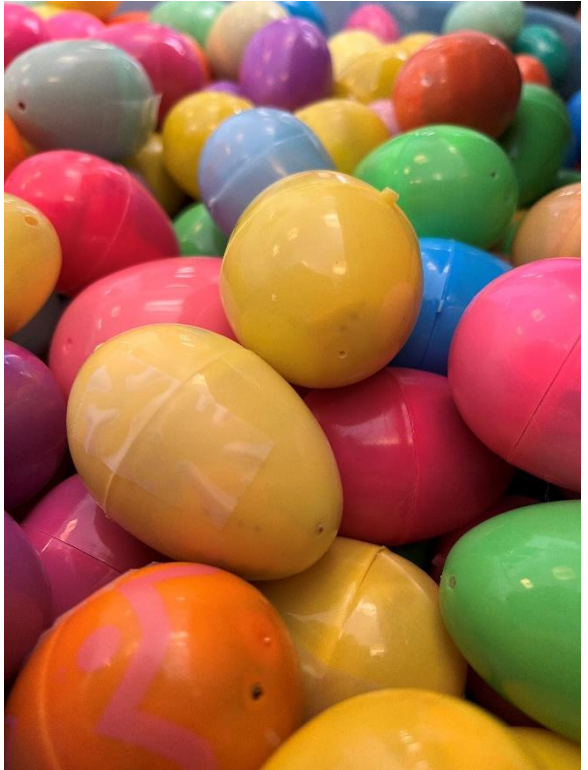


SCC Easter Egg Hunt

Our Easter Egg buckets are
Full to the Brim with brightly
colored eggs filled with
goodies!!

*Thank you to all who donated
goodies for the egg hunt and to
the volunteers and work study
students for cleaning and filling!*

**Please meet in room 106 after
today's worship service to
participate!**



We envision our community as a **welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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