

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday
Sixth Sunday in Lent 10 am



Welcome to worship!

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope you find a warm spirit of hospitality and a worship experience that strengthens your faith and discipleship.

You are invited to stand, as you are able, when you see an * in the bulletin.

Centering thoughts

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.
His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River^b to the ends of the earth.

Centering Bell On hearing the bell ring, please settle into a time for centering silence and listening to the Prelude with an open heart.

Prelude

Welcome/Opening Words

Liturgist: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey..."

Congregation: "You are welcome here."

***Call to Worship** *Rev. Drew Ludwig*

One: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast

All: but he was a threat to people with power.

One: Jesus stood against the Temple,

All: so he was a threat to the Sadducees.

One: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,

All: so he was a threat to the Pharisees.

One: Jesus took the titles of "Lord," "Son of God," and "King."

All: those were the Caesar's titles: he was a threat to the government.

One: Jesus came without violence

All: yet he disturbed the peace.

One: Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God

All: and the kingdoms of this world were frightened.

One: Lord, help us to love your Kingdom more than the kingdoms of this world.

All: For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" NCH 213

***Opening Prayer**

Words of Assurance

All: I will sing about the wonders of Your love, O God!

I will proclaim Your faithfulness.

For Your merciful love lasts forever,

as constant as the heavens above.

Blessed are those who trust in You,

who walk in the light of Your presence.

Song of Response

Give Me Love

George Harrison

Bb Bb^Δ C-7 F
Give me love,
— give me love, — give me peace on Earth, — Give me light
— give me life, — show me all I'm worth, — give me
hope, help me cope, — with this heavy load, — Try-ing to,
— touch and reach you with heart and soul, —

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Contemporary reading (Excerpt from *Natural Resources*) By Adrienne Rich

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
so much has been destroyed

I have to cast my lot with those
who age after age, perversely,

with no extraordinary power,
reconstitute the world.

***Hymn of Preparation** "What Wondrous Love Is This" NCH 223

Sermon The One We Follow Rev. Elisabeth Middelburg

Moment for Silent Reflection

Special Music "Ride On, King Jesus" sung by Christina Santschi

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

After each joy or concern, Pastor leads the congregation to respond "Lord, hear our prayer."

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

In a world that offers a vision of never enough, we share in God's abundant provision for all. While we could gain the world but lose our soul, it is from within our soul that we share in a generous spirit of giving.

Offering Song

What Is Good

(What Does The Lord Require Of You?)

The musical score consists of five staves of music in common time (indicated by a 'J = 88' at the top). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dotted half note. The lyrics are: "What does the Lord re-quire of you? What does the Lord re-quire of you? To act just-ly... To act just-ly... To love kind-ness... To love mer-cy... And to walk hum-bly with your God... And to walk hum-bly with your God...". The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dotted half note. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dotted half note. The fourth staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dotted half note. The fifth staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dotted half note.

WORDS: *Micah 6:8*
MUSIC: Gerry Grosz, ©2022 Gerry Grosz Music, All Rights Reserved

ACT JUSTLY
Irr.

Offering Prayer

All: Generous God, we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift. We own nothing. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the life of this church, this community, and the wider world. May we feel the blessing of sharing our resources with the rest of your creation. Amen.

Announcements/Life of the Church

***Sending Hymn** All Glory Loud and Honor NCH 216

***Benediction**

***Response**

And God will raise us up on eagles' wings,
bear us on the breath of dawn
make us to shine like the sun,
and hold us in the palm of God's hand.

Postlude

Announcements

Prayer Chain

E-mail either Julie Dowling isabella1472@comcast.net or Annie Song-Hill asonghill@gmail.com if you have a prayer request you would like included in the prayer chain.

Upcoming services

March 28: Maundy Thursday 5:30-7 pm Soup Supper and Taize Service

March 29: Good Friday 12-3pm Meditation Walk and Music

March 31: Easter Sunday Celebration

Servers

March 24

Liturgist: Lucinda Ray

Altar flowers: Cathi Fuller

Greeter: Lynn Grant

Coffee: Christina and David Santschi

March 31

Liturgist: Caryl Hodges

Altar flowers: Lucinda Ray

Greeter: Julie Dowling

Coffee: Cathi, Jackie, Megan

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

Interim Pastor: Rev Elisabeth Middelburg

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