



First Congregational Church of Hanover

United Church of Christ

We Strive to Be a Church that Welcomes All and Empowers All in
Christ to Share their God Given Talents.



Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Palm Sunday

Our Worship Service

*Please stand as you are able.

Prelude

Please enter a quiet time of reflection when the prelude music begins.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Hosanna! See our savior approaches!

People: Adults make a road of palms and garments; Children run to see the rider.

Leader: Let us worship God with songs of praise, shouting:

People: "Hosanna to our God most high!"

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Processional Hymn**

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Blue Hymnal #192

Morning Prayer

Triumphal God, who enters the city as one who seeks and serves. Be with us through this Holy Week, that we may receive Christ afresh into our lives, and embody Christ's Spirit into the world. This we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Kim Engle

Anthem

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21: 1-11

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: 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."

***Gloria Patri (sung)**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Sermon

Rev. Peter

***Sermon Hymn**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Blue Hymnal #207

The Deacons will collect the prayer cards during this hymn.

The Offertory

Invitation to Giving

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

A Time of Prayer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (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 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.

***Closing Hymn**

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

Blue Hymnal #191

***Benediction**

Postlude

Serving in the House of the Lord

The chancel flowers are given by Priscila Cedrone in memory of loved ones.

The lay reader is Jim Hoyes.

The Deacon of the Month is Al Alexander.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Priscilla Cedrone and Jessie Berry.

Our Prayer List

The wars in Israel and Ukraine

The family of Priscilla Morse, the mother-in-law of Whitney Carpenter, who passed March 12

Jim, Marilyn Melchin's son, hospitalized

Ericka Penny, Ginny's daughter, hospitalized

Lynn White, recovering at home

Barbara Finch, daughter-in-law of Joan Finch, dealing with cancer

Marie, dealing with diabetes

Al Alexander, carpal tunnel surgery March 28

Sandy Adami, recovering from knee surgery

Linda Archibald, family friend of Tina Donovan, on hospice

Jessie, Lynn White's niece, with serious health concerns

Carl Ryburg and his family, nephew of Carolyn Frattalone

Jake, grandson of Maddie Thomas, recovering from knee surgery

Holly Taylor, with lung cancer

Cathy Churchill, Lynn White's friend

Mark Gifford, with pneumonia

Marianne, who is in hospice



- ◆ Sandi Adami is doing well
- ◆ Jamaal Thompson's son participated in an event featuring different cultures, a fashion show and dancing.

We Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Those with COVID

Cynthia Ness, terminal bile duct cancer

Michael, Glenda Larson's brother-in-law, with CJD, a fatal disease

Laura Delaplain's sister Cathy, with multiple myeloma

Lori Bruni's stepson, with paraplegia

Lynn White, cancer treatment

Marjorie, mother-in-law of Susan Conant, with health issues

Elsa Marshall's brother Bruce, cancer

Ericka, Ginny Hunt's daughter, under treatment at Dana Farber

John, friend of Glenda Larson, with Parkinson's

Rick and Alberta, brother and sister-in-law of Dennis Falcione

Tom Evans, cousin of Marilyn Melchin, with liver cancer

Joe, friend of Janet Hamilton, with terminal blood and lung issues and his wife Cathy and daughter Kaitlin

Karen, Flo McNeilly's friend, with bone marrow cancer

Carol Brew, mother of Kim Blanton, living with dialysis and heart failure

The husband of Dolly's caregiver, with kidney failure

Holy Week in Hanover



Sunday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

*Celebration of Jesus' Triumphal
Entry into Jerusalem*

Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Shadows and Light

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Day

Celebration of Christ's Resurrection

Sunrise Service - 6:15 a.m.

Easter Worship at 9:30 a.m.



Fundraising Fun Coming Up Soon

Goods and Services Auction Friday May 3

Get ready for a night of fun, fellowship, and fundraising coming up in just a few weeks as our Goods and Services Auction gets underway at Riley Hall. Bidding will begin at 7:00 p.m., with a preview opportunity for viewing items and munching on pot-luck desserts and snacks before the donated services and goods go up for sale.

In order to make this event a success, we need your help as well as that of willing family members and friends. Please consider what you might offer to be auctioned. Do you have a particular item that you'd be willing to donate? Terrific! Or would you be willing to offer a "service?" Lest you imagine that you have nothing that would be of any interest, take a look at the "Suggested Services" listed in today's bulletin. It compiles only the beginning of possibilities. Even though we have a month until the auction, we're asking that you submit your offers of donations as soon as possible so that we can promote this event and include members of the community in the fun and funding.

Planning and preparing this event requires a team of volunteers. If you have some time and energy to contribute over the next few weeks, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Ava Sigsby 781-826-3912, ats@sigscom.com or Priscilla Cedrone, pecedrone@verizon.net.

This is a fine opportunity for new members, old members, friends and family to share their skills, talents, and interests with others, while raising funds for the church. Talk to anyone who attended the last auction years ago. They'll tell you a great time was had by all!

Lawn and Garden Services

Mowing
Edging
Pruning
Raking
Watering (for vacationers)
Weeding
Planting
Snow shoveling
Landscaping

Needlework

Knitting
Crocheting
Embroidery
Quilting
Mending
Darning
Alterations
Costuming
Custom creations

Lending

Sports equipment
Canoes/Kayaks
Power tools
Childcare items (for visiting grandchildren?)

Craftspeople

Woodworking
Plumbing
Wiring
Carpentry
Painting
Wallpaper (stripping or application)
Repairs

Vehicles

Services of truck and driver
Heavy equipment and operator
Chauffeuring
Hand delivery service

Food

Meals prepared
Custom cakes/desserts/snacks
Dessert of the month service
Personal shopper and delivery
Picnic prepared and packed
Seasonal treats

Arts

Custom visual artwork
Handmade jewelry
Photography sessions
Music lessons
Dance instruction
Videography
Editing
Custom compositions
Specialized decorating
Instrumental or vocal presentations

Events and guided adventures

“Back stage tours”
Boat excursions
Food tours
Nature walks
Cycling tours
Party planning
Entertainment tickets

Use of property

Weekend at vacation home/condo/cabin/
cottage
Afternoon at the pool
Storage space in barn, garage, or shed

Miscellaneous services

Dog walking
Pet sitting
Baby sitting
Caregiver relief
Car washing
Flower arranging
Computer lessons
Camperships
Geneology research



Youth Group Easter Social

Tonight 6:00-7:30pm

Join us for an Easter Social and to discuss future events. Light refreshments will be provided!

All Middle School and High School Students are welcome to join at any time. You are also more than welcome to bring a friend!

Please reach out to Kristyn Falcione if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Her email address is kfalcione57@gmail.com.



Coffee Hour Host Openings

The Hospitality Committee thanks all who have hosted coffee hours this winter and gives a special Thanks to Hal Thomas for starting the coffee!

Reminder—There will be no Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday, but we are looking for volunteers to host for April, May and June. Talk to the coffee hour host and sign up!



Church Yard Sale, Saturday, April 13

Let your family and friends know that we are planning for a yard sale on the second Saturday in April.

We're accepting gently used household items and clothing.

**** No electronics or heavy furniture.****

Drop off upstairs in Riley Hall Tue/Thu 9-1 or Wed/Sat 10-2. We're looking for volunteers to help and bakers to bake! Sign up at coffee hour or contact Adrienne Rafferty at adrraf@verizon.net.



Flower Fundraiser

Pick up a mini-bouquet during coffee hour for \$5! Give one to your BFF or to someone who doesn't get out much anymore.



Thrift Shop Needs Shoppers

Let your friends and neighbors know that there is a great place to shop for unique items. Bring a shopping buddy and browse the various rooms!

Faith Formation Across the Ages



The Gospel reading for this week is John 12:12-16 RSVUE “¹² The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.”

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week that leads to Easter, but first there will be Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. In this passage Jesus enters Jerusalem along with countless others to celebrate the feast of the Passover.

This Scripture holds the moment the Israelites have been waiting for. Jesus enters Jerusalem along with countless others to celebrate the feast of the Passover. They have been living under the rule of the Roman Empire, their oppressors. Every Jew knew that to win this battle would require divine intervention...a miracle. Generations have placed their hopes in the coming king from the line of David to restore their nation to its proper position. Their hope rests on a conquering king with a heart after God.

Questions to Consider:

- Jesus quotes the minor prophet Zechariah when he says, “ do not be afraid”. What causes fear?
- What do you fear? How does it impact your life?
- What communal fears does our faith community hold?

The children will go to faith formation during the singing of Gloria Patri.

Shalom with love always,

Elsa Marshall
Minister of Faith Formation



We are grateful that you are with us this morning. We hope you find nurture in our worship and warmth in the fellowship of our congregation.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please take a brochure from the pew racks and fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to a minister. Please take a moment

to meet the ministers following the worship service.

Join us! Following worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment downstairs in the Vestry. (Just follow the crowd.)

We are a praying church. If you would like to lift joys or concerns during the time of prayer, please fill out a prayer card, found in the pews. These will be collected during the second hymn, and read by the minister. You may also lift names aloud during the time of prayer.

Restrooms are located on the lower level of the church. There is an elevator behind the door at the front right of the church.



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