



WORSHIP AT NINE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 14, 2019

Palm/Passion Sunday

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 166 years our Covenant has been: *We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and Holy Scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.*

PRELUDE

Marti Rideout

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

* THE PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL Luke 19:28–40 The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

* ENTER TO WORSHIP The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine
L: On this day Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of Kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.
All lift and wave palm branches until the Invocation.

L: Hosanna to the Son of David!

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

* HYMN 216 All Glory, Laud, and Honor *Valet will ich dir geben*

* INVOCATION Rev. Corzine
L: Let us pray. Jesus, when you rode into Jerusalem the people waved palms with shouts of acclamation.
P: Grant that when the shouting dies we may still walk beside you even to a cross.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Corzine

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

During the passing of the Peace, you are invited to lay your palms on the rug in the shape of a cross.

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5–11

Rev. Ahrens

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts and debtors*)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Rev. Corzine

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **The Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. The next Good Sam Day is Monday, May 13. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus (*stanzas 1 and 2*)

Herzliebster Jesu

During the singing of the hymn, a wooden cross is brought forward and placed on the palms.

MEDITATION

“Lesson Seven: Live Fully In Your Dash”

Rev. Corzine

(Seventh in the nine-part series: *Life Lessons from Luke*)

A time of reflection follows.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO LUKE

Please stand at the verse that mentions “. . . the place that is called the skull.” The congregation speaks the parts printed in bold type.

Luke 22:63–64

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “**Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?**”

Luke 22:65—23:13

They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, “**If you are the Messiah, tell us.**” He replied, “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” All of them asked, “**Are you the Son of**

God?” He said to them, “You say that I am.” Then they said, **“What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”** Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, **“We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”** Then Pilate asked him, “Are you king of the Jews?” He answered, “You say so.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no bias against this man.” But they were insistent and said, **“He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”**

Luke 23:14–23

... (Pilate) “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.” Then they all shouted out together, **“Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”** (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, **“Crucify, crucify him!”** . . .

Luke 23:24–43

... Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called the skull, (*The congregation stands*) they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him saying, **“He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!”** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, **“If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”** . . .

At the conclusion, all may sit. A period of silence is kept.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

L: Everliving God, in your tender love us, you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death on the cross, giving us the example of great humility:

All: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN 226

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Herzlich tut mich verlangen

There is no Postlude on this Holy Day.

PASSION READERS: Laurie Maynell, *Narrator*; Alan Files, *Jesus*; Elisha Hardekopf, *Pilate*; Lee Kiesel, *Criminal 1*; Erin Murray, *Criminal 2*; Peter Murray, *Centurion*.

*All music in the bulletin is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved.
Bulletins are printed on recycled paper with a minimum 50% post-consumer content.*

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation.
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation.

First Church is a faith community

† Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
† Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
† Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

