Palm Sunday

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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
March 24, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Cheryl Archer, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Processional VII in B-Flat Major* — D. Bellando

INTROIT — *Ride on, Ride on in Majesty* (v. 1)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Hosanna save us, you who stand on the threshold while we fling the cloaks of our praise before you.

Hosanna save us Messiah , so misunderstood.
Hosanna , save us and open the gates to us of hope and prayer and peace.
Amen

*HYMN — *All Glory, Laud and Honor* — 178

All glory, laud and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went; our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal son, who in the Lord's name comest, the true and blessed One; to thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. All glory, laud and honor to thee Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Eileen Sypher

Let us confess to God, we have failed too often to see you at home, in the face of our partners, our parents, our children, our friends. Help us to grow more in love and acceptance of all the beautiful difference so near us. We have failed too often to see you in the faces of the migrant, the transgendered, the disabled, those struggling everywhere, and all of God's creatures. Help us to grow to love all of these as you do. And we have failed too often to be kind and gentle toward ourselves. Help us to see ourselves as you do. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Philipians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

ANTHEM *The Royal Welcome* G.F. Handel/J. Paige

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 11.1-11 (p. 925)

SERMON Rev. Toni Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *The Carpenter* J. Martin

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM Rev. Eileen Sypher

*HYMN My Song Is Love Unknown 192

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be. O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail fresh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

God gave this blessed Son salvation to bestow; but people scorned and none the longed-for Christ would know. But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend; who at my need his life did spend.

With palms they strew his way and sweetest praises sang. Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang. Then Crucify! Is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry; and for his death they thirst and cry.

In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in death no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home; but mine the tomb where-in he lay, but mine the tomb where-in he lay.

Here might I stay and sing, one song my heart outpours; never was death's deep sting, never was love like yours. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend; I all my days could gladly spend.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION Rev. Eileen Sypher

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Ride on, Ride on in Majesty* (v. 2)

LOOKING AHEAD

March 24	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	March 28	5:30 pm **7: 00 pm**	Scouts – Wolf Den **Worship – Maundy Thursday**
March 25	6:30 pm	Irish Dance	March 29	**8:15 am** **12:00 pm**	**No Coffice Hours** **Worship - Good Friday**
March 26	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts – L&T	March 31	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship - Easter** No Soup Kitchen
March 27	6:30 pm	Scouts - Webelos			

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace**.

The deacon for the month of March is **Cheryl Archer.** The greeter this morning is **Susanne Spellacy.** Flowers on the altar were provided by **Deb Germini Calamari** in celebration of her **Uncle Vin's** 70th birthday.

Rummage and Bake Sale – Saturday April 13th
Our Rummage and Bake Sale returns on Saturday, April 13th from 9 am to 1 pm. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for helping to set-up the week prior to the Rummage Sale and for baking items for the Bake Sale. Any questions please contact Judy Schondorf at 860-399-7772.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Alan is on sabbatical. Please contact Eileen Sypher for pastoral care. Eileen can be contacted via phone 860 391-1860 (cell) or esypher@ comcast.net (email).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9am-1pm.