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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
April 13, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME		Diane Lindsay, Deacon
PRELUDE	*Cleansing Fountain*	H. Langwell
INTROIT	*Hosanna*	S. Lance

CALL TO WORSHIP
Let all the women sing!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Let all the men sing!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Let all the angels sing!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Let all the people sing!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! 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

O God, we praise you with joyful hearts, for in Jesus Christ you come to visit your people. Help us understand Christ's rule, strongest among the oppressed, among the victims, among the hurt and the broken. Help us understand Christ's triumph revealed when love speaks its healing and freeing word. Help us understand glory revealed on a cross. Then may we sing with the voices of light: Hosanna, blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SUNDAY Mark 11.1-11

ANTHEM *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion* K. Kosche

MONDAY Mark 11.12-14, 20-25

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard it. In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. Then Peter remembered and said to him, 'Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.' Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea", and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

SERMON *'Livin' On a Thin Line"* Rev W. Alan Froggatt

'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'
(Mark 11.9, 10)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Father, Forgive Them* P. Choplin

*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 *Palm Sunday: A Sonnet* Malcolm Guite (1957 -)
(From *Sounding the Seasons*, by Malcolm Guite, Canterbury Press 2012)

*HYMN *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!* 179

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! All the crowds hosanna cry; through waving branches slowly ride, O Savior, to be crucified.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die; O Christ, your triumph now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! The winged squadrons of the sky look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Your last and fiercest foe defy; bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* anon
(*all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

April 13	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Council Mtg** Soup Kitchen	April 17	6:30 pm **7:00 pm**	Scouts **Worship – Maundy Thursday**
April 14	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	April 18	**8:15 am** **12:00 pm**	**No Coffice Hours** **Worship - Good Friday**
April 15	8:30 am 6:30 pm	Yoga Scouts	April 20	**6:00 am** **10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Sunrise Service** **Worship - Easter** Soup Kitchen
April 16	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 **Diane Lindsay.** The greeter this morning is **Peggy Phillips.** Flowers on the altar were provided by **Peggy Phillips** in celebration of all of her grandchildren - Kayla, Ryan, Connor, Millie and Chip. Coffee Hour is being hosted by **Laurel Johnson**.

Easter Flowers – order by Wednesday, April 16th to include names in the bulletin.

Rummage and Bake Sale – Saturday May 3rd
Our Rummage and Bake Sale returns on Saturday, May 3rd 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 Marie Ready at 860-526-1487 or Judy Schondorf at 860-399-7772.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 – 12:30 or by appointment

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