



**Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

**March 28, 2021  
Palm/Passion Sunday**

**PRELUDE**

Entry to Jerusalem

David Paxton

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Manzi

**INVOCATION**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

[We use "Father" and "trespasses," but please use whatever words bring you closest to God.]

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Manzi

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled  
yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility,  
our inconsistent discipleship, our sinfulness, and our shortcomings.  
Lead us to a deeper experience of your love and keep us on right  
paths. Enliven us by the story of shame and triumph, suffering and  
hope that this week reveals. Conform us to be ever closer to the life  
and image of your Son, that we may delight in your will and walk in  
your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

(Time for individual silent confession)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17)

Hear the good news from scripture: "Let those who fear the Lord say,  
'His steadfast love endures forever.' Out of my distress I called on the

Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord." Friends, hear and believe the good news. In Christ, God answers us and sets us free. In Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

Rev. Manzi

**Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**John 12:12-19**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 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!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.  
Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

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. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

#### **SERMON**

**A Day to Remember**

#### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

The Palms

Jean-Baptiste Faure

Anna Kwashnak, soprano

#### **Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer**

*Katrina will share joys, concerns and witness to your brothers and sisters that she received prior to today’s service.*

#### **OFFERING AND DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

All Glory, Laud and Honor

(All are invited to sing:)

All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

#### **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

All Glory, Laud and Honor

#### **POSTLUDE**

The Palms

Jean-Baptiste Faure

#### **DOING GOD’S WORK**

The Congregation, *Ministers in the World*  
Church Officers & Members of our Boards & Committees  
Staff:

Katrina Manzi, *Minister*

Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*

David Obarowski, *Organist*

Valerie Beard, *Christian Education Coordinator*

Jeanine Bonaventure, *Office Administrator*

Diane Barnard, *Asst. Treasurer*

Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*

Howie Gay, *Sexton*