

## Service of Worship

Palm Sunday

March 20, 2016

10:30 AM

*Thomas a Kempis, 15th century*

"Great tranquility of heart is his who cares for neither praise nor blame." "Whenever you do a thing, act as if all the world were watching."

*Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century*

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."  
"Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, conquer him with love."

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### GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                      *Wondrous Love*                      Eggert

#### THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

**THE STORY OF PALM SUNDAY**                      *Luke 19:28-40*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Cry out, people of faith! Rejoice and praise God!

**All: Hosanna! God saves!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!**

One: Cry out, people of faith!

Your Savior draws near to Jerusalem.

**All: Hosanna! God saves!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!**

One: Cry out, people of faith!

Let us praise the God who loves us,

**All: Hosanna! God saves!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!**

**\*HYMN # 192**

*All Glory, Laud and Honor*

#### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Most gracious God, as we begin this historic week, keep us from that casualness that would cause us to think that we can pass through these days as innocent bystanders. Make us sensitive to the indecision in our own lives, to our wavering ways like a Pilate, to our betraying ways like a Judas, and our denying ways like a Peter. Come, enter into our hearts that we may love you and follow in your ways. Amen. (silence)**

#### **\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: God comes to us in the parade and at the table, in our denial and our praise. God comes to us, offering love and forgiveness.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### **\*MUSICAL RESPONSE**

GLORIA PATRI

*(see page 35 in Hymnal)*

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,  
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

## LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

### \*PSALTER

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

*The congregation sings the Refrain.*

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na.

- One: Give thanks to the LORD, who is good,  
whose mercy endures forever.
- All: **Let Israel now proclaim,  
“The mercy of the LORD endures forever.”**
- One: Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- All: **“This is the gate of the LORD;  
those who are righteous may enter.” (Refrain)**
- One: This is the LORD’S doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- All: **One this day the LORD has acted;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**
- One: Hosanna, LORD, hosanna!  
LORD, send us now success.
- All: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name  
of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the  
LORD. (Refrain)**
- One: God is the LORD, who has shined upon us;  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of  
the altar.
- All: **“You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”  
Give thanks to the LORD, who is good;  
whose mercy endures forever. (Refrain)**

SCRIPTURE *Philippians 2:5-11* NT pg 197

### CHILDREN’S MOMENT

*(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)*

### \*HYMN # 190

*Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*

### SERMON

### PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(in 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.**

### GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

### OFFERING

**Invitation**

**Choral Anthem** *Sanctus* by Mozart, arr. Ehret

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord*

*God of Sabbaoth*

*Nations shall bow down before thee.*

*Kingdoms shall show forth thy glory.*

*Hosanna in the Highest!*

\***Doxology** *(page 48 in hymnal) tune: TALLIS’ CANON*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Christ all creatures here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore;**

**One God triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (*let us pray together . . .*)

**Gracious God, as the faithful disciples of your Son spread their garments on the way and covered it with branches, so may we lay at Christ's feet all that we have and are, and bless you, in whose name and by whose mercy he came. Amen.**

## GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

**\*HYMN** (see musical page)     *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: God is with us

**All: God is with us.**

One: We can face whatever tomorrow might bring  
because we know . . .

**All: God is with us.**

One: We can dare to stand at the foot of the cross because  
we know . . .

**All: God is with us.**

One: We can confront the realities of our own sin because  
we know . . .

**All: God is with us.**

One: Go in peace, knowing that wherever your journey  
leads you,

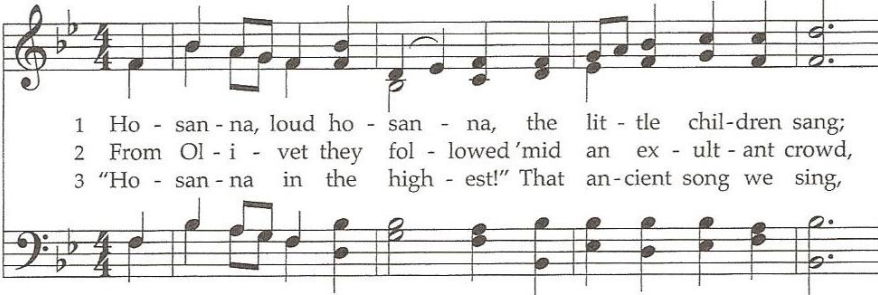
**All: God is with us.**

**POSTLUDE**

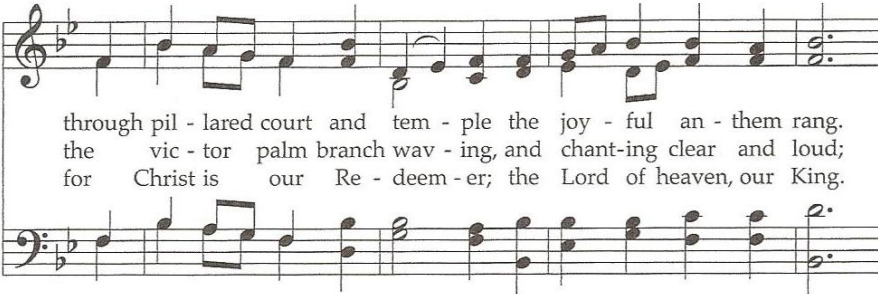
*Wondrous Love*

Eggert

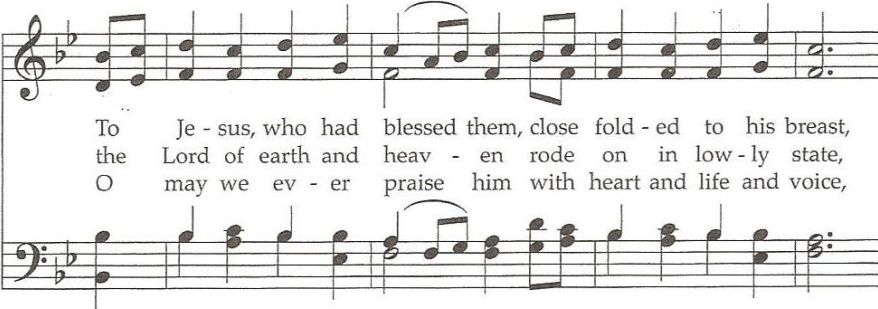
## Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



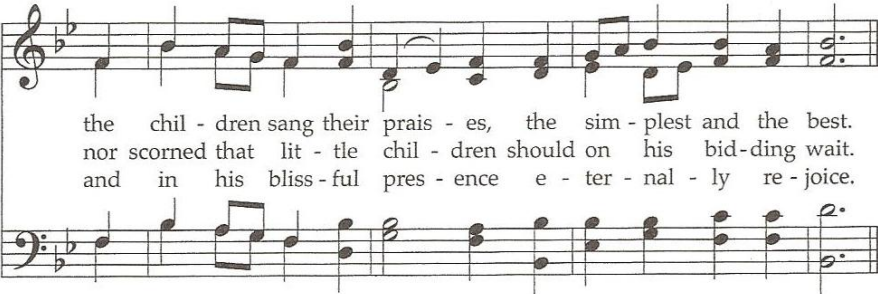
1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,  
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.  
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;  
for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

(© Text: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, alt. Tune: ELLACOMBE, Music: Gesangbuch. Wirthtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784, alt. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License # A-713031).

**The Susquehanna Association  
of the New York Conference of the UCC**

March, 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace to you as we share this Lenten journey.

You are not alone! One of the gifts of our denomination is the fact that we have family beyond the walls of our individual churches. The members of Homer Congregational Church (where I am a member) have “kin” in Corning and Walton and Preble and beyond. That is to say, the 28 UCC churches within the Susquehanna Association are a family of faith. Rich and poor, urban and rural, gay and straight – indeed a rainbow of diversity – we share faith in the One who, in his final days prayed, “...that they all may be one.”

As the moderator of this Association, I write with a special invitation for every person in every pew. Our Association’s leadership (General Ministry Team) has decided to expand the circle of our Spring meeting on Saturday, April 23 in order to invite *everyone* to join in a sacred conversation on race. We believe that our God is calling us to intentionally talk together about the issues that face our society, our communities and our churches.

I am pleased to announce that the Rev. Dominique Atchison will guide our dialogue through Bible study and multi-media engagement. Together, we can explore the pertinent questions: *Why do we need to talk about race? How do we engage ourselves and our congregations in ways that are both sacred and productive?* Rev. Atchison has served within our Conference and beyond, including her work with the Connecticut Conference as the coordinator of Sacred Conversations on Race.

As we look to the season of hope, embodied by the resurrection story, please join your extended family of the Susquehanna Association:

**Saturday, April 23 from 9 – 4, Homer Congregational Church**  
**cost: just \$8 per person (includes coffee breaks & lunch)**  
**Please register via email to: [registrarsany@gmail.com](mailto:registrarsany@gmail.com)**

This is the first time, in recent history, that we have invited not only our clergy and delegates, but everyone who is part of your church family. Please consider this opportunity to network with other people of faith and to address the ways that we can better live into God’s gift of diversity in our churches and communities.

I look forward to greeting you on April 23.

Shalom!

Rev. Vicki Johnson, Moderator



**Today, Palm Sunday**

On this day we remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which we mark with the waving of palms and singing of Hosanna. They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! To celebrate Palm Sunday, our congregation is using eco- palm fronds grown and harvested in the forests of Mexico and Guatemala. Instead of selling to middlemen, those growing and harvesting the fronds capture more of the profits allowing jobs to stay in their communities. As we wave our palms, we can truly say, “Hosanna in the Highest!” For more information, visit [ecopalm.org](http://ecopalm.org).

**Maundy Thursday – Seder Meal, March 24, 6:00 PM**

This year our Maundy Thursday service will be an inter-generation Seder in Russell Fellowship Hall with communion, concluding with prayers around a cross in the sanctuary. The various aspects of this meal will communicate biblical stories and biblical truths using all five senses of the participants. We won’t just hear the Word spoken, we will see, smell, taste and feel the Word. We won’t just inform our children, we will involve our children. This is a dinner and a story, a story about God’s redemptive plan of love being carried out in history. For meal planning signing up is appreciated. If you would like to bring a part of the meal please contact Bonnie Haaland.

**Community Good Friday Service – March 25, 12:00 PM**

The Homer United Methodist Church will be hosting this year’s community service. Join others in our community as we remember the solemn occasion of Christ’s death.

**Easter Sunrise Celebration – March 27, 7:00 AM**

Come celebrate the new life and the empty tomb on the Green as we join in a *Community Sunrise Service*. We will gather indoors if the weather is inclement.

**Easter Celebration – March 27, 10:30 AM**

You won’t want to miss being with us in worship on Easter morning as the Sanctuary will be aglow with color, flowers, and joy for this family service. Our Choir and the Homer Brass quartet will be adding to our celebration.

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

***Ushers and Greeters***  
Barbara and Peter Wright,  
Elke and John Wright

***Worship Leaders***  
Bonnie Haaland  
Carol Costell Corbin

***Acolytes***  
Justin Dermott,  
Jack Bertram

***Nursery Volunteers***  
Sheri Masterson,  
Abby Elkins

***Coffee Hour***  
Andrea Herzog

***Attendance***  
March 13 - 61

**Our giving 3/13/16:**

Operations - \$1,325.50  
Missions - \$183.00

**Our giving 3/6/16:**

Operations - \$1,834.50  
Missions - \$290.34

Year-to-date income and  
expense totals can be found in  
next month's newsletter.

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of March 20**

**TODAY – March 20**

*Palm Sunday*  
10:30 am – Worship service  
Noon-1:30 pm – Dream Team  
meetings  
Noon-3:00 pm – Stephen Ministry  
meets

**MONDAY – March 21**

7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

**TUESDAY – March 22**

2:00 pm – Bridge group  
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY – March 23**

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – March 24**

*Maundy Thursday*  
12:00 pm – Bible Study Group  
6:00 pm – Seder supper with  
communion, followed by  
prayers in the sanctuary, and  
Youth overnight

**FRIDAY – March 25**

*Good Friday*  
Noon – Community Good Friday  
service at Homer Methodist  
Church

**SUNDAY – March 27**

*Easter Sunday*  
*No Sunday School classes*  
7:00 am – Community Sunrise  
Service on the Green  
10:30 am – Worship service

**NOTES AND NOTICES**

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We hold our second **Dream Team (brainstorming) gathering today, 12:00-1:30 pm.** Session focus:

- We are seeking to be a community growing in our faith.  
(Gary Smith, convener)
- We are seeking to be a community maximizing our resources.  
(Jim McKenna, convener)

Being guided by the findings of the Transition Team Report (available at entrances), we will develop specific and realistic goals for the accomplishment of these pursuits. All are welcome.

There will be a **Special Meeting** of the First Religious Society and the Homer Congregational UCC immediately following worship on **Sunday, April 3, 2016.** The purpose of the meeting is: to vote on the proposed slate of members of the Pastor Search Committee; to elect a treasurer for the Homer Congregational Church (Andrea Herzog); to elect an auditor for the Endowment Fund (Nancy Richards). The names presented for election to the Pastor Search Committee are:

Bev Berry	Tracy Bertram	Miles Dudgeon
Chuck Feiszli	Dorothy Hopkins	Kathy McKenna
Lori Schmidt	Jim Ulrich	

Alternates: Barb Wright and Kevin Cappy

We're hosting our annual **Chicken & Biscuit Dinner on Saturday, April 2.** Sign-up sheets for volunteers are on the bulletin board in the Russell Fellowship Room.

The Homer Methodist Church food pantry needs food and will take anything that we are able to send over. Donations can be placed in the blue bin in the foyer by the north entrance.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering. Money from this offering is used for work with international partners to provide clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro credit, emergency relief and advocacy/resettlement for refugees and displaced persons.