



HOSANNA!

April 1, 2007 Palm Sunday

Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church.

May the spirit of joy which interlaces the elements of the liturgy which we celebrate together, touch the inner circle of your being, that we might all experience the truth so well expressed by

G. K. Chesterton:

“Joy which was the small publicity of the pagan,
is the gigantic secret of the Christian.”

First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God’s guidance in our journey of faith.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able, please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

John Stansell, organ

Prelude and Fugue in A Minor *Johann Sebastian Bach*

INDROIT

The Cherub Choir

Stephanie Hanbury-Brown, directing

Debbie Berner, piano

Hosanna *Carl Tuttle*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Dr. David D. Young

MOMENT OF CONCERN

Steve Cribfield

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

‡*OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Pilgrim Hymnal # 155

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

O God, who through the obedience of your son, Jesus, moved into the city of our involvements with the mark and ceremony of a King, help us to praise you this day with both the Hosanna of welcome and the steadiness of a faithful response, which does not draw back from the shadow of a cross. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Susan M. Craig

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We are thirsty for success, O God, for when things go well with us we experience our life as filled with meaning. We are intimidated by failure, O God, for when things go poorly with us we experience our life as filled with fear. We are awkward in trusting, O God, for when you bid us follow in faith we experience our life as out of control. Forgive us on this Day of Palms, when Jesus our Lord received both the Hosannas of

success and the shadow of future failure, from drawing away from you and that trust which brought him through. Meet us in the here and now on our own Jerusalem road. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Amen. Amen. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Beth Beam

Psalm 118: 21-29

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.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Children's Choir
The Palmer Handbells*

He Comes! *Michael Jothen*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 21: 1-10

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'

‡*SERMON HYMN

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

Pilgrim Hymnal #175

SERMON

“King of the Road”

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison)

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Christ all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities -- all things were created through Christ and for Christ. Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together. Christ is the head of the body, the Church; Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything Christ might be preeminent. For in Christ, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ, all things are reconciled to God, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of Christ's cross.

Colossians 1: 15-20 (Adapted)

*Gloria Patri (*Pilgrim Hymnal 513*)

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

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Pueri Hebraeorum

Pueri Hebraeorum portantes ramos olivarum, obviaverunt Domino, clamantes et dicentes: Hosanna in excelsis Deo.

The Hebrew children, carrying olive branches, went out to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna to God in the Highest.

*Doxology (*Pilgrim Hymnal 515*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

The Palms

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: When the heart is hard and parched up, come upon me with a shower of mercy.

People: When grace is lost from life, come with a burst of song.

Leader: When tumultuous work raises its din on all sides shutting me out from beyond, come to me, my lord of silence, with thy peace and rest.

People: When my beggarly heart sits crouched shut up in a corner, break open the door, my king, and come with the ceremony of a king.

R. Tagore, Gitanjali Poems

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Mark Swicegood, organ

Triptyque Symphonie: Fugue Pierre Cochereau

The last few pews in the Meetinghouse are reserved for latecomers.

Ushers: Michael Pellegrino, Ted and Linda Hoster, Cyndy Anderson,
Mary-Ann and Christina Assing, Richard and Susan Gilbert

Greeters: Membership Committee

Coffee Hour: Membership Committee

The calla lilies in the Meetinghouse on this Palm Sunday are given in loving memory of our parents, Margaret and Carleton Gisborne, by Claire Henry and Ruth Reed and our families.

TODAY, APRIL 1

Church School is on vacation and will resume April 15 for a Big Event. Child Care for babies and toddlers is available in the Undercroft. Church School resumes April 22.

The Confirmation Class will not meet this week, but will resume on April 10 with their mentors.

Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (JPF -- Middle School) meets at 5:00pm. in the Youth Room.

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF – High School) continues planning for the Sunrise Service at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room.

THIS WEEK

April 5 at 6pm. Maundy Thursday Supper and Service. Join the Parish Life Committee, staff and deacons at 6pm in the Auditorium to celebrate the Last Supper during Holy Week with a special meal and service of Tenebrae. This meaningful evening features matzos, candlelight, delicious food, and a service that draws you close to Jesus as he first broke bread and offered the cup. Parents are encouraged to bring children for this special night. Donations are requested in suggested amounts of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Please sign up at Coffee Hour or, during the week, in the Front Office to help with the planning.

April 6 at 8:00pm. Continue your Lenten journey! Our annual service of Music for Good Friday is John Rutter's very popular *Requiem*, performed by the Chancel Choir, guest choristers, soprano Carolyn Paulus, an ensemble of instruments including organ, harp, flute, obo, cello, timpani, and glockenspiel. In addition to the hauntingly beautiful music, there will be congregational singing and readings from the scripture. The service is about an hour long.

April 7 at 9:00am - 11:00 am, Egg Saturday. Bring the family for a bagel breakfast on Saturday morning and dye your Easter eggs, decorate cookies, and share in the stories and traditions of Easter. Bring along a basket, hardboiled eggs, and we will supply the rest! We also need your help to dye some eggs to decorate First Church for Easter morning. Children of all ages are welcome. Younger children should be accompanied by a parent.

NEWS AND NOTICES

THE LENTEN PROJECT 2007 has come a long way, but we still have a long way to go! As of March 24, we had received \$32,890 from the very generous contributions of about 20% of our church families. Our goals are \$60,000 and 100% participation, and contributions may be made by using the special envelopes in the pew racks, through Easter Sunday, April 8. All proceeds go to meet the basic human needs of food and shelter, both in our local community and at H.O.M.E. Co-op in rural Maine. For details and photos concerning the specific projects to be supported in 2007, see the Christian Outreach Bulletin Board outside the Auditorium. If you haven't already done so, please join us in sharing this Easter worship experience!

Church School Teachers Wanted. Many thanks to the first several people who have volunteered to teach Church School next year. Please prayerfully consider this important ministry to our children. Teaching is conducted by teams of adults and high school students with the support of the Church School Task Force. No experience is necessary. Returns are "priceless." Please talk to Susie Craig or Rosemary Lamie about this unique opportunity.

Women's Fellowship Looks to the Future - This ministry has been blessed every year with wonderful leadership and the coming year we continue to be. Barbara Norrgard and Lori White have agreed to continue as Co-Presidents. There are other board positions open: Vice President, Secretary and Nominating. If you would like to join with 20 or so other Board members who meet every other month to coordinate activities, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Rosemary Lamie (637-1791) or Susan Tedford (637-8251).

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EASTER DECORATIONS

The Chancel Committee invites memorial contributions for decorations for our church this Easter. Any amount is welcome. The Church Office needs the completed form (below) with your check (payable to First Church Flower Fund) before April 2.

In memory or honor (circle one)
of

by

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HOLY WEEK 2007

April 5 - Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm Supper and Service of Tenebrae.

(See announcements in this bulletin for details)

April 6 - Good Friday

10:00 am Family and Children's Service

12:00 pm SPF carries cross to the beach

8:00 pm Music for Good Friday

John Rutter's *Requiem*
with the Chancel Choir,
Instrumental Ensemble,
Carolyn Paulus, soprano

April 7 - Egg Saturday

9:00 am – 11:00 am for the whole family

(See announcements in this bulletin for details)

April 8 - Easter

6:00 am Sunrise Service at Tod's Point

9:00 am and 11:00 am Festival Services
with brass and timpani