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# Palm Sunday

*April 17,  
2011*



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on this Palm Sunday. May the spirit of joy which interlaces the elements of the worship we share together, touch the inner center of your being, that as a community of faith we might express what St. Augustine understood in these words:

*“The Christian should be an Alleluia from head to foot!”*

## ***Palm Sunday***

17 April 2011  
10 o'clock in the morning

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### **PRELUDE**

*Prelude and Fugue in C major*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*  
*Josef Rheinberger*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CHORAL INTROIT**

*Hosanna! The Little Children Sing*


*Cherub Choir*  
*Helen Kemp*

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**


\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

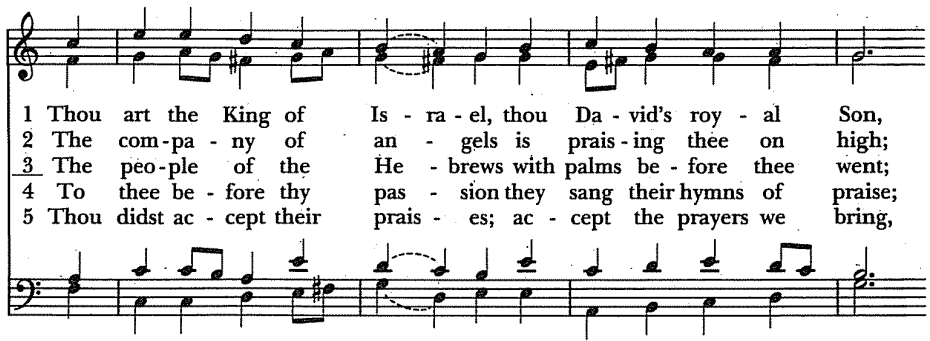
*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

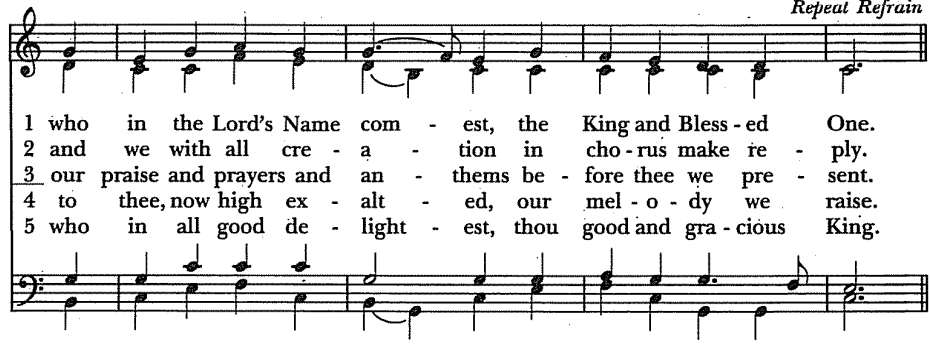


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Repeat Refrain*



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 4 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God, whose presence in the common life was greeted with the clamor accorded to a king, as Jesus entered the city of his destiny, we confess that our presence on that road of success is edged in with reservations.

... We shout the Hosanna of expectation, and then withdraw when the kingdom you bring calls us to resist the broad road of conformity to our time and place.

... We shout the Hosanna of commitment, and then engage in some fast footwork when we catch a hint that discipleship carries with it the shadow of the cross.

Forgive us this day, for all those actions in our life which separate us from the deepest reality of who we are – as those marked by your life and called to the service of others, both on the road of success and in the cramped corners of shadow and defeat.

For we sense, that in the midst of such a journey, Jesus the Christ is present with us – and so we dare to pray the prayer he taught us,

#### 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.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### ‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

New Century (black) Hymnal 170 (verse 4)

*How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?*

*You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Lucinda Allen*

### Zechariah 9:9-12

**R**ejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*Antiphonal Hosanna*

*The Children's Choir*  
G. Alan Smith

## John 12:12-26

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!”

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

\*‡HYMN

*The Palms*

*Hymn printed on next page*

# The Palms



O'er all the green palms and blos - soms gay  
His word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might.  
Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem.



Are strewn this day in fes <sup>3</sup> - tal prep - a - ra - tion.  
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gra - da - tion.  
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.



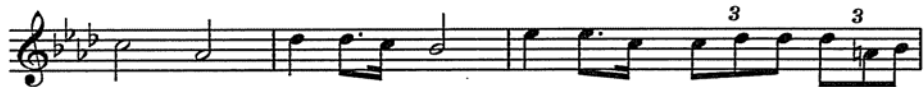
Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way  
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right  
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem



E'en now the throng to welcome him pre - pare, Join all and sing, His  
While those in dark - ness are restored to light.  
Brings faith and hope to thee for - ev - er - more.



name de - clare, Let ev' - ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho



san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us sal



va - - - tion!



SERMON “*Palm Branches & Seed Realities*” Dr. David D. Young  
(*Sixth in a Sermon Series: “Following Christ”*)

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God was in love with the world and could not keep the secret. The telling of it was creation.

We believe that God’s love is constantly being shown as creation continues and continues every moment of every day.

We believe that Jesus is our window to divinity and our mirror of humanity. Through Jesus we find God’s love for us fully revealed, and we discover that God’s will for us is that we love one another in full humanness.

We find God’s presence of love with us in the Holy Spirit which often speaks to us in the voices of other people. Therefore, we affirm that openness to God and openness to others are two sides of the same coin and that really listening to others can help us hear God.

We believe that God never gives up on us and that nothing can separate us from God’s love. Alleluia. Amen.

### \*GLORIA

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

*Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.*

### CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

### CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir*  
Terry Beurline, tenor  
Harold Friedell

*The Way to Jerusalem*

*And it came to pass when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to Jerusalem.*

*And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way. Others cut down branches from the tress and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before and that followed, cried, saying "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest."*

*And when he was come near, he beheld the city and wept over it, saying, "If thou had'st known, even thou. At least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace, but now they are hid from thine eyes, Jerusalem!" Who watched while Majesty rode on to die, crying hosanna in a joyful song. Could'st thou not heed the distant warning cry of heaven's apprehensive, waiting, throng?*

*Hosanna to the King! Thine acclamations ring, while God the Father veils his face, and God the Son his griefs embrace, sing thine own griefs, Jerusalem!*

*Jesus saith, "Father, save me from this hour; but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name.*

*And there came a voice from heaven saying "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Jesus answered and said, "this voice came not because of me, but for your sakes."*

\*DOXOLOGY

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

### \*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

New Century (black) Hymnal 226

*As we begin our solemn journey of Holy Week, the congregation will depart the Sanctuary in silence. If desired, you may remain for a time of personal meditation on the coming days of Christ's betrayal, death and resurrection. The pastors will be available to greet visitors and members in Coffee Hour after Worship.*

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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.

The flowers in the Chapel are given in memory of John D. Leinbach by his beloved wife, Mary, and family.

The 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.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website: [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org). A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

The memorial fund honoring Elizabeth and Warren Dennison has provided for the radio broadcast of this morning's service.

## *Calendar*

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

There are no Church School classes today as we will worship together in the Meetinghouse. Next week we will worship together once again as we celebrate the joy of Easter! There is a sign-up easel in the Auditorium for next Saturday's Egg Decorating event. We hope to see you there and at other Holy Week events. Check the online calendar at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org) for all of the Holy Week Services. Church School will resume on May 1.

#### **Youth Choir**

Youth Choir will have rehearsal today from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

#### **Blood Pressure Screening**

A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in Room 203 following the Worship Service.

#### **Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets On Sale!**

Tickets for the 41st Annual Quilt Raffle can be purchased today during coffee hour. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will take place at the Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 18 at noon. You do not need to be present to win. The Kettle Quilters have created a beautiful queen size quilt in a colorful "Sampler" pattern this year. Tickets will be sold during coffee hour, on the church website, and at the church office prior to the drawing. An order form is also included in the April Meetinghouse Monthly. All proceeds are donated to local charities that benefit women, children and families.

#### **Youth Ministry**

There is no JPF or SPF tonight.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

## **Book Discussion Group**

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, is currently reading *Half the Sky* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. We meet Thursday mornings from 9:45-11:30 am in the Lounge. Please join us!

## **Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte**

**All are welcome!** Improve your balance, health and well-being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong. Classes are once again being held on Wednesdays at 8:00 am as well as Thursdays at 9:00 am. The cost is only \$7/class if paid by the month and \$8/class for "drop ins." Join us! You'll love it!

## **News from The Rummage Room**

**Manager Maria's Wish List:** Last call for Easter goodies; Early call for Mother's Day gifts; Jewelry, Handbags, shoes; Spring clothing; bric-a-brac, bikes for all ages; small furniture and baby strollers. Donation hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday. Please do not leave donations outside on weekends when shop is closed.

**Rummage Room Volunteers:** The Rummage Room needs new volunteers to serve whenever you might have an hour or two to give. Please come and enjoy our merry band of women and men who don't have the time to make a huge commitment but would like to do something for those in need. All Rummage Room proceeds go to organizations making a difference in the lives of women, men and children much like yourselves but who have little or nothing! If you would consider volunteering, please call Maria Drieghe at 203-637-1875. It will make a difference in your life as well.

Dag Hammarskjold once said, *"For what has been, give thanks; For what shall be, yes."* The Rummage Room hopes that "yes" is your answer because the future of The Rummage Room depends on new volunteers. Thank you.

## **Food Collection**

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need at Neighbor to Neighbor:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans (Kidney and Black)
- 100% Juice
- Canned Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter (no larger than 28 oz., please)
- Jelly

If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email [fccoghungermission@gmail.com](mailto:fccoghungermission@gmail.com) with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

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## Holy Week Schedule

**April 21: Maundy Thursday**

*6:00 pm* Supper and *7:00 pm* Service

**April 22: Good Friday**

*10:00 am* Family Service for preschool and school age children.

*8:00 pm* Meditative Musical Service featuring Rutter's *Requiem*

**April 24: Easter Day**

"Son Rise"

*5:45 am* Sunrise Service at Greenwich Point

*9:00* and *11:00 am* Festive Services in the Meetinghouse with choirs, brass and timpani; child care available.

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## Easter Memorial/Honor Flowers

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for flowers in the Meetinghouse this Easter. Any amount is welcome. *Today* is the last day to deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to the First Congregational Church Flower Fund). Thank you.

In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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By:

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Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.

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# *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan J. Murtha

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell