

**\*Doxology** (Tune: *Old Hundredth, New Century Hymnal #780*)

*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.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **Announcements**

### **Turning Palms Into Crosses & Turning Toward Gethsemane**

**\*Draping of the Cross:** "What Wondrous Love is This?" NCH #223

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude:** "Prelude from Suite Bergamasque" Debussy

**\* Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.**

(Today's liturgy is by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

### **Leading In Today's Service:**

Laura Martin, Director of Music	Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries
Anya Toskey, Deacon	Liz Nash, Liturgist
Joy Penticuff, Usher	Jonathan Geer, Piano



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ

Order of Worship for 4/2/2023

***Palm/Passion Sunday***

Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

**Prelude** "Ballade" Brahms

**Welcome**

**\*Hymn of Procession:** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" NCH #213

**\*Invocation**

*Holy God,*

*Sometimes it's hard to hear you over the hosannas.*

*Sometimes it's hard to hear you over the noise of city streets.*

*Sometimes it's hard to hear you over our racing thoughts, our mental to-do lists, or our desire to fit in.*

*Sometimes it is hard to hear you in this noisy world.*

*So just as you stopped traffic in Jerusalem,  
stop traffic here.*

*Pause the rush. Open the gates.*

*Dwell among us,  
until your Word is all we can hear.*

*We are listening.*

*Amen.*

**Listening To the Sacred Text:** Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

**God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who can go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.**

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,  
‘See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

**God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us. You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.**

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

**Creator God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.**

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

**Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop.  
Give us the wisdom to sing, “Hosanna!”**

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**With hope in our hearts we pray to you, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” NCH #216

**Listening for the Spirit in Silence**

*Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.*

**Reflecting:** “Where are you headed?”

**\*Hymn for Communion:** “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” GTG #498

**Communion**

Invitation to the Table

**Affirmation of Faith** (Unison)

*We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world’s suffering, who lights a candle in the bleakest night, who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.*

*We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth,  
who is bold in seeking justice, and humble in taking power.*

*We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it, cocooning us in hope, tethering us to one another.*

*We believe in a God who is always carrying us from the pain of the world into the hope of a new day.*

*That is where God is headed. That is where we follow. May it be so. Amen.*

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing the Meal**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offering our gifts and our prayers**

Offertory Music: “Ride On, King Jesus” H.T. Burleigh