



WORSHIPPING AT HOME

*with UCC Westerly
during the Covid-19 outbreak*

**April 5, 2020
PALM SUNDAY!**

- Create a small worship space in your home anywhere. Add a candle, a bible and perhaps a small vase of flowers or a plant. Be sure to leave a place for Jesus! Have your “Palms” ready! See suggestions at the end of this service.
- At 9:30am, the time we would usually gather in our sanctuary, settle into your worship space and begin...
- Since we will be celebrating the sacrament of Communion together though scattered you will need to have your own Communion elements ready. We will celebrate this evening by intincture, so you will only need one cup and one

piece of bread or cracker. The kind of bread or cracker and juice is your choice!

- A reminder I will be livestreaming our worship service on Facebook Live for about 45 minutes beginning at 9:45am. You can still access the service even if you are not on Facebook by going to the church website, www.uccwesterly.org, and clicking on the Facebook icon on the homepage.

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Light your candle as a reminder of God’s presence with you

Gathering Music performed by Doug Brummund

Call to Worship adapted from Psalm 147:

Praise to the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; a song of praise is fitting.
The Lord builds up the cities; and gathers the outcasts.

The Lord heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

Praise to the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; a song of praise is fitting.

Opening Song: ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR

1. All glory, laud and honor to you , O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day,
2. O Promised One of Israel, of David’s royal line,
The one called God’s Beloved, of flesh and yet divine,
To you before our passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

3. As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud and honor to you, o Christ we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

(To listen slightly different version of this hymn, please click on this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyH5Z6GDHwU>)

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Merciful God, Holy Week begins so this morning we gather together though physically scattered to remember what happened that fateful day in Jerusalem so long ago. Remind us that the events of this day and this week unite all who claim the name of Christian as your faithful people. May the steadfast love and courage of Jesus in his final days inspire us all to face our challenges confident that you are ever with us. May we claim with joy the gift of new life in you that Jesus made possible for all. In His name we pray this and every prayer. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING THE EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK IN WORD AND SYMBOL

Words of Introduction

Rev. Ruth

<i>Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem</i>	Luke 19:29-40	Symbol: Palm Branch
<i>Jesus Clears the Temple</i>	Matthew 21:12-17	Symbol: Wooden Stool
<i>Foreshadowing Jesus' Death</i>	Matthew 26:6-13	Symbol: Alabaster Jar
<i>Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet</i>	John 13:1-17	Symbol: Pitcher of water, towel
<i>Jesus' Last Meal with the Disciples</i>	Matthew 26:17-29	Symbol: Bread & Cup

HOLY COMMUNION for the gathered and scattered

<i>Jesus Prays for the Disciples</i>	John 17: 1-21 (selected verses)	Symbol: Jesus image
<i>Jesus Is Betrayed</i>	Luke 22:39-53	Symbol: Silver coins
<i>Jesus on Trial</i>	John 18:12-14; 28-38	Symbol: Crown of Thorns
<i>Jesus Is Crucified</i>	John 19:16-30	Symbol: Hammer, nail, wood
<i>Jesus Is Buried</i>	Luke 23:50-56	Symbol: Shroud

A Time of Prayer

- If you are joining in the prayers during the Facebook Live broadcast, before worship take a few minutes to jot down your own list of prayer concerns. Send them to me via comments as we approach this time in the service.
- If you are using this worship resource on your own, after making your list of prayer concerns, sit in silence and let your mind calm down. When you are ready, aloud or just in your own mind, ask God to bless each of the persons and situations on your list.
- End with the Lord's Prayer.

Closing Song – “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me, this I know. For the bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me (3 times). The bible tells me so.

A Prayer of Benediction

May the God of peace be with you, stilling the heart that hammers with fear and doubt and confusion. And may the warm mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. May the blessing of peace be on you and in you every moment of the week ahead. Amen.

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***A note about the Palms:*** *When we are together on Palm Sunday, the service ends with the Deacons distributing palms to everyone present. Obviously we cannot do that this year. So, we are suggesting something different this year. You are invited to find any sort of green branch (rhododendron works well) to use for your “palm” this year. Have your “palms” with you for the service and for virtual fellowship time. Then, at the conclusion of the service, place your “palms” on your door or window as a symbol of our Palm Sunday Holy Week Celebration.*