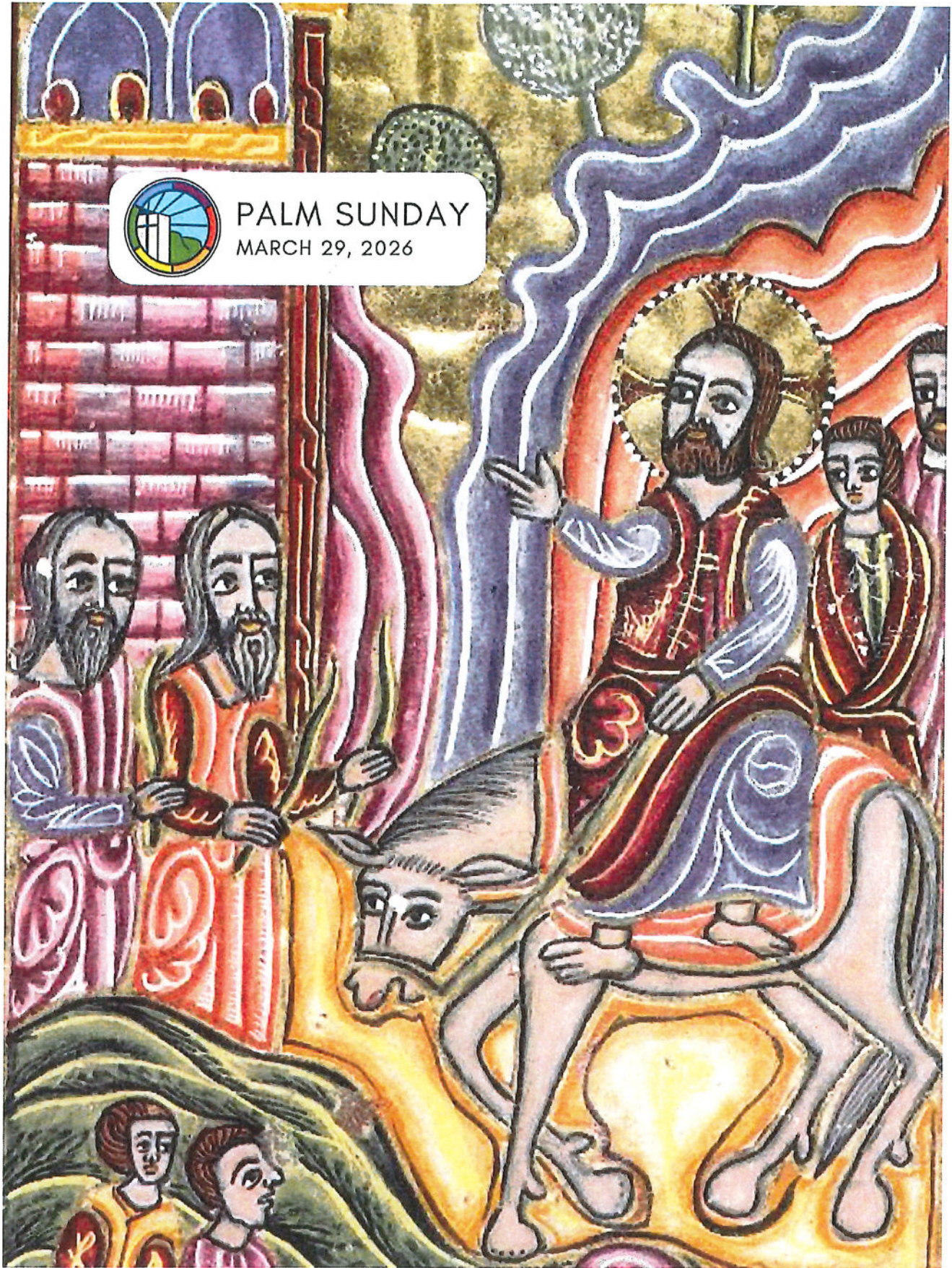




PALM SUNDAY  
MARCH 29, 2026



**Welcome!** The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is to: **Live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice.** If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign it, and then pass it back across the pew to the inside aisle.



**Palm Sunday** is the beginning of Holy Week when our kids process with palms to remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The dual nature of this Sunday is evident in how quickly the joyous cries of "Hosanna!" become cries, "Crucify him!" May our worship this day begin this Holy Week of betrayal, suffering, death, and glory.

**The Journey to Jerusalem** follows today's worship. Please join us in the Community Room for a journey to the ancient world where Jesus worked for justice as we eat food from that part of the world. Everyone is welcome.

**Children are welcome in worship!** Activity bags are available in the narthex. There is an area for parents and children at the front of the sanctuary which allows children to be close to the action in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is an option as well. Our kids are invited to go to their classrooms after the kids' message.

**Livestreaming Notice for Worship.** We strive for worship to be accessible for all, so we livestream our worship services on our YouTube channel, First Congregational UCC, La Crosse. Your voice and/or image may be visible in the broadcast. These recordings are publicly available at the church's discretion. If you prefer not to appear, we invite you to sit in the sanctuary's last six rows, which are not shown on camera.

**Please ask an usher** if you would like a large print, sensory friendly bulletin, or if you need directions or assistance.

## Serving in Worship Today

Preaching & Leading Worship.....	Laura Wright
Choir Director, Organist, & Pianist .....	Nancy Allen
Trumpet.....	Jeff Krauklis
Reading Scripture.....	Charlene Deters
Head Usher .....	Randy Breeser
Ushers .....	Diane Breeser, Diane Schumacher
Greeters.....	Kirby Lentz
Fellowship Hour .....	Membership
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton

\* In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

# Gathering

*in the presence of God*

## Gathering Music

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Nancy Allen  
Michael Burkhardt

## Welcome and Announcements

*Thank you for joining us today. Please pass the Friendship Folder, fill out the information you wish to share, & note those worshipping in your pew so you can greet them by name.*

## Prelude Music

"Where'er You Walk"

Nancy Allen, Organ; Jeff Krauklis, Trumpet  
Handel

## The Word for Children

*Kids will gather in the back of the sanctuary to learn about Palm Sunday. The children will process down the central aisle waving their palms as the crowds did for Jesus. The congregation will wave their palms in response and sing the hymn.*

## \*Blessing of the Palms

*One:* God be with you.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

*One:* Let us thank God together.

*Many:* **It is beautiful to give God thanks.**

*One:* Let us bless these palm branches.

*All:* **Loving God, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem,  
people waved branches and shouted with joy.  
Be with us as we walk with Jesus this week—  
through joyful moments and hard ones, too.**

**Bless these palms in our hands.**

**Remind us to follow Jesus with courage, to love like Jesus loves,  
and to choose kindness and peace every day.**

**Amen.**

*The congregation waves their palms and sings the following hymn as the kids process while waving their palms.*

**\*Hymn 265** *(All join in singing the hymn during the procession.)*

**"All Glory, Laud and Honor"**

St. Theodulph

## \*Litany of Palms

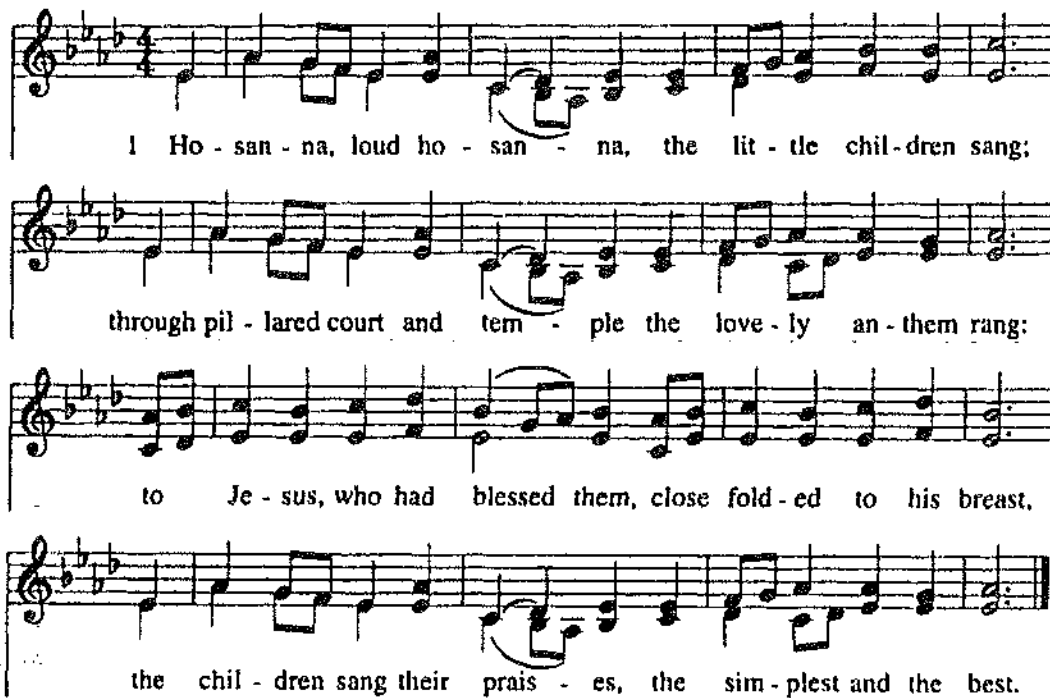
*One:* Hosanna! Blessed is Jesus, sent by God!

*All:* **Hosanna in the highest!**

*One:* Loving God, when Jesus rode into the city,  
people cheered and waved branches with joy.  
Bless these palm branches in our hands.  
Help us to have courage to love fiercely.

*All:* **Hosanna in the highest!**

*One:* Let us sing together:



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang:  
through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang:  
to Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.

## \*Sharing the Peace

*One:* The peace of Christ be with you.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

*Please greet those near you with a wave or bow and with words such as:*

*"Peace be with you. / And also with you." Kids are dismissed at this time to sing songs with Sami.*

## Listening

*for the Still-speaking God*

### The Psalter

Charlene Deters

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-26 (*Read responsively.*)

*One:* Oh give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

*Many:* **for God's steadfast love endures forever!**

*One:* Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

*Many:* **Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.**

*One:* This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

*Many:* **I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

*One:* The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

*Many:* **This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

*One:* This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Many:* **Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
O LORD, we pray, give us success!**

*One:* Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

*Many:* **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

### The Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

### Sermon

"Palms, Protest, and a Donkey"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

## Responding

*with the voice of hope*

### \*Anthem

"Canticle for Palm Sunday"

The Sanctuary Choir; Jeff Krauklis, Trumpet

Tom Fettke

## The Community Invited into Prayer

### Prayers of the Church

*The petitions end with: God, in your love,  
The people respond: hear our prayers.*

The Prayer of Jesus (*Said by all. Use language that reflects your view of God.*)

Our (Father / Mother / Creator) 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.

Amen.

## ☥ Thanksgiving

*for the gifts of God*

### Stories of Generosity

### Music at the Offertory

\*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 34).

*(All who are able are invited to stand and sing.)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Praise God, for all that love has done,

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!



### Prayer of Thanksgiving

## ☥ Going

*to be messengers of good news*

\*Hymn 268 (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

*"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!"*

*Truro*

# \*The Blessing

## Postlude Music

"Sing Hosannas to the King"

Arr. Smith

**Acknowledgements:** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," words and music in the public domain. "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," words and music in the public domain. "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!" words & music in the public domain. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

**Cover Image:** Entry into Jerusalem, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57330> [retrieved March 22, 2026]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bodleian\\_Library\\_MS\\_Arm\\_d.13\\_Armenian\\_Gospels-0013-0.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bodleian_Library_MS_Arm_d.13_Armenian_Gospels-0013-0.jpg).

*Today's flowers are given by Shauna Sallmen and Steve Fulton  
in honor of their grandparents.*

### First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members.....Ministers  
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright.....Senior Pastor  
Nancy Allen.....Organist & Choir Director  
Sue Retzlaff.....Bell Choir Director  
Michelle Logan.....Office Manager

**Contact Information:** First Congregational UCC, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601,  
608-784-8137 or [office@firstcongolax.org](mailto:office@firstcongolax.org), or visit us on the web at [www.firstcongolax.org](http://www.firstcongolax.org).

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What gifts did you give God this week?

Do you mind if we share your gift to God with the  
congregation? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

## HOLY WEEK ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Holy Week in our Church:

**Sunday, March 29**

#### **Palm Sunday**

10:00 am Worship: Palm Procession with Kids  
(Line up at 9:55 am)

10:00 am Nursery

10:20 am JAM

11:00 am Journey to Jerusalem (CR)

2:00 pm OWL Orientation (J & L)

**Tuesday, March 31**

3:00 pm Celebration of Life & Mean for  
Carol Popelka

**Wednesday, April 1**

10:00 am Sip & Scripture  
(McDonald's, Losey Blvd & Ward Ave.)



**Thursday, April 2**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

10:00 am Rummage Sale Meeting (L)

6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship (CR & S)

8:00 pm Sanctuary Choir (S)

**Friday, April 3**

#### **Good Friday**

#### **Office Closed**

10:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)

**Sunday, April 4**

#### **EASTER SUNDAY!**

#### **WAFER Sunday**

10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Nursery

11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

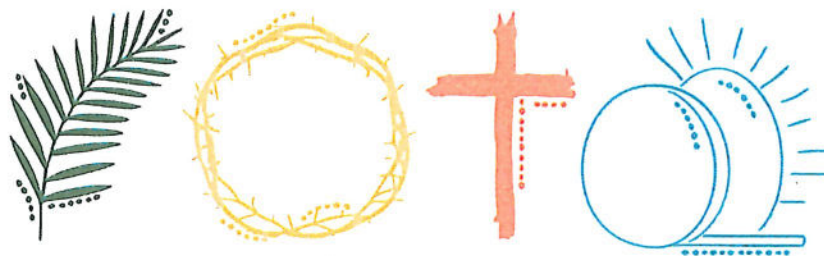
*There will not be a Loud Offering this week, due to the kids processing with the Palms. It will resume next month.*

#### **CALENDAR KEY**

C = Chapel, J = JAM Rooms, L = Lounge, N = Narthex, CR = Community Room, P = Pastor's Office, S = Sanctuary

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# WELCOME TO HOLY WEEK



A lot can happen in  
*seven days.*

# **Journey to Jerusalem**

**Join us Today  
Right After Worship  
In the Community Room**

- **Sample Food From the Region**
- **Wander Through a Souk**
- **Learn the Elements of a Seder**
- **Enjoy Crafts and Activities**
- **Imagine the Sites Jesus Visited**

**like the  
Court of Gentiles,  
the Pool of Siloam &  
the Mount of Olives**



# MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 6:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A DEEPLY MEANINGFUL  
WORSHIP AND MEAL EXPERIENCE AS WE  
JOURNEY THROUGH THE FINAL TWO DAYS OF  
JESUS' LIFE. THIS SERVICE IS FOR ALL AGES,  
OFFERING SOMETHING MEANINGFUL FOR  
EVERYONE. ALL ARE WELCOME—COME AS  
YOU ARE. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EASTER SUNDAY  
SERVICE

# CHRIST IS RISEN

JOIN US FOR A BEAUTIFUL AND INSPIRING  
EASTER MORNING WORSHIP  
AS WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST—  
A MESSAGE OF HOPE, RENEWAL, AND NEW LIFE FOR ALL.

# CHRIST IS INDEED

APRIL 5, 2026 | 10:00 AM



*Today we Remember*

**CURT GRINDE  
WHO PASSED AWAY  
ON MARCH 14, 2026**

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*His Funeral will be  
Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am  
Winn-Cress Funeral Home, Waunakee, WI  
Please visit their website for the full obituary*

## **Rummage Extravaganza — April 10–11.**



### **Volunteers Needed, Sign Up Today**

Many volunteers will be needed; **NOW** is the time to get your name on the list. To sign up to help, please scan the QR code to access our SignUpGenius or sign up on the table in the Narthex. The Rummage Sale is a huge undertaking, and many hands truly do make light work.



Did you know there's now a dedicated Rummage Sale page on the church website? You can find it by clicking the menu bar in the upper right-hand corner and navigating to the Events page. Check it out!