

**The First Church of Christ
Old North, Congregational
THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m.

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship today. If you are unfamiliar with our traditions, the * indicates that those who are able are encouraged to stand, **bold type** indicates unison participation.

Our worship begins with the Prelude.

Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer.

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hosanna, we cry! Save us!

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Lift your heads and behold Emmanuel, "God with us."

All: We behold how God's love endures:

One: Through joy and triumph, through suffering and pain, Through betrayal and death,

All: God's steadfast love endures forever. Hosanna in the highest!

* HYMN

All Glory Laud and Honor

#178

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. We know all too well that the people who waved palms and shouted 'Hosanna' are likely the same ones who would shout "Crucify Him" a few days later. In one week you lived through the whole range of human emotion reminding us that you live with us through all the emotions of our life's journey. We thank you for these palm branches. Help them to become for us symbols and reminders of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come and that Christ will come again. Amen! Come, Christ Jesus!

LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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 and ever. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbor with our whole lives. At times we can enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, or a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbor. Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements or our obsessed with seeking the approval of others. Come and save us now. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray.

A Time for Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Even on the cross, Jesus cried out for forgiveness.

All: **We are worthy of forgiveness and love.**

One: We are called to share that love and forgiveness with others.

All: **Let us live in ways that share the Good News. Amen.**

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Spirit One,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen, Amen.**

* HYMN *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty* #179

OFFERTORY Rev. Don Remick

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

His Voice as the Sound
Senior Choir

Shaw/Parker

* DOXOLOGY

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHORAL RESPONSE

GOSPEL READING Matthew 21:1-11 Read by Becky Burckmyer

SERMON "Saved From, Saved For" Rev. Lindsay Popperson

A TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Don Remick

* HYMN

Jesus Priceless Treasure

#432

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

Ave Verum
Senior Choir

W.A. Mozart

OFFERING OF THE CUP

*Old North's communion table is open to all who wish to participate.
The communion cup is non-alcoholic.*

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein
Maria vanKalken, organ

J. S. Bach

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

* HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

#183

GOSPEL READING The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
(selections from Luke 22 & 23)

Read by
Rev. Don Remick
and Rev. Lindsay Popperson

* HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

#187

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, organ

The Scripture Lessons

Gospel Lesson Matthew 21:1-11

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:

“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?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Passion of Jesus Christ, according to Luke

Then Jesus went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives; the disciples accompanied him. When they reached the place, Jesus said to them, “Pray that you not be put to the test.”

Then Jesus withdrew about a stone’s throw from them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if it’s your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.”

When Jesus rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, exhausted with grief. He said to them, “Why do you sleep? Wake up, and pray that you not be subjected to the trial.”

While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd suddenly appeared with Judas, one of the Twelve, at their head. Judas came over to Jesus to embrace him, but Jesus said, “Judas, are you betraying the Chosen One with a kiss?”

Those who had come out against him—the chief priests, the chiefs of the Temple Guard and the elders, arrested Jesus and led him away, arriving at the house of the high priest. When the day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both

chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the ruling class and the people, and said to them, “You have brought this person before me as someone who incites people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for any charge against him arising from your allegations. Neither has Herod, for Jesus has been sent back to us. Obviously, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish Jesus, but then I will release him.”

But the crowd demanded that Jesus be crucified, and their shouts increased in volume. Pilate decided that their demands should be met. Two others were also led off with Jesus, criminals who were to be put to death. When they had reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there—together with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.”