

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**

**March 24, 2013**

*Palm Sunday*

**GATHERING MUSIC** “All Glory, Laud and Honor” Teschner/Smith  
“March” Guilmant

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ACOLYTES**

**PRELUDE** “Fanfare for the King” Hughes

**INTROIT-TRANSFORMERS** “Sing Hosanna!” arr. Shafferman

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Barb Melander

**Leader:** As you came to us in humility, a king riding on a colt,

**People:** **So come to us now in this place of quiet sanctuary.**

**Leader:** As people praised you then as King and Lord,

**People:** **So we praise you now and seek to offer you our faithful worship.**

**Leader:** As others lay down palm branches and cloaks beneath your princely feet,

**People:** **So we lay down pride and fear, doubt and greed, that you may reign in us.**

**Leader:** Hosanna in the highest!

**People:** **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** #190 “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

**PRAYER of INVOCATION** (*unison*)

**Hold us close, merciful God, for in this week we see our own shadows and questions, feel our own doubts and betrayals, know our own fears of suffering and pain. Hold us close so that we may know your grace is stronger than our fears, your forgiveness greater than our failures, and your love deeper than our doubts. Hold us close and lead us from death to life everlasting. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**LITTLE BELLS** “Into My Heart”  
“Jesus Loves Me”

**RESPONSIVE READING** from Psalm 118 (paraphrased)

**Leader:** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People:** **We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

**Leader:** With branches in hand we join the festal procession.

**People:** **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**TIME with the CHILDREN**

**The LORD’S PRAYER** (*unison*)

**Our Father, which 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.**

**ANTHEM** “The Palms” G. Fauré

**REFLECTION** Rev. Meg Watson

**FROM PALMS to PASSION**

**A Dramatic Reading of the Gospel According to Matthew 26: 14-54**

**\*HYMN** #198 “Were You There”

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “In Pilot’s Hall” J. Carter

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER of DEDICATION** (*unison*)

**Oh, Holy Father, we thank you for this bittersweet day of celebration. We thank you for inspiring our Lenten programs to enrich our appreciation of Easter. We thank you for your presence here today as we offer up our support to our church community. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #200 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

**\*BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** “O Sacred Head” G. Near

**\*All who are able are invited to stand.**

**Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.**

**WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON!**

We are glad you are here. It is our hope that you will encounter God here, experience the love God showed the world in Jesus, and be inspired to share that love with the world.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by our welcome table. There you will find a guestbook to sign and a welcome gift to take home with you. Let us know if we can be of service to you in any way, and come back again soon!

**Transformers:** Nicholas Giordano, Jack Longo, Avery Prewo, Arielle Shivers, Mariah Shivers, Tommy Shivers, Sarah Turner, Lillian Westerberg, Paul Westerberg

**Greeters and Coffee Hour Preparation:** Board of Music

### **In Our Ongoing Prayers. . .**

Janet Boucher, diagnosed with breast cancer; Marine Corps Lance Corporal Steven Carr and his wife, Angel Hockenberry Carr – he has deployed to the Middle East; Donna Peacock; Arianna Saegaert, neighbor of Ann Harford in Boston Children's Hospital with multiple respiratory problems; Libby Ann Parker, great niece of Nancy and Richard Parker, born with epilepsy; Phyllis Chase recovering at home; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid, son-in-law of Cathy and Gary Foote; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Will Livermore; Dick Saich; Mike Kermod; Mike Swan; Claudette and Art Weingart; Pat Lazeren; Meredith Ross; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ann Garrison; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Joyce Smith; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Paul and Susan Shimer; Candy Buswell; Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger; Horst Pohlmann; John Mayhew; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Jane Morse; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs; Aaron Huneger; Donald Chase

*New additions in bold print*

### **TODAY'S ACTIVITIES**

**Confirmation Class:** 11:15 AM, Library

**Search Committee:** 11:30 AM, Quilters' Corner

**Music @ First Concert:** 4PM, Sanctuary

### **TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall**

Have your **blood pressure checked** by one of our Parish Nurses.

### **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

**Deacons Rehearsal:** Wednesday, March 27, 7 PM, Sanctuary

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 PM

**Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday, March 28, 7 PM, Sanctuary

**Good Friday:** March 29. The Church Office is closed.

**Support Group:** Friday, March 29, 10:30 AM, Library

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae**

*Thursday, March 28, 7 PM in the Sanctuary*

**Easter Sunday, March 31**

**Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM in the Memorial Garden**

Coffee, juice, muffins, etc. following in Fellowship Hall

**Worship Service, 10 AM**

### **2013 FCCV Wider Mission - Our Hearts Will Build New Hearths**

Today concludes Our Church's Wider Mission Project. We thank all of you for making this project a huge success. If you would like to make a donation, you may still do so by dropping it in the offering plate during worship or visit us during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall. To date, we have raised \$3863 for the Onil cooking stoves. Your donation will clearly benefit many families who live in poverty in Guatemala, allowing them a safer cooking method and helping them save lives. Once again, during difficult times, our church family has responded to help those less fortunate in the world we live in today. **THANK YOU!**

**MUSIC at FIRST**

presents

**"Irish to the Last Drop"**

**TODAY**

**4 PM**

**Refreshments to follow**

Suggested donation: \$7 adults/\$5 seniors and students

**Proceeds benefit the Les Childs Music Scholarship**

**Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday, April 7, 8:30-9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall sponsored by the Ways & Means Committee. Join us for plain, blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee or tea and great service. Cost is only \$5/person or \$20/family. Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

**Please Note:** The Nominating Committee still needs people to serve on the Board of Missions (1); Flower Committee (1); CT Conference Delegates (2). Contact Tony Muro is interested, 860-872-1757 or [tonymuro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tonymuro@sbcglobal.net).

### **Upcoming Youth Opportunities**

**Sunday, April 7, Peter's Retreat:** We'll meet at FCCV at 3 PM. Pick up at FCCV at 7 PM. We will be prepping and cooking for the residents.

**April 13-14, Famine:** You may participate for 24 or 36 hours and must not eat during this time (water only). You will be on the honor system. We will meet Saturday at 7 PM for support, activities, movies, games and a sleepover. Bring your "house" or sleep under the stars. Ask friends and family to donate to your fasting. We are also asking for support from the congregation. All money raised will be donated to the USA with a request that it go to the Connecticut area. For more information, contact Linda Shivers, 860-871-9164 or [necsvga@aol.com](mailto:necsvga@aol.com).

**April 14, Meeting,** 12-1 PM (or longer if necessary) to discuss and decide on fundraisers and to work on our profile.

**Mission Week for Youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade,** July 21-26 in Newark, NY. Seven youth have signed up and there is room for a few more. If interested, please contact Linda Shivers, 860-871-9164 or [necsvga@aol.com](mailto:necsvga@aol.com).

**Wanted:** A toy box for the Toddler Room and any age appropriate books and toys for children 3 years and younger.