

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

April 1, 2012

Palm Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC “The Palms” Fauré/Wells/Smith
“Ride On In Majesty” Dykes/Broughton

CHIMES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Cynthia Carr
(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

‘Tis better to be a sinner who knows he's a sinner than to be a saint who thinks he's a saint.’

PRELUDE “Palm Sunday” R. Hughes

INTROIT-CHERUB CHOIR “Who Made You” L. Brokering
“Jesus! What a Name” L. & H. Brokering

***CALL to WORSHIP** Jon Dunlap

Leader: Today we join with those around the world and throughout time who celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

People: Today we ask God to guide us through this holy time as we remember and recreate the passion and drama of Christ's redemption.

Leader: In the days ahead, may we come to know in transformative ways the faith, the sacrifice and the suffering of Jesus.

People: And may that knowledge fill our hearts with thankfulness and lead to a renewed commitment to follow Jesus.

Leader: The journey of life through death begins today. May our worship and our lives be worthy of the sacrifices once made for us.

People: And may we embrace the promise of life eternal which Christ offers to those who follow in faith.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #192** “All Glory, Laud and Honor” (vs. 1 & 2)

The STORY of CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY into JERUSALEM
(according to Matthew)

Leader: And when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples to them:

Reader: “Go into the village opposite 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, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them’ and they will be sent immediately.”

Leader: This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Tell this to Zion, behold your King is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went ahead and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and colt, and put garments on the road and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

And the crowds went before him and those that followed him shouted.

Congregation (waving palms and shouting): “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Leader: And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying,

Children: “Who is this?”

Leader: and the crowds said,

Congregation (waving palms): “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.”

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN (cont'd.) #192** “All Glory, Laud and Honor”(vs. 3)
BLESSING of the PALMS (unison) Joseph Tobin

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. In these events of defeat and victory, you have joined together death and resurrection; humiliation and exaltation. We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols 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. We ask this in his name. Amen.

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”
“Will the Circle Be Unbroken?”
“This Little Light of Mine”

(Children may leave for Sunday School after the Bells.)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS – Jack Young, grandson of Nancy and Al Young

PRAYER HYMN #576 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Jerusalem”

P. Stefanovich

***DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)**

***PRAYER of DEDICATION (unison)**

Gladly we wave the palms in joy today, gladly we lay our coats down in honor of our Savior, gladly do we give of the blessings we know. Receive our gift O God, and by your hand, bless and transform these gifts into acts of glory and praise, hope and renewal, redemption and new life. We offer them in the name of Jesus, whose entry we glory in and celebrate anew. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #191** “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Grand Chorus”

Guilmant

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

Sunday School children start upstairs then go to their classrooms. There is no group Sunday School class today.

Members of our **Cherub Choir** are 3, 4 and 5 years old. They practice the songs in class, in the weeks before they sing. The children enjoy learning using the rhyme, rhythm and repetition in songs, and these musical elements help them to remember the songs' messages.

One Great Hour of Sharing: The envelopes in today's bulletin are for One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering supports works of justice and peace, restoration of self-sufficiency and alleviation of hunger and disease.

Pay It Forward: This week we feature Jack Longo and Dave Kemp who was chosen a few weeks ago and has now returned from his Red Cross duties in Kentucky. Pay It Forward will take a break as we celebrate Easter. The blessings of those who have benefited because of you are on display in Fellowship Hall.

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a first time visitor, please take a moment after the worship service and sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table.

There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just for you.

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Women's Fellowship and Ushering Committee

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Confirmation Class and Parents: Informational meeting on the YSOP trip, 11:30 AM, Library

Transformers: 11:30 AM, Choir Room

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Crafts Group: Monday, April 2, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Evening Circle Game Night: Monday, April 2, 7 PM at Betty Ann Wurst's home
We invite you to join us for GAME NIGHT. We will have various games (e.g., Scategories, Mexican Train Dominos, Uno). If there is a game you like to play, please bring it with you. Call Pat Lazeren, 860-644-0475, to let us know that you are coming so that we can plan for refreshments.

Men's Club: Tuesday, April 3, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Deacons Rehearsal: Wednesday, April 4, 6 PM, Sanctuary

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday, April 4, 7:30, Choir Room

Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Good Friday: April 6, Church Office is closed.

Support Group: Friday, April 6, 10:30 AM, Library

Book Signing: Monday, April 9, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Rev. Peter Brenner will be talking about and signing his book Behind the Smile: Orphaned by Hitler's Madness.

Reminder: Agenda items for the April 11 Council meeting should be submitted to Moderator Tony Muro no later than Sunday, April 8.

Thank you! Our Church's Wider Mission Project was a huge success. We collected 918 non-perishable items, \$320 in gift cards and \$2737 in cash. Without your generous giving mission and ministry is not possible. God relies on all of us to give as He has blessed us.

Please Note: New "Visitor Parking" signs have been installed in both church parking lots. As a way of welcoming visitors to our church, we ask that you not park in these spots, but leave them for our Sunday morning visitors. Thank you for your cooperation.

The **R. Leslie Childs Scholarship** is a \$500 scholarship awarded each year to an FCCV church member or child of a member to provide assistance with musical training. The award can be used for music lessons, music education or toward the purchase of a musical instrument. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than May 10, 2012. For more information contact musicatfirstfccv@gmail.com.

It's that time of year again when the Nominating Committee is asking church members to give serious thought as to how and where you can offer your services. Many Boards and Committees have vacancies to be filled for the coming year. Anyone with questions or interest should contact Moderator, Tony Muro.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 8

Sunrise Service, 6:15 AM in the Memorial Garden

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

Worship Services at 9 AM and 11 AM

Please Note: There is no Sunday School on Easter but the Toddler Room will be open and staffed during the 9 and 11 AM Services.

Tag Sale, April 28, sponsored by Youth Fellowship. Please save items you no longer want and donate them to us.

The loose offering collected today is placed in the Deacons' Fund for aid, in time of emergency, to people within the congregation.

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom. A staffed **Toddler Room for children 12-36 months** old is located downstairs with the classrooms. Donations are gratefully accepted in the free-will offering box.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, please contact Margaret Klukas (643-0710) or Jan Muro (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com). **Volunteers Needed!** The Care Network is looking for volunteers to help with driving. We have had requests for rides to church as well as doctors' appointments. We know that volunteers are not always available when needed, so we need to add more names to our list of drivers. If interested, please contact Jan or Margaret or find us on Sundays at Coffee Hour.

Wanted! Knitters and Crocheters: We are looking for people who would be willing to knit or crochet a shawl to help build up our supply. Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1 PM in the Library or feel free to make one at home. Questions? Contact Joan Apel, 860-875-7239 or Nancy Parker, 860-872-9069 or quiltblockcreations@yahoo.com.

Please Wear Your Name Tag! Reach out in fellowship by wearing your name tag. If you need one, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860)875-7580.

Want to Meet New People? Volunteer to Serve! Whether it's welcoming others at the door before the Worship Service or providing a baked good or snack, making coffee or setting up and cleaning up after Coffee Hour, volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. All help is welcome.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... the **Fagan family** on the death of Martin Fagan; **Corey Glidden**, son of Debbie Marshall; **Hudson Prewo**, son of Erin and Christopher Prewo and grandson of Karen and Karl Prewo; **Ray Turner**, father-in-law of Cheryl Turner recovering from a stroke; **Leanne Connolly; Judy Quinn**, friend of Tony and Jan Muro, diagnosed with breast cancer; **the Boutwell family; Helen Dyar** recovering from a compressive fracture of her lower spine; **Martha Fowler** dealing with cancer; **Ann Garrison; Michael Bebrin**; the **leaders, members and friends of Somers Congregational Church; Todd Lentocha and family** (Todd is the East Hartford police officer injured in an auto accident); **Ellie Cantlin** (Mary Wheeler's sister-in-law) dealing with stomach cancer; **FCCV Search Committee; Mike Swan** dealing with a reoccurrence of cancer; **Caleb**, son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); **Donna Peacock; Kyle**, son of Rob Czaplicki (friend of Rob Horton); **Joyce Smith; Thelma Gifford; Kaylin Gifford; Rick Gagnon**, brother-in-law of Michelle Bower (cancer); **Warren Clay; Gary Edwards**, friend of Serena Volovski; **Cooper Doyle**, Al and Marilyn Newton's grandson; **Paul and Susan Shimer; Candy Buswell** (heart); **Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger; Horst Pohlmann**, friend of the Gerakaris'; **John Mayhew; John Kaminski**, Susan Moreau's father; **Bess Howe; Jane Morse; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs; Aaron Huneger; Stephen Volovski; Donald Chase; Audrey Clay** (breast cancer)