

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

April 13, 2014

Sixth Sunday in Lent ~ Palm Sunday

PRELUDE "Proclamation for Palm Sunday" Branscombe
"Hosanna!" Dykes/Martin
"Marcia" Widor

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Sing Hosanna!" J. Shafferman
Cherubs and Transformers

ACOLYTES

*CALL to WORSHIP *(responsive)* Tony Muro

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: And 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 under 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"

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY

Reader 1: We have gathered here, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine. I invite you now to close your eyes and let go of the things that distract and concern you. Listen! The time is drawing near. Jesus is preparing to enter Jerusalem. How will we greet him? Will we follow him all the way to the Cross?

Reader 2: The power of Jesus is that he lived what he taught, even when it led to his death. He lived with an abiding awareness of God, radiating the light of God in all he said and did. But that light was too much for the world. There are forces today, as there were in ancient times that conspire to put it out. Where are we in this? What are we willing to risk to follow Jesus? *(Silent time.)*

Reader 1: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of rejection and betrayal.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Reader 2: Let us pray:

All: **Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own pasts. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.**

*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, 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. Amen.

ANTHEM "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"
Little Bells

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 "A Debt of Love" J. Ellen
John Bennett - Oboe

*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

*CLOSING HYMN #200 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "March" Handel

**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 worshiping 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!

Greeters: Kurt and Gaile Dembeck

Coffee Hour: Board of Finance

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Eleanor Sweet, Tom Sweet's mother, dealing with cancer; Gerry Dyar; Jan Peacock; Julie, ex-daughter-in-law of Joanne and Andy Myer, suffering from stage 4 cancer; Nicole Cartier, Jim and Nancy Wilson's granddaughter; Bob O'Gara; Bonnie Brenner dealing with a recurrence of cancer; Heidi, Linda Dayton's friend; Carol Shea; Marge Salmon; Bobby Kelley, Kathy Bainbridge's brother; Stephen Kasevich; Will and Diane Livermore; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Joyce Smith; Sonja (Marlene) Mayhew; Lorrie Dobson; Ben Savage; Lillian Burnett; Debbie Chase; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Rev. Charlie Nichol's granddaughter Devon; Pat Lazeren; Gail Occhialini; Kim Burnham; Alan and Jayne Chesterton; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Claudette Weingart; Jan Peacock; Candy Buswell; Rachel Meneses; Lois Montlick; Donna Peacock; Arianna Saegaert; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs.

New additions in bold print

One Great Hour of Sharing: This year's theme is "We Are One." The focus is on sharing with our brothers and sisters in need around the world because we are connected with them through Christ Jesus. We are called to care for those near and far, alike. From disaster relief, to training programs to boots, and healthcare, your gift will make a major impact in people's lives. Together we are showing the world God's love and compassion through acts of kindness, making the United Church of Christ a vehicle through which lives are transformed. With your generous support, these vital ministries of life can continue. Please give generously! Thank You! The Board of Missions

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Confirmation: 11:30 AM, Library

Easter Egg Hunt: Join us after the worship service for our first Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children will be divided into two groups. They will collect empty eggs and turn them in for a bag of treats.

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Scrip-Your-All: We now have the following gift cards for immediate purchase: Big Y, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Home Depot, Lowes, Ninety-Nine Restaurant, Panera, Price Chopper, Rave Theaters (Cinemark), Stop & Shop, Walgreens. **Please Note:** Cards will not be available next week so stock up today. To date, FCCV has earned rebates of approximately **\$2350!** Your participation does make a difference! E-Cards continue to be available within minutes using Presto-Pay at ShopWithScrip.com (enrollment Code: F2F1CF113843L). To learn more about the Scrip-Your-All program, stop at our table during Coffee Hour.

The Ways & Means Committee will be **selling apple** or **pineapple cakes today** during Coffee Hour for the low price of \$8 – one less dessert to make for your Sunday dinner!

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Line Dancing: Monday, April 14, 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. The line dance troupe "Dance For U" will give a line dancing demonstration. At the end of the program, you will be given a chance to learn a couple of ultra-beginner dances. So, put on your dancing shoes, bring a friend and join us for a fun evening!

Men's Group: Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

MAY CARILLON DEADLINE

Tuesday, April 15

Maundy Thursday Rehearsal: Wednesday, April 16, 6 PM, Sanctuary

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, April 17, 5:45 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, April 18, 10:30 AM, Library

Contemporary Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, April 19, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Please Note: There will be no Bible Study on Tuesday, April 15 or Theology on Tap on Thursday, April 17.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae

Thursday, April 17, 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 20

Sunrise Service, 6 AM in the Memorial Garden

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

Worship Service, 10 AM

Women's Fellowship Scholarship: This \$500 scholarship is available to any church member who is continuing their education. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office and should be returned to the Women's Fellowship mailbox by May 31.

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. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. **Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than April 15.**

Tag Sale, Saturday, April 26 to benefit the Youth Mission Trips. If you are doing any spring cleaning please consider donating your unwanted items (gently used, please). Donations will be accepted at the church the week before the sale (April 21-25).

Please Note: 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**, located downstairs in the Kellogg wing, is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old.**

2014 FCCV Golf Event



Be a Player! **June 7**

Willow Brook Golf Course
South Windsor

- You and three friends
- You, your spouse and another couple
- You by yourself (we'll match you with other singles)

\$95 per golfer
(\$100 after June 1)

Please contact any Golf Committee member:
Paul & Sue Shimer, Mike & Elly Swan, Harmon Howe, Holly
Boutwell, Phyllis Chase