

**OLD SOUTH CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WINDSOR, VERMONT**

**The Rev. Karen Lipinczyk
Laura Compton
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**Bridge Pastor
Director of Music
Accompanist**

March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

Welcome to Old South Church. If you are visiting today, we are glad that you're here. Please take a minute to sign your name and address in the guest book outside the Sanctuary. Our service is responsive; the Worship leader reads what is written in regular print and the Congregation is invited to respond with what is written in **bold**. The "*" indicates that all who are able may stand, but feel free to sit if it is more comfortable. We use two hymnals: *The Chalice Hymnal* (blue) and *The Faith We Sing Hymnal* (black, soft cover). The hymnal is indicated with the hymn selections.

We respectfully ask that all cell phones be turned off during the service as they interfere with our wireless sound system.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN HISTORIC MOMENT

The 1870s

INTROIT: A Hymn from 1870

More Love to Thee, O Christ

(Doane)

(poem by Elizabeth P. Prentiss who died in Dorset, VT, 1878)

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

__(Lao Tzu - 6th century bce, ABLF)

If there is to be peace in the world,
If there is to be peace in the nations,
If there is to be peace in the cities,
If there is to be peace between neighbors,
If there is to be peace in the home,

**there must be peace in the nations.
there must be peace in the cities.
there must be peace between neighbors.
there must be peace in the home.
there must be peace in the heart.**

Holy God, we long for peace. Fill our hearts with the spirit of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who calls us to this high and holy aspiration. May we establish peace in all that we do, in Your name we pray. Amen.

2.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Lectionary Liturgies)

Here, we prepare ourselves for the week that is holy,
yet filled with unholy acts, words, thoughts.

**In this week of journey, people lose their way;
in this week of betrayal, others find hope hidden in their hearts.**

We will try to follow Jesus in the days to come,
sustained by the Word of grace and life.

**Joining the children, we wave palm branches with joy,
while keeping nails ready if we need them.**

The One who set aside glory, comes in humility;
the One who offers life, will challenge death itself.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who opens the heart of God to us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Lectionary Liturgies)

Creator God:

You give us days filled with parades, bands, and balloons;
You walk with us through days when we are overwhelmed
with pain, with doubt, with heartache.

We would empty ourselves so we can make room for You in our hearts.

Rider of Humility:

trusting God, You offer Your life so we may no longer fear death;
loving God, You challenge the powers of the world;
following God, You reveal faithfulness to us.

We would empty ourselves so we can make room for You in our hearts.

Wisdom's Tongue:

You come to us with arms full of joy, spreading it in our path;
You take us by the hand, to walk with us through this week.

We would empty ourselves so we can make room for You in our hearts.

Creator, Rider of Humility, Wisdom's Tongue,

**Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, take charge of us during worship this hour
and then continue to do Your work in us as we walk with You during
this Holy Week. Make us able to let go, to take up the Cross,
to truly follow. For Christ's sake and in solidarity with all the earth. Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE #192**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

(Chalice)

3.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

(Lectionary Liturgies)

Where do we hide our palm branches when the parade is over? When do our hosannas become cries for punishment? How do we, like those before us, turn our backs on the One who comes to us in the name of the Lord? As we begin Holy Week, let us admit what is true about us, as we pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Lectionary Liturgies)

Steadfast Lover: when things go well for us, we can easily sing loud hosannas, but the words turn to ashes in mouths full of anger and bitterness. We hide behind our palm branches, hoping You will not see the doubts we have about what You call us to do. We eagerly feast on Your blessings, but are reluctant to offer even crumbs to those around us.

Forgive us, Approaching God. Now, more than ever, forgive us. May we be as eager to lay down our fears and doubts, our sins and pride, as we are to lay down our coats for you. May we praise You for Your victory over death, as well as for the promise of resurrection to new life, the promise given to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & FORGIVENESS

(Lectionary Liturgies)

At his birth, Jesus comes bringing us hope.

Entering Jerusalem, He brings us assurance.

Walking to Calvary, He leads us to new life.

All this was for us - so we could bend our knees before God in humility and praise. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #35**

(Chalice)

**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, Amen.**

4.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM *Palm Sunday Processional* (Greig, Paige)

SIMPLY SPEAKING

(There is Nursery care downstairs for infants and children through Pre-K age.
For older children, there are activity packets at the back of the church – help yourselves!)

PSALM Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Bob Hingston)
(Page 466 in the Pew Bible)

GOSPEL Mark 11:1-11 (Bob Hingston)
(Page 774 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON *What Did Jesus See?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***HYMN RESPONSE #191** *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!* (Chalice)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #46** (Chalice)

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**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sharing of the Community

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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.

BENEDICTION

***HYMN OF PARTING #180** Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (Chalice)

POSTLUDE