

April 5th, 2020

Palm Sunday, Communion

10:00 am

The Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming ✦ congregation.

Our deacons and pastors hope you will feel at home here.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in Christ's name.

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Prelude Suite Bergamasque, by Claude Debussy Alex Gutierrez, piano

Welcome & Sharing Hosannas

Hymn Hosanna, Loud Hosanna NCH 213

"Hosanna, loud Hosanna", the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed, amid a cheering crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.

The one whom angels worship, rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours.

We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:

"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"

Unison Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, who hears our prayers of joy, peace, and love. Hear us as we wave our palm branches and shout, "Hosanna." You are the one who saves us. Amen.

UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Offertory Beautiful City, from Godspell by Stephen Schwartz Katherine Logan,
piano & vocals

Morning Prayers

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.

Holy Communion

Scripture Mark 11:1-11 Julia Gutierrez

Meditation *We Come in the Name of the Lord* Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Hymn Let us Break Bread Together on Our Knees

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Invitation

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude I Have This Hope MCC Folk Band

Announcements

Holy Week with the Monroe Congregational Church

All services available on Pastor Jenn's Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/JennPastor/>

Thursday, April 9th at 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

A candlelit evening worship service featuring readings that remember Jesus' mandate to love one another. At the conclusion of the service, the church enters a time of mourning. Please have some communion elements available.

Sunday, April 12th beginning at 6 am, and beyond! Easter Sunday

Join us for the Great Easter Celebration! It is the resurrection that informs our understanding of Jesus' life, work, birth, and all that comes before. We are a resurrection people. Everyone is encouraged to wear their Easter Bonnets.

Stewardship in a Time of Disruption

The mission of our church to incarnate God's love and work for a more compassionate, just and peaceful world is as important as ever. During this time of disruption of Sunday church services, it will be important to maintain our giving so the church can continue to operate. For now, the church office is closed and our staff is working remotely to continue the church's mission. Now is the time for all of us to do our best to continue our donations so that we ensure the smooth operation of our church's ministries.

There are several ways you can continue giving to MCC, including:

- Mail or drop off your donations to the church office mailbox at 34 Church Street, Monroe CT 06468, attention MCC Receiver. Mail is being collected on a daily basis, and checks are being counted and deposited on a weekly basis.
- Arrange for electronic automatic payment to MCC via your bank
- Make electronic payments via Vanco, by clicking on the "Donate" link on our web site, <http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>

I hope to see you all soon. In the meantime, thanks for your support of MCC and feel free to contact me if you have any questions at jorourke224@gmail.com . John O'Rourke – MCC Receiver.

St George's Supper

Hi folks, in this difficult time of uncertainty I'm happy to report that we will still be able to provide a meal to our friends at St. George's Supper, but in a slightly different way. For everyone's safety (and per the protocol from Guy Love, the pastor that manages St. George's Supper) for our April 20th meal we will be providing Bag Lunches consisting of a sandwich, apple, chips, small bottle of water, and a napkin for the folks at SGS. We will deliver the completed lunches to Guy and he will distribute.

Here's how you can help:

1. Donate \$10 to purchase food. You drop off a check in the mailbox or mail a check to MCC, 34 Church Street, Monroe, CT 06468. Please put St. George's Supper in the memo line. With the monetary donations we will purchase lunch bags, chips, small water bottle and napkins.
2. Make 10 sandwiches and buy 10 apples; provide either Turkey & Amer. Cheese, or Roast Beef & Amer. Cheese, on wheat/white bread in a sandwich bag. No condiments (we will provide packets of mustard and mayonnaise). Please contact me (Kathy) if you are going to make sandwiches, so that we know if we have enough.
3. Drop off the sandwiches and apples to MCC on Monday, April between 11 and 1 pm on the table set up in Wilton Hall. Wilton Hall door will be open. Stacy and I will combine the lunches and deliver them to SGS on Monday afternoon.

Thanks so much and if you have any questions, feel free to email me at kmaiolo@gmail.com or call my cell at 203-260-0292. Stay safe, (virtual hug) Kathy

The **Annual MCC Tag Sale** is RESCHEDULED – So, hang on to your donations!

Please mark your calendars for May 16th from 9 am-1 pm (early birds at 8) in Wilton Hall. This is an enormous event, requiring many people to help with set up, sale and clean up. There will be all sorts of shifts to suit all schedules, so please consider donating a few hours of your time that week.

How you can help:

1. Donate your gently used items. Please do not donate anything broken or old TVs, computer monitors, large upholstered furniture or clothing. All other donations can be dropped off at the church starting Sunday, May 10th until 6 pm on Thursday, May 14th. Drop off during the week is during office hours, and then on Thursday we will have extended drop off hours until 9 pm. Please do not drop off items on Friday.
2. PLEASE sign up to help. This is an enormous event, requiring help with set up, sale and clean up. There are all sorts of shifts to suit all schedules, so please donate a few hours of your time that week. In addition to being a great help for us, it is a wonderful time for fellowship and fun with each other, so don't miss out. A signup sheet will be posted in Wilton Hall.
3. Spread the word. There are always terrific bargains (and we mean BARGAINS) at this tag sale, so the more people that come, the more successful we will be. 100% of the money earned that day goes to support mission, so everyone benefits from this event.