



First Church in Windsor, UCC: *Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope*

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Holy Vessels: Seeking Wholeness During the Season of Lent

**The Chalice is a Holy Vessel
Communion Sunday**

Prelude

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Song

10,000 Reasons

By Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

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**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
worship your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship your holy name,
worship your holy name,
worship your holy name.**

Prayer of Confession

**Forgiving God,
We have opened ourselves to healing and sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers
than to do the hard work of putting into action what needs to happen.
Help us remember the sacred nature of the holy vessels that we are,
fragile and susceptible to shattering and yet capable of transformation.
Help us to see ourselves as you see us.
Help us to believe in our ability to change and heal
as you believe in us.**

**Help us, Healer.
Show us our strength.
Forgive our inertia.
Move us to move
one step at a time toward greater care.**

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness. Amen.

Please keep silence for a time.

Assurance

Passing of the Peace

Response: **And also with you.**

Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.

Children's Moment

Prayer of our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Opening Hymn and Psalm Procession

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Music by Melchior Teschner

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**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanna ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.**

**O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
the one called "God's Beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
to you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

Scripture

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a

donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 26: 26-29, 36-39

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

"Then He Took a Cup"

Anthem

Let the People Sing Hosanna!

Words and music by Victor C. Johnson

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Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

Make Us Holy

Words and music by Mark Friedman

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**In your love make us whole
May we rest in your compassion
Calm the lost weary souls
In the warmth of your love,
May your peace fill our hearts
May we know the love of Jesus
By your grace you console
May us holy, make us whole**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Communion Hymn

Taste and See

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**Taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

**I will bless the Lord at all times, praise shall always be on my lips.
My soul shall glory in the Lord, for God has been so good to me.**

**Taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

**Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free.**

**Taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

**Worship the Lord, all you people. you'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good, in God we need put all our trust.**

**Taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, Thank you for your Son Jesus Christ, Holy Vessel of Divine Presence on earth. Your Spirit anointed him as a container of grace in the form of preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, setting at liberty those who are oppressed. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with those considered too broken for company. Jesus showed us the path to wholeness and delivered us from our despair and isolation. Jesus promised to be with us always. We are not alone. Thank you that this bread and juice reminded us of our wholeness. Amen.

Announcements

Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Words by George William Kitchin

Music by Sydney Hugo Nicholson

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**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God.
Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

**O Christ, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata in C Major

By Johann Pachelbel

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