St.Paul's United Church of Christ SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023 PALM SUNDAY 8:00 a.m. CRAIG HINK

ORGAN PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

*Call to Worship

Leader: Together we gather again to celebrate, honor and worship God.

People: We come from the north and from the south, from the east and from the west, and rejoice together as a community.

Leader: We follow the triumphal entrance of the palms and the announcement that Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem. We plan our celebration of the rise of the King of Kings.

People: We sing hosanna and hallelujah, with the voices of our ancestors, celebrating the arrival of the Christ.

Leader: Hosanna in the highest! Jesus is King, God has come to save us all.

People: Hosanna in the highest! Jesus has come to set us free and claim his rightful place as king! All: May God bless us all, each and every one of us, this beautiful day! Amen.

*Opening Hymn All Glory, Laud, and Honor #123

Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

Holy and Wonderful God, we celebrate the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem with the waving of palms and songs of adoration and excitement. And we know that today is a day of mixed emotions. We feel the urgency and energy of your Spirit, willing us to celebrate and pushing us to fully live the whole range of emotions that fall on this day. In the richness of tradition and with your blessing, we welcome the shouts of joy and the celebration. Bless us and honor us with your presence this morning. Amen.

*Silent Confession

*Words of Assurance

God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, loved you then, loves you now, and will love you again. Our sins are forgiven and washed clean and we are once again brought closer to our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: 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.

*Sign of Peace and Words of Welcome

Please extend a word of welcome, warmth and friendship to those seated near you.

SCRIPTURE READING

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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The 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!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

SERMON A START FOR ALL AGES!

Hymn Fairest Lord Jesus #140

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer – Lord's Prayer – Cares Chorus Response

OFFERING

Invitation & Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

*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 (unison)

We gather in spirit, Wondrous God, to remember how Jesus gave His life so we could be set free from Sin and Death. His love for us, which cost Him so dearly, inspires us to offer Him our gifts and our lives. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	Hosanna, Loud Hosanna	#213 TNCH
*Benediction		
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