**Worship from Home**

**First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC**

**Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”*

Call to Worship (adapted from Isaiah 43:1-21 and Psalm 126)

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:** Children of God, Rejoice! Sing out in celebration, God's people! Your King is coming to you, humble, riding on a donkey, on a donkey's foal.

**All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. Glory to God! Hosanna!**

Those who would like to may join in a parade of the palms around the sanctuary as we sing our opening hymn together

\*Hymn #213 NCH *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

“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 Prayer of Invocation and Confession

**Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross.**

**Lord Jesus, we recognize that Your life among us was one of sacrifice; that You came to confront the hatred, fear, violence and evil in us; that You seek to throw over the tables of greed and injustice in us. Forgive us when we resist Your coming; when we reject You and seek to silence your transforming and challenging influence. Please have mercy on us, O God. Do not cease to come to us and to call us to life. Help us to embrace the way of the cross and to live in the power of Your death-defying love. For Jesus’ sake, Amen.**

Words of Assurance

**Pastor:** Hear the good news: “Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...and became obedient to the point of death --even death on a cross.” (Philippians 6,7a,8b) Through his obedience we are therefore freed from whatever sin enslaves us.
**All: Thanks be to God!**

Children’s Message

A Reading from Psalms Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Anthem *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

A Reading from the Gospel Luke 19:28-40

Sermon *“What Do I Know of Holy?”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #216 NCH “*All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way
Our prayer and praise 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.

Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(debts and debtors)*

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, you heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication (From David S. Bell)

**Loving God, today we remember Jesus’ triumphant ride from the Mount of Olives. Jesus obediently gave everything so that we could live a life worthy of your calling. Grant us the courage and the determination to be your obedient disciples. Instill within us the desire to proclaim, “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.” Increase our generosity so that these monetary gifts may be transformed into inspired ministries. In the name of your only son, our Savior Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn #215 NCH *“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”*

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!

O Christ, with brave humility.

On lowly colt, your road pursue,

As palms and cloaks are spread for you..

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!

As crowds of people come to see

And shout hosannas, lifting high

Their praise for one about to die.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!

For you have set your people free

And we, remembering all your pain,

Now meet again to hail your reign.

Benediction

Postlude

Some of today’s liturgy comes from John Van de Laar as found on sacredise.com.