**Worship from Home**

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

**Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

**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:** The way has been prepared.  
**Many: For the crowds it is the way of celebration.  
One:**  For Jesus it is the way of completion.  
**Many: Amid shouts and waving palm branches, he comes into the Holy City.  
One:**  Open your hearts this day to receive the Savior.  
**All: We open wide our hearts and spirits to receive Jesus the Christ. AMEN.**

*\**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

**O Lord God, whose Son followed your will, both as Servant and Savior, and now rules in the hearts of those who accept him as King: Open our hearts to his rule, that we may rejoice in the blessings of his kingdom and share with those who honor him with their lives.**

**Patient God, we confess that we love a parade. We are very happy to see banners waving and hear people shouting their praises. Our hearts thrill to the spectacle. But we fail to see the sadness on the face of the Savior; our shouts block out his sorrow. He comes to us as King, and we expect that royal treatment will follow. We do not and cannot believe that in a few days we will be among those who will turn our backs and run from his presence. How fickle we are, O Lord. Yet you continually forgive us and call us to turn our lives around--to see the needs of others, to reach out in trust and faith, to be willing to witness to your good news of saving love. Heal our hearts and give us courage for the days ahead; for we ask this in Jesus’ Name, AMEN.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29 (Responsively, on insert)

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 21:1-11

Message *“With A Little Forethought”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn#117 NCH *“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”*

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!

The sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart

From earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!

Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;

Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory “*Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

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

**Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Bless these gifts and our lives, O God, for we offer them in the name of Jesus, our Lord. He emptied himself that we might be filled. He humbled himself that we might be lifted up. We pray that these gifts be used to proclaim the gospel which fills lives that are empty and lifts up those who need help. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

Invitation

Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We thank you God because you have invited us to this table. Here we are strengthened for the task ahead of us: the loving of the world. Here we receive all Christ’s gifts.**

**Strengthen our faith. Help us love one another and your creation more. Teach us to pray, share, sing, teach, feed, heal, call and welcome as you have done to us. Make our lives a form of praise for your love shown to us through Jesus Christ.**

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

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! O Christ, with brave humility,

On lowly colt, your road pursue, its 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! Ride on in humble dignity;

Behold the ones you came to save from senseless life and endless grave.

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

Benedictory Response

Postlude

Some of our morning prayers come from Cokesbury’s online resource, Worship Connection.