

Palm Sunday



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 11 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God’s calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God’s grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Office Hours: Mon - Thu 8:30am-3:00pm; Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barb Kuhlmann, *Director of Christian Education/Youth* [barbk@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

Rich Race, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Emma Pennycuick, *Nursery* [epennycuick1@live.maryville.edu]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer’s Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning. Please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

Welcome Children. We invite children to full participation in worship.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer. A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

Communications Requests: Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Monday. Bulletin announcements will generally be run for three weeks prior to the event. However, all announcements will be posted via our various publications as fits in our communications strategy and as resources permit.

All word and service music reprint permission covered under CLLI License #2464265.

Anniversaries

3/29 FAUSS, Roger & Donna (53)

Birthdays

3/28 SHELTON, Ryan

3/31 WOLFF, Katy

3/28 WOLFF, Grant

4/1 BOWMAN, Klover

3/29 OEHLER, Barbara

4/1 LYONS, Liz

3/30 MUCHNICK, Todd

4/2 RAUSCHER, Kevin

3/31 SELLENRIEK, Pearl

4/2 WOODSON, Jennifer

3/31 WILLIAMS, Matthew

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28, 2021 | 10:00am | YouTube

Meditation *Jesus wasn't afraid to touch others. Leprous skin didn't repulse Him, nor did He hesitate to handle the filthy feet of His disciples in the Upper Room. Now He wants to use our hands to send the same message of love, humility, and acceptance. ~David Jeremiah*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Part of the Family* refrain, v1A, refrain, v2A, refrain

Come in, come in and sit down You are a part of the
fam - 'ly. We are lost and we are found, and
we are a part of the fam - 'ly. *Fine*

1. You know the rea - son why you came
God is with us in this place
2. Chil - dren and eld - ers mid - dlers and teens,
Greet - ers and shop - pers, long time and new
3. There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine,
There's rest for the wear - ry and health for us all, There's a

Yet no rea - son can ex - plain, So
Like a moth - er's warm em - brace,
Sin - gles and dou - bles and in - be - tweens,
No - bod - y here has a claim on a pew. And
We are the branch - es Christ is the vine,
yoke that is eas - y and a bur - den that's small, So

share in the laugh - ter and cry in the pain For
 We're all for - giv - en by _____ God's grace For
 Strong eight - y - fiv - ers and street - wise six - teens, _____
 wheth - er we're man - y or on - ly a few _____
 This is God's tem - ple, it's not yours or mine But
 come in and wor - ship and an - swer the call For

1. we are a part of the fam - 'ly.
 we are a part of the fam - 'ly.
 We are a part of the fam - 'ly.
 We are a part of the fam - 'ly.
 we are a part of the fam - 'ly.
 we are a part of the fam - 'ly.

2. D.C.

Scripture Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.


Call to Worship Church of Scotland

One:	Humble and riding on a donkey,
Many:	we welcome you;
One:	Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,
Many:	we cheer you;
One:	moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,
Many:	we salute you:
One:	You are giving the beast of burden
Many:	a new dignity;

One:	you are giving royalty and power
Many:	a new face;
One:	you are giving those who long for validation and inclusion
Many:	a new song to sing.
One:	With them, with heart and voice, we shout:
Many:	Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.


Song *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Refrain




All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re-deem-er, King!

Fine




To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1. Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
 3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
 4. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain



Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless-ed One.
 Our praise and prayers and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
 To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra-cious King!

Lenten Candles

We light seven candles as we continue on this Lenten journey. We want the light to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus. We commit to being more infused by the Spirit as we travel. Even as we know this is good and important work, we recognize that it isn't easy—and we may come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness. We will extinguish one candle each time we gather for worship this season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we enter Holy Week and approach the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never goes out.

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, we have been watching and listening to Jesus this Lenten season. We have done so with the expectation that we would be inspired to follow him and echo his words and actions. We have paid particular attention to our hands that wipe tears; make music; tremble; prepare foods; struggle with carpal tunnel or arthritis; applaud and lift others up; hold other hands and embrace; sometimes do harm; wash feet; build and repair; touch the earth gently; strain in handcuffs; wring amid nail biting; write letters and make calls; sting from splinters and papercuts; engage in hand-offs, handouts and hand-me-downs; clench in fists; draw-sculpt-carve-paint-stitch-weave; swat; pray; commit to being open and available. Amen.

Response *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*—Fred Kaan

Tune: St Columbia, Irish Traditional Melody—With Joy Draw Water; Immortal Love; Mother of All

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it; protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation; be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

Children's Time Children and Youth are invited to separate Zoom classrooms immediately following this Children's Time.

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

**Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Every child in every land,
Jesus holds them by the hand.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Sermon

Call to Prayer *Cares Chorus*

I cast all my cares up-on you, _____ I
lay all of my bur - dens down at your feet, and
an - y-time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up - on you. _____

The musical notation is in 2/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. There are some rests and a triplet of eighth notes in the second line.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer *sung to the tune by Nate Stout*

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] 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.

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Song *Seeker, Teacher, Friend* | tune: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Seeker of justice, turner of the tables
One who made sure that the poor were fed
Land for the landless, home for the homeless
And baskets filled with fish and bread.**

**Friend of the friendless, lover of the enemy,
Love that conventions cannot contain,
Boundless compassion, put into action
For peace beyond all selfish aims.**

**Mystical teacher, lover of the Holy One
Faithful beyond any rites or creeds
One with creation, in adoration
Revealed in humble prayers and deeds.**

**Storm-riding mariner, death-defying leader
With you in courage we seek to stand
Stillng the waves of fear, through chilling winds we steer
Till on that peaceful shore we land.**

**Hearer of children, healer of the broken ones
Finder of truth in what some despise
Touch the untouchable, love the unlovable
Till finally we see through your eyes.**

Mission Moment 2nd Mile Lent/Easter Mark Sableman and Karen Kirk
Heifer Project | **Lydia's House** | Unleashing Potential | Eden Seminary

Invitation to Generosity

Offering Interlude

Every Step of the Way [Micah 6:8]—Christopher Grundy
<http://www.christophergrundy.com/videos-2/>

Response

**Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.**

A Responsive Litany for Palm Sunday Drew Ludwig

One:	Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast
Many:	but he was a threat to people with power.
One:	Jesus sometimes stood against the Temple,
Many:	so he was a threat to the Sadducees.
One:	Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,
Many:	so he was a threat to the Pharisees.
One:	Jesus took the titles of “Lord,” “Son of God,” and “King”.
Many:	Those were Caesar’s titles: so he was a threat to the government.
One:	Jesus came without violence
Many:	yet he disturbed the peace.
One:	Jesus came proclaiming the Kindom of God
Many:	and the kingdoms of this world were frightened.
One:	Lord, help us to love your Kingdom more than the kingdoms of this world.
Many:	For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song of Parting *A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*



1 A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had
2 They laid their gar - ments in the road and
3 When day dimmed down to deep - ening dark the
4 Lest we be fooled be - cause our hearts have
5 In - stead of palms, a wind - ing sheet will



stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as
spread his path with palms and vows of last - ing
crowd be - gan to fade till on - ly tram - pled
surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as
have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more



king a - loud, waved branch - es in the air.
love be - stowed with roy - al hymns and psalms.
leaves and bark were left from the pa - rade.
this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.
fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth

Announcements

+++

Please see our Holy Week schedule on the next page. We hope you can join us for some or all of these worship experiences.

Announcements

TODAY: Speaker Series

The Evolving World of Anesthesiology by Dr Bill Owens

Sunday, March 28 | 11:15am | via ZOOM

The core element of anesthesiology comprises the use of various injected and inhaled medications to produce a loss of sensation in patients, making it possible to carry out procedures that would otherwise cause intolerable pain or be technically unfeasible. Safe anesthesia requires in-depth knowledge of various invasive and non-invasive organ support techniques that are used to control patients' vital functions while under the effects of anesthetic drugs.

Parkway UCC member Dr Bill Owens practiced medicine at Barnes Jewish for many decades, was a Professor of Anesthesiology at the Washington University of School of Medicine, chaired the Department of Anesthesiology, and is a fellow of the prestigious American Board of Anesthesiologists.

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898581439?pwd=V1JhZXNod1JSTjVJcm1QYWWhOck9JQT09>

Join by phone: 312 626 6799 | **Meeting ID:** 848 9858 1439 | **Passcode:** 256973

Holy Week at Parkway UCC

April 1 - Maundy Thursday 7pm pre-recorded from the Sanctuary

We will take a look at Exodus 12... Passover guidance on celebrating. Our Gospel stories are all about Jesus sharing intimate time with the disciples – holiday meal, washing feet, the first communion, going out to the garden to pray ... and then things take a sharp turn. Prepare your simple communion meal for home.

April 2 - Good Friday Noon pre-recorded from the Historic Sanctuary

We will share a mix of scripture, poetry, organ and silence to mark this dreadful day of crucifixion.

April 2 - Good Friday 7pm pre-recorded from the Sanctuary

Open your senses to experience what some young people have to say about beauty from brokenness. This is a difficult night. We will sit with the darkness a bit, see the light coming and make some plans to become more light.

36 Hour Easter Prayer Vigil

Please consider signing up to pray for one hour of the 36 hours between Good Friday evening through the Easter Sunrise service. We can give you some ideas for your hour if you'd like.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CA4AC23AB9-annual>

April 4 - Easter Sunrise 6:30am In-person and on Facebook Live in Elm Lawn Cemetery behind the Historic Sanctuary

We commit ourselves to being open and available to the miracles of Easter morning and to the possibilities that are unfolding. He is risen! We rise!

* A number of you recently vaccinated PUCers have asked if you can come to the outdoor Easter Sunrise Service on Easter...

Our Covid Team has decided that Easter Sunrise will be our first in-person worship experience as we begin a measured and intentional transition period – with masks and physical distancing of course. We will have chairs set up for you. Questions? Contact Kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

April 4 - Youth Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 4 | 8:30 – 10:00am | Back Parking Lot Parkway UCC

Calling all Youth! Let's meet in the back parking lot for Easter morning breakfast. Masks and physical distancing will be in order.

You can stay and watch worship on the big screen in the Gathering Space – it's a pre-recorded service. It's been so long since we've been able to get together, I cannot wait! Hope to see you Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday—at 8:30 for food and fellowship! Questions? Let me know.... BarbK@parkwayucc.org

April 4 - Easter 10am pre-recorded from the Sanctuary

Listen to varied expressions of the Easter story. How did that huge stone get rolled away from the tomb? Do we have the strength and spirit to do things like that? We will take another look at what Jesus has accomplished with his hands as we live into being Easter People modeled after his words and ways.

We hope you can join us for some or all of these Holy Week experiences.

2nd Mile Lent & Easter 2021

Go the 2nd Mile with us!

Parkway will again support four worthy organizations with its Second Mile Giving for Lent and Easter. We believe this blend of support will help Parkway create local, national and international impact with its gifts. Please remember that Second Mile Giving is over and above the Operational Budget and donations will be divided evenly among the organizations listed below. Please be generous as these organizations need on our gifts in order to be more faithful and effective.

Lydia's House

Lydia's House works in faith to end domestic violence in St Louis by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children. The agency provides safe, confidentially-located furnished apartments for up to two years, assists women in creating and implementing goal plans that will help them live independently, and increases community awareness of domestic violence. For more information, please visit www.lydiashouse.org

UP—Unleashing Potential [formerly Neighborhood Houses]

For more than 100 years, Neighborhood Houses has loved children in St Louis. Currently, there are three main facets to their mission:

Early Childhood Education—Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited Early Childhood facility operated by Neighborhood Houses. Our Mission is to provide quality affordable childcare for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Caroline Mission is a “home away from home.”

Girls' Night Out: Neighborhood Houses and Parents as Teachers collaborated together in the design and delivery of a program dedicated to supporting and assisting young mothers, ages 13–22. *Girls Night Out* is designed to promote healthy individuals and families.

After School Programs: Neighborhood Houses is the #1 provider of after school programming in the St Louis Public Schools... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more! For more information, please visit neighborhoodhouses.org

Heifer International

Heifer International does so much more than put food in the mouths of hungry people. Heifer helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability -- project partners achieving self-reliance. And year after year, as partner families “pass on the gift” of knowledge and one or more of their animals’ offspring to others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves. For more information, please visit heifer.org

Eden Seminary

Eden Theological Seminary is a graduate school preparing women and men for ordained Christian ministry. One of the six seminaries of the United Church of Christ, Eden is a community that seeks God’s justice and peace in the world. Eden is welcoming, inclusive and ecumenically diverse. Eden was established in 1850 at Marthasville, Missouri. It was established because a European education was not adequate to prepare pastors for Evangelical churches on the North American frontier. From its beginning, Eden has embodied an ecumenical spirit. Its first graduating class included six Evangelicals as well as a Methodist and a Mennonite.

Eden admitted its first African American student in 1933. In 1965, the late Joseph Cardinal Ritter of the Saint Louis Archdiocese became the first Roman Catholic Cardinal to address a graduating class in a Protestant seminary. Today, students from many different denominations are engaged in theological education at Eden as it remains committed to educating faithful and effective leaders for church and society. The seminary counts among its distinguished graduates Reinhold Niebuhr, H. Richard Niebuhr and Walter Brueggemann.

Eden Theological Seminary is committed to the study of theology in the context of the ecumenical Christian community and the contemporary interfaith world. For more information, please visit eden.edu

Please be sure to clearly mark your donations ‘2nd Mile’ throughout the season of Lent and Easter. Our mission partners will each receive a fourth of the total given. Thank you for your generosity for people near and far!

Prayer List

as of March 24, 2021

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far!

Infants **Harlin and Rena** - out of NICU and home! (Tallyn cousins).

The Journey of Lent.

****Chris Pickett** - PUCCer and Greensfelder Chief Diversity Office just named to Meritas Black Lawyers Forum Inaugural Leadership Counsel.

Concerns

Joan Biest - healing after recent elbow surgery.

Maria Hendrix and Denise Hein (Stifel).

Janet Prendergast - preparing body and spirit for surgery (Larson).

Healthcare workers, homeless and many others at risk right now.

Physical Distancing... if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other support OR if anyone newly vaccinated would like to be part of the Care Team, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

The violence outside of Denver and Atlanta.

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the US... *Al Jazeera's* front page last week and 26 pages in this month's *National Geographic*.

Continuing

Jim & Polly Winkelmann - he is healing and making strides!

1504 Wolf Trail Rd; Wildwood, MO 63021; 314-610-3348 (Jim's cell).

Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease.

Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through health challenges.

Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Brian - still awaiting double lung transplant due to COVID (Tossing).

Anne Brodgerski - responding well to new chemotherapy (Svenson).

Nelson Spencer - failing heart valve he received years ago (Svenson).

Carolyn & Hank Kraichley - serious health challenges.

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability.

Grateful Tran - half-way house, new skills, schizophrenia (Buretta).

Bob - continues to struggle with Parkinson's.

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.

Ginny Brown Daniel and our Missouri Mid-South Conference as her resignation is effective later this spring.

Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Millicent Guerri - living with cancer... 14300 Conway Meadows Ct E, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: December 5]

Marv Herpel - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Pat Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #325; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: September 21]

Bill Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #104; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: March 8]

John and Audrey Nourse - *The Village at Cape Albeon* 3300 Lake Bend Dr; St. Louis, MO 63088; 636-861-3200 [birthdates: Audrey - December 19; John - October 26]

Pearl Sellenriek - *Friendship Village Memory Care Division* #1001; 15250 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

Sue Houser - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B; Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

Other

Pres Biden, VP Harris, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness.

Individuals in all levels of leadership as they make decisions today.

PUCC Family (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Variety of Parkway members/friends - employment issues.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen.

The people of politically unstable countries across globe.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending March 28 - **First Congregational UCC**, Bonne Terre; fcuccbonnetterre.org

Week ending April 4 - **First Congregational UCC**, St. Louis; firstcongregational.org

**** https://www.stltoday.com/pr/business/greensfelder-chief-diversity-officer-christopher-pickett-named-to-meritas-black-lawyers-forum-inaugural-leadership-counsel/article_3f0d14f8-785a-11eb-87f5-ff443a10e182.html**

Sixth Sunday in Lent

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

Mark 14:1-15:47

Into Jerusalem

Imagine you were there that day.

Today, the day is known as Palm Sunday and we celebrate mostly sedately, with children waving palm leaves and songs of joy.

But it would not have been so that first day. On that first day of the first holy week, it was dusty and noisy, crowded and chaotic. On that day, Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem was just one more distraction and delight, a spectacle for a city in a festival mood. On that day, no one but Jesus could imagine the week that was to come, with its loyalties and betrayals, politics and pieties, losses and griefs. No one could have anticipated that the week would end in death and in resurrection.

What would it be like to enter the city again, as they did that first day so long ago? What would it be like to come to this day with no knowledge, no expectation of how this week would end? Each year, we are invited to re-enact the events of this week. Not as a tired recitation of a story whose ending is already known, but as living and breathing people, ready to experience each day anew.

Many faith communities will worship together several times this week. Even if your community does not gather for all these days, how can you mark each day this week?

You can find guides and resources to creating fresh and imaginative worship this Holy Week, and every week, at: https://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Palm Sunday: Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday: Jesus' last supper with his disciples

Good Friday: A day of mourning

Easter Vigil: Keep awake through the night in prayer, grieving and anticipation

Easter: Resurrection Day