

~ Welcome Visitors! ~

We are glad that you chose to join us for worship this morning. We hope that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you will feel welcome here.

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal under your pew chair.

Children: *Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. That is why we are excited to have children of all ages with us throughout the service on the first Sunday of each month. On other Sundays, children are invited to attend Sunday School following the message for all—though they are still welcome in worship. If the youth in your family would like to stay in worship, there are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do. If you want to have your younger children (ages 0-4) taken care of during the service, we have a nursery available at 9:30 am*

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Processional of the Redeemer

Ben Logan

Welcome and Community Connections

***Opening Song**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

NCH 213

***Call to Worship¹**

One: Sing songs of loudest praise!

All: Hosanna!

One: Sing songs that are unashamed.

All: Hosanna!

One: Sing songs without being afraid.

All: Hosanna!

One: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

All: Hosanna!

One: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

***Opening Prayer**

God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song.

Teach us to follow in the Way of Jesus: Singing the songs which are ours to sing. Showing up for the parades which are ours to lead. Give us the courage and conviction to know when to step aside and be allies when we need to. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

***Hymn**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

NCH 216 vss 1 & 3

HEARING THE WORD

The Good News

John 12:12-16

Special Music

The Road to Jerusalem

William E. Gross

¹ Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Message for All

Rebecca Malke

Reflection

Pastor Kris

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

I Love to Tell the Story

NCH 522, vs 1

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above.
Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-571-5870. Pastor Kris will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor Kris: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

All: who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.

Pastor Kris: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

All: who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest.

Pastor Kris: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

All: who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.

Pastor Kris: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

All: so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.

Pastor Kris: Hosanna!

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

In Jesus's name we pray...

Prayer of Jesus²

Holy One, our only Home, blessed be your name.

May your day dawn, your will be done, here, as in heaven.

² Prayer of Jesus by the Sisters of St Benedict and Scholastica, Holy Wisdom Monastery

**Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Offering: Extravagant Generosity

*We respond to God's Word with our giving
and gratitude.*



ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING: today we are participating in One Great Hour of Sharing®. This is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. It is a Lenten Offering which supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

Offertory

Wondrous Grace

Mary Ann Fritz

***Doxology**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

***Prayer of Dedication³**

To courage, to justice, to the work of liberation, we dedicate our offerings, oh God. Even amidst the chaos of callous empires, accompany us as we co-create your Kin-dom of peace in the here & now. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

Continuing the Story

for Palm Sunday⁴

***Song for Going Out**

What Wondrous Love Is This

NCH 223 verses 1 & 2

³ 1. "Liturgy That Matters Resource Collection," enfleshed, March 11, 2024, <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy-that-matters-subscription-library/>.

⁴ 1. Kate Bowler, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!: Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and in-Betweens* (New York, NY: Convergent, 2024), 163.

*Benediction

*Postlude

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!

Lani Smith

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Betsy Robbins (Bell Choir Dir), Rebecca Malke (Dir of Faith Development), Pastor Kris Gorton

Readers: Susan Webb and Rusty Rode

Ushers: Roger Elver and Jeanne Prueher

Media Room: Jordan Baumgart

Fellowship:

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042

Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.



Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you!



Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not need a PayPal account to make one-time or recurring donations. Visit memorialucc.org and click the "giving"

link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at halpincjo@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Pastor Kris would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact her at pastorkris@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org. You can also follow us on Facebook (@FitchburgMemorialUCC), Twitter (@MemUCC), or join our Facebook group Memorial UCC: Ever-Widening Circles.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29, 7 pm

EASTER, March 31

Sunrise mini-Retreat on Two Feet, 6:30 - 7:15 am.

Easter Egg Hunt, 9:00 am for children AND youth

Worship onsite and online, 9:30 am.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT: SPECIAL PROJECT

All adults are being asked to participate in a fun church project! It's important for our youth to know that their beliefs will change, grow and mature. Adults, please send in two pictures of yourself. One as a teen (at or around confirmation age) with a brief statement of what you believed THEN and the other picture of yourself and beliefs NOW. This will reinforce the idea that we all change physically and mentally but also spiritually. Bonus points for anyone who can top the bizarre clothing of a teenage Rebecca Malke, our director of faith development.



EVENING OF MUSIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 at 7 PM

Get ready for delightful music and delicious desserts. Our **Evening of Music** will be on **Saturday, April 6, at 7 p.m.** If you're interested in performing at the event, please sign up here. Help us spread the word and invite your

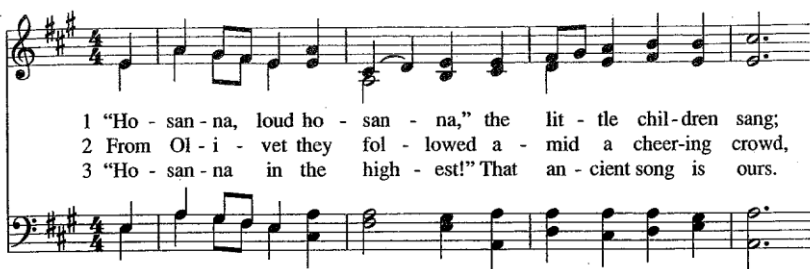
friends. There will be a free-will offering and the money collected will help us pay to bring in other special guests at future events!

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

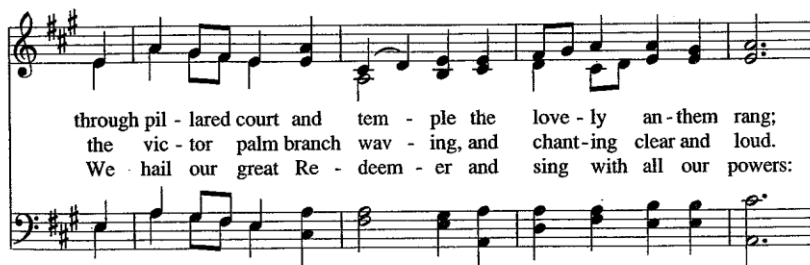
213

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

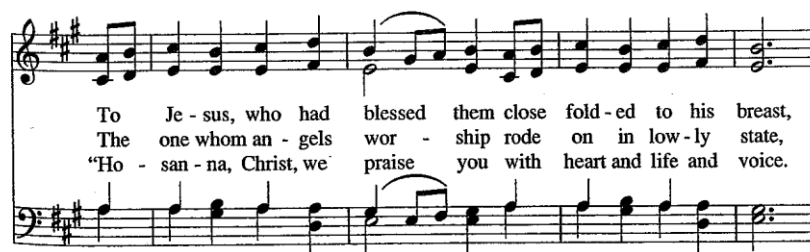
Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15



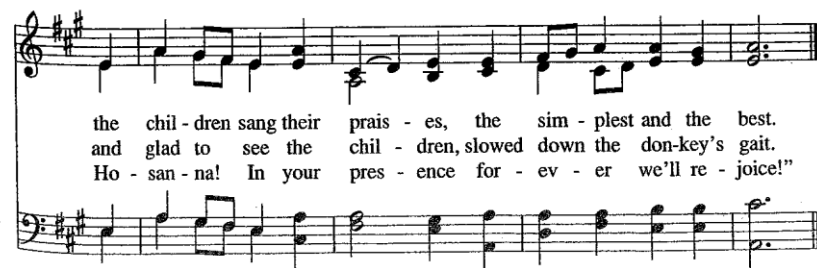
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection *Sunshine and Shadow*.

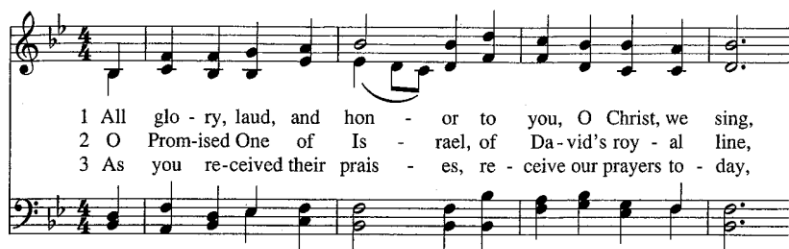
Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

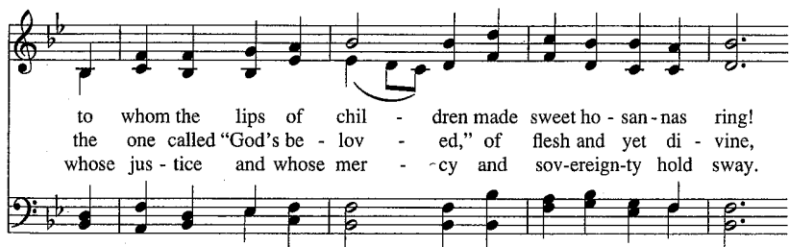
216

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

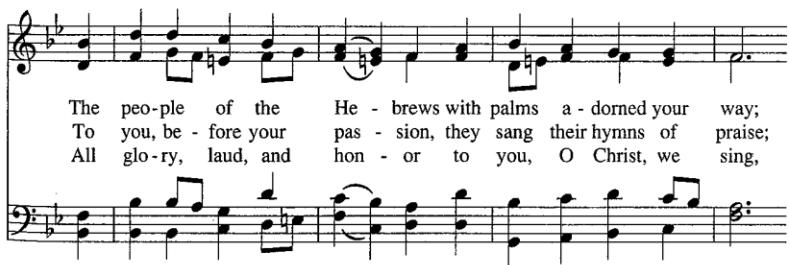
Matt. 21:8-9



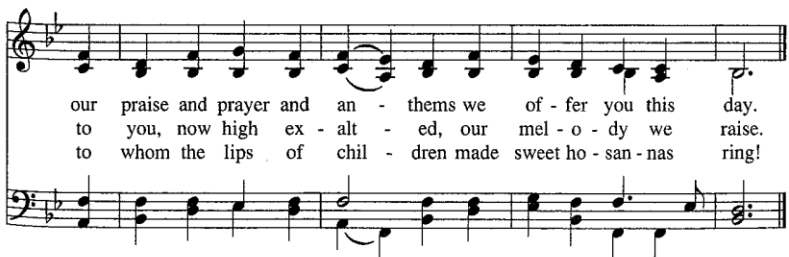
1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
3 As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - ereign - ty hold sway.



The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,



our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became bishop of Orléans but was later imprisoned by Charlemagne's successor. According to legend, he was released when the king, Louis the Pious, heard him sing this hymn from prison.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
(VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
Melchior Teschner, 1615
For another setting, see 217

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Born in Clapham, England, Katherine Hankey belonged to the Clapham Sect of Evangelicals and established a Bible class for girls in London's West End. This hymn is drawn from her extended poem on the life of Jesus, which also contains "Tell me

Tune: HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D. with refrain
 William G. Fischer, 1869

What Wondrous Love Is This

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)

Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993