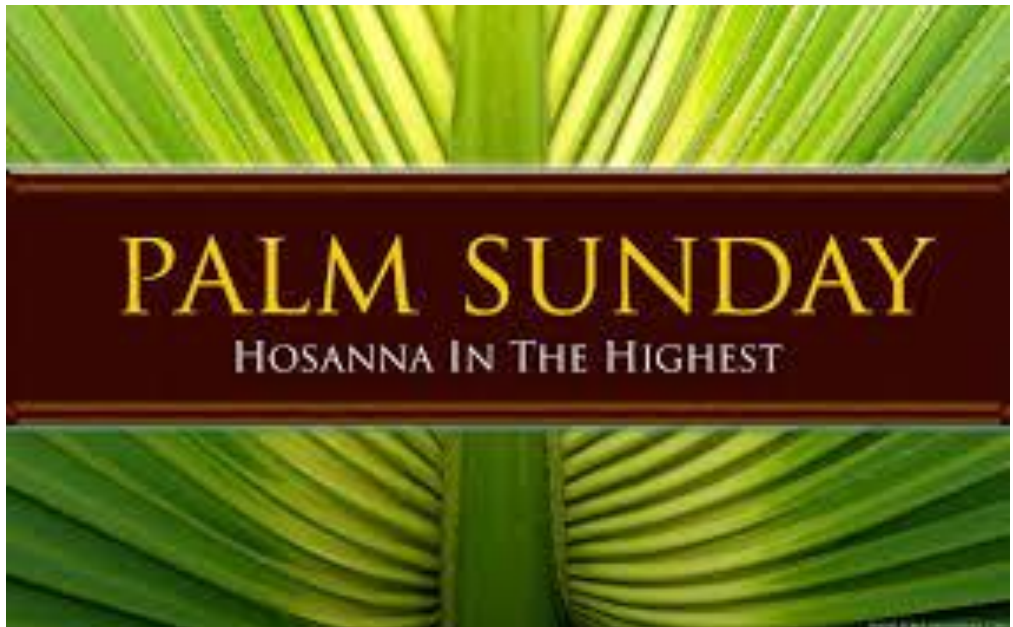


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,  
you’re welcome here.”**

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079  
810-329-4142**

[www.firstcongsc.org](http://www.firstcongsc.org)  
[firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com)

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

April 2, 2023  
Sixth Sunday in Lent

† Those who are able, may stand.

**CHIMES**

Jesus Remember Me

**PRELUDE**

Ride on Jesus Ride

**PROCESSION OF THE PALMS**

**BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

The Lord be with you.

**And with people everywhere.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to praise you, O God, for your acts of redeeming love through your son, Jesus the Christ. On this day we remember the long journey to Jerusalem, and the crowd gathered there to proclaim him King of Kings. Let these palm branches be signs for us of His victory. Let us never forget the price of that victory, the cost of his life. Let us always proclaim him Lord, and may we always follow in the way that leads to eternal life.**

**WELCOME**

Rev. Michelle Brown

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome here. Many thanks to all who are here for this worship service. Greetings to those of you with us on the Facebook Livestream. And a big thank you to all who are helping with this morning's worship service.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Pat O'Connor

With songs of thanksgiving,  
**we sing praise to God.**  
With shouts of Hosanna,  
**we welcome the presence of Christ.**  
With prayers of blessing,  
**we call out to the Spirit of God.**  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

## † UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy on us, O God. Where depression lingers, grant us hope. Where fear threatens, grant us comfort. Where strength fails, give us courage. Where faithfulness wanes, grant us endurance. Where sin invades, grant us forgiveness. Shine upon us with your love and grace, O God. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.**

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Look! The Lord will help you, for God's faithful love lasts forever.  
Praise God! God's faithful love lasts forever.**

## † HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna  
NCH213 vs 1, 2, 3

**The children are excused for Sunday school during  
Yes, Jesus Loves Me.**

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Pat O'Connor

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

Jesu, Jesu

**THE SECOND READING**

Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 21:1-11  
Rev. Michelle Brown

**SERMON**

Palm or Passion Sunday ... does it matter?  
Rev. Michelle Brown

**† HYMN**

Abide With Me  
NCH99 vs 1, 3, & 4

**JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY**

**OFFERTORY**

Beautiful Scandalous Night  
Ken Madeleine

**† OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Gather Us, O God  
SPP45

Gather us, O God,  
Body, spirit, soul and mind.  
Gather us, O God,  
one in union now with you.  
(Repeat)

**† PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**With these gifts, we give you thanks, O God. We bless your generous, humble spirit, and ask that you bless these gifts with this same generous, humble spirit, so that all who receive these gifts may also receive your love, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

As darkness descends.  
**may we ever look for the light.**  
As Holy Week begins,  
**may we ever look for the resurrection.**  
Go in quiet contemplation.  
Go in quiet hope. God in the love of God.

## **COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people, for Jesus Christ turns no one away from His table.

### **† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, 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.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION, SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty God, we offer these gifts as our testimony to your glory and as our commitment as your disciples. Bless our gifts to your work in the world and to your reign here on earth. Through your blessing of our gifts, may death be destroyed and hope fill all of creation. Amen.

† HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor  
NCH216 vs 1, 2, 3

**BENEDICTION**

† POSTLUDE

Great is Thy Faithfulness



One License #A720797

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

Dave Scheel, Eric Fandrick, Joan Westbrook, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Marge Guinther, Barb Jeffries, Genie Lucyk, Ann Whittaker. Also, remember Edwin Summers, Cameron Coverly (Army-deployed in Europe), Nathan Distelrath, all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

**TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore, Ken Madeleine

USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor

READER: Pat O'Connor

POWER POINT: Ash Currie

COMMUNION: Nancy Rice

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Rose Crowley

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## **4/9/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore  
USHERS: Randy Kling, Bob Rood  
POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

4/16 – READER: Kathy Rood

## **OPEN AND AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT**

The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, Open and Affirming Congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

## **~CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS~**

### **WELCOME CHUCK GUERRENO**

Chuck can be reached at the church 10:00 – 4:30 Thursday through Friday, 11:00 – 4:30 on Saturday, and 8:00 – noon on Sunday. Chuck can be reached at [stclairinterim@gmail.com](mailto:stclairinterim@gmail.com) and (989) 980-0061.

### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES**

Good Friday services will be held at 12 p.m., at Holy Family and at 7 p.m., at St. Peters. If you wish to be a lay reader at either service, please contact Wendy at the office.

### **SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Search Committee is continuing to update the church profile. The search committee members are: Co-Chairs Avery Skonieczny & Don Rice, Rose Crowley, Mike Kennedy, Don O'Connor. Kathy Rood, Kathy Cilluffo, Sam Tricomo, Vicki Kling and Ash Currie. We are available for your questions and

concerns regarding the pastoral search in person or email at [firstcongsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongsc@gmail.com).

### **CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?**

If you're wondering about becoming a church member, please speak with Pat O'Connor or Chuck to set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

There is Sunday School for children aged 5-12. Teachers and an assistant teacher will bring the children to the Lounge after class has ended. There is a nursery where parents may go with their younger children if they choose to. It's a comfortable room where children may play. There is a changing table in the bathroom in the lounge.

### **PASTOR'S EMERGENCY FUND**

Our Communion Offerings are usually placed in a Pastor's Emergency Fund. Those needing emergency assistance are screened and, when available, funds are provided.

### **LITTLE FOOD PANTRY**

This small pantry is a community outreach program sponsored by The Mission Team of this church. It is stocked twice-weekly with non-perishable food. Donation requests may change but the need to feed does not.

April is awesome!  
Spring is, too!  
Easter arrives  
And our lives are new.

But hunger is not.  
There is always a need.  
Pantry donations  
Provide help, indeed.



April pantry food needs:

Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
(fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple)  
Knorr Pasta or Rice Pouches

Easter extras:

Basket Fillers  
(candy, etc.)  
Cake Mix/Frosting Tubs  
Cookies

Please leave your food donations in the elevator room on the shelves labeled THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

Any questions...please call Nancy Kennedy @ 810-329-3790..

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you are interested in donating altar flowers, please contact Bev Stewart at (810) 329-2147.

## HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna  
NCH213 vs 1, 2, 3

Hosanna, loud hosanna,  
the little children sang;  
through pillared court and  
temple 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 they 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!

## HYMN

Abide with Me  
NCH99 vs 1, 3, & 4

Abide with me;  
fast falls the even tide;  
The shadows deepen,  
Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail,  
and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless,  
O abide with me.

I need your presence  
every passing hour;  
I need your grace to  
foil the tempter's power.  
Give me your love  
my guide and stay to be.  
Through cloud and sunshine,  
O abide with me.

I fear no foe,  
with you at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and  
tears no bitterness;  
Where is death's sting?  
where, grave, your victory?  
I triumph still if you,  
abide with me.

## HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor  
NCH216 vs 1, 2, & 3

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 praise and prayer 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!