

UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, Open to all Seekers

Palm
Sunday



An Open and Affirming Congregation of
the United Church of Christ



We Gather as Church

*please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Meditation on "Passion Chorale"* David Bednall (b. 1979)

...Peace be with you. ***And also with you...***

WORDS OF WELCOME

Please rise in body or in spirit as our worship begins. A deacon of the church will place the opened Bible on the pulpit, reminding us that the Word of God gathers the church and belongs to all God's people.

***HYMN #178** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* ST THEODULPH
PALM PROCESSIONAL United Church Choir and United Church School

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather together in this place.

People: Joyful as our palm branches fan the air in praise

Pastor: Filling this space with peace.

People: Waiting with great expectation to see Jesus, eager for a healing touch, a blessing received.

Pastor: We gather together in this place.

People: Joyful as our palm branches reach high with hope. Longing for a calm moment in the midst of pressing worry and hurry, longing for a message of welcome and acceptance on our journey.

Pastor: We gather together in this place.

People: Anxious as our palm branches lay still next to us, Questioning if we are able to walk with Jesus through the week ahead, through anguish, accusations, despair and darkness.

Pastor: We gather together in this place.

People: Waving branches of prayer. Walking toward Easter.

GATHERING MUSIC *Passion Chorale* Rebecca Groom Tevelde (b. 1956)

GATHERING PRAYER

Pastor: Dear God, we cry, Hosanna, O God in the highest!
How you come to us in ways we never expect. How is a king on a donkey?
How can a Savior be hung on a cross? How do we see you when we are only
trained to see defeat in these actions? In this week ahead will we see you with us,
among us? Will your message come through? Will the palms we wave with joy
today be thrown down tomorrow with doubt? May your Spirit guide us through
this Holiest of Weeks, beside us, around us, before and behind us, within us,
through this worship today and in the days to come. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Loving God, we confess that the streets of our lives are often crowded
with a parade mood filling the air masking a callous indifference and lukewarm
faith. Save us from thin hopes and small dreams, our cry is from the heart, from
our very soul.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Where and when we fail, God is there to make all things new. Where
and when we reach out with trembling hands and shaky hearts, God holds us
close and forgives all things. Go in the knowledge that you are forgiven and
cherished. Believe this not because I have said it, but because God promises to
each of us.

People: We believe. Thank you, God, for your grace. Amen

*** SUNG RESPONSE**

When Jesus Wept

WHEN JESUS WEPT

①
When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy
②
flowed be - yond all bound; when Je - sus groaned, a
③
④
trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round.

We Listen for God's Word

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

from the Gospels

Mark 11:1-11

Deacon, Jim Edwards

Pew Bible New Testament p47

CHILDREN'S SERMON

All children are invited to come forward to share in the Children's Circle.

Afterwards there is childcare downstairs for ages 5 and under and church school for kids ages six and above.

ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates

G. F. Handel (1685—1759)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

(Psalm 24: 7-10)

SERMON: The Passion Narratives Transitional Senior Minister Dr. Bonnie Scott

Mark 14 + 15

The Message Translation

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Reflection on "Were You There?" Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

We Respond

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you... *And also with you...* Let us pray...

- Louise Higginbotham on the death of her husband on April 2, 2019
- Congratulations to The Rev. Jocelyn B. Gardner Spencer on being called as our new Settled Pastor, and to our search Committee who did a remarkable job!
- Those who have a birthday this week, including Alston Balkcom.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father/Mother/God, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Peace be with you... *And also with you...*

Call to Action

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

Pastor: We have tasted of the Lord's goodness. And the sweetness is still on our lips. Now we permit ourselves to be living vessels of God's sweet, sweet Spirit, offering ourselves, our lives, and our gifts to those who are most in need of Christ's healing mercy.

OFFERTORY *How Blest Is He Who Comes* Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

Let us rejoice in Christ, whose Kingdom is at hand!
He comes to be the Lord of Life in ev'ry life and land.
Hosanna in the highest! How blest is he who comes!

When, lowly born, he came, for us condemned to die,
They brought him to Jerusalem with this triumphant cry:
Hosanna in the highest! How blest is he who comes!

Rejoice that now he comes to us in those who walk his way,
To make this stricken world his own, and ev'ry day his day.

Then let us yield to him the loyalty he claims,
And never cease to celebrate the Name above all names.
Hosanna in the highest! How blest is he who comes!

*HYMNAL #51 *All creatures of our God, now sing* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

LET ALL THINGS THEIR CREATOR BLESS,
AND WORSHIP GOD IN HUMBLENESS,
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!
O PRAISE THE ONE WHO GIVES US BIRTH,
REDEEMING, GIVING LIFE ITS WORTH,
O SING PRAISES, O SING PRAISES,
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING and COMMITMENT

Steward, Angelyn Singer - God bless these tithes and offerings, that they may heal and make whole the lives of all your children.

ALL: And bless those who give and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace and justice in the house of your creation. Amen.

We Are Sent Out

***HYMN #180**

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

MORNING SONG

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

The Royal Banners Forward Go

Wilbur Held

PLEASE BE SEATED UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE MUSIC

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Transitional Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott
Deacon	Jim Edwards
Steward	Angelyn Singer
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
United Church Choir	
YDS Intern	Maria Chen
Childcare Provider	Colleen O'Connor
Childcare Provider	She'mone Jenkins
Head Sexton	William Henton
Sexton	Brendan Linehan

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

- Apr 14th: 10:00AM** Worship at United Church
Palm Sunday and Heifer Collection
11:30AM Coffee Hour in the Bradley Room
12:30PM Second Service at United Church
12:30PM Yale Humanist Community Meeting at the Parish House
1:30PM Second Service Committee Meeting in the Bradley Room
4:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) at the Parish House
5:00PM Shalom Congregation Worship and Potluck at Parish House
- Apr 15th: 12Noon** AA at the Meeting House
- Apr 16th: 12Noon** AA at the Meeting House
12Noon Staff Meeting at the Parish House
- Apr 17th: 12Noon** AA at the Meeting House
6:30PM NA Speakers Group Meeting at the Parish House
7:30PM UCG Choir Rehearsal at the Meeting House
- Apr 18th: MAUNDY THURSDAY**
10:00PM Five for Five Crafts Group at the Parish House
12Noon AA at the Meeting House
6:30PM New Generation NA at the Parish House
6:30PM Shalom Maundy Thursday Service at the Parish House
7:30PM Maundy Thursday Services at United Church
- Apr 19th: GOOD FRIDAY**
12Noon AA at the Meeting House
6:00PM YHHAP at the Parish House
- Apr 20th: 5:00PM** YHHAP at the Parish House

CHURCH NOTES

Pastor Bonnie's Contact Information and Office Hours

Mondays: Sermon Drafting

Tuesdays: Office Hours

Wednesdays + Thursdays: Pastoral Calls and Visitation

(203) 787-4195 x104

dr.bonnie.scott@gmail.com

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Pastor Bonnie's Sermon Discussion Series: If you are interested in this Series, please contact the Pastor by phone or by email, so she can add you to the group. On Mondays, the Pastor will email the upcoming Sunday's scripture to the group. The group can then respond and join in the discussion by email.

Upcoming Surgery? New Baby or Grandchild? Moving? Death in the Family? If you've had a recent major life change, please contact the Pastor so that she can contact you and your family and provide appropriate Pastoral Care.

Dry Pasta - Food Donation of the Month Please bring in your food offering on Sunday, or drop it off at the Parish House during business hours. **In April + May, we are collecting: Dry Pasta.**

The Heifer International Project, helps families in developing countries earn a sustainable income. **We'll be collecting money for this important cause on Palm Sunday, April 14th (today).** This year while looking through the catalog Maria (our intern) found out that for only \$275 we could send a girl to school. Here is what it says - This gift makes it possible for families to send their girls to school with the help of livestock and the training to care for it. The extra income the animals provide helps pay for school fees and supplies. This gift will be a good way to remind us how much we take for granted here in the United States. Please remember to give generously.

Easter Flowers Dedication - Donate Easter flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones to decorate the United Church Meeting House during Easter. **Dedications must be sent to the office by Monday, April 15th, 2019.** The donation is \$20 per plant.

At United Church on the Green, we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, following in the footsteps of Jesus. We are also a progressive Protestant Christian church, a member of the nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

We have a long history.

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

We are working with God to build a better future.

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

Staff Contacts

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *transitional senior pastor*

Caesar Storlazzi, *director of music*

Betty Baisden, *director of the nursery school*

Jack Russell, *director of operations*

Nicole René Atchison, *church administrator*

Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

dr.bonnie.scott@gmail.com

music@unitednewhaven.org

ucnsnewhaven@yahoo.com

operations@unitednewhaven.org

office@unitednewhaven.org

bookkeeping@unitednewhaven.org

United Church on the Green, UCC

meeting house, *corner of Temple & Elm*

parish house office, *corner of Temple & Wall*

323 Temple St., New Haven, CT 06511

tel 203.787.4195

fax 203.772.7884

Worship Sundays @ 10:00am, corner of Temple & Elm

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