

PEACE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



April 14, 2019
Palm Sunday

Following The Way

(a Lenten Worship Series)

Again, this year we step on the path with Jesus as he makes his way to Jerusalem from Galilee. We call this time of journey – Lent. Our worship series during the six Sundays in Lent focus on this journey and how we might **Follow the Way** of Jesus. Each Sunday highlights a different aspect of the Way.

March 10. Teaching the Good News

March 17.

Eating together: caring for others

March 24. Praying together: a service of prayer and music (Taize)

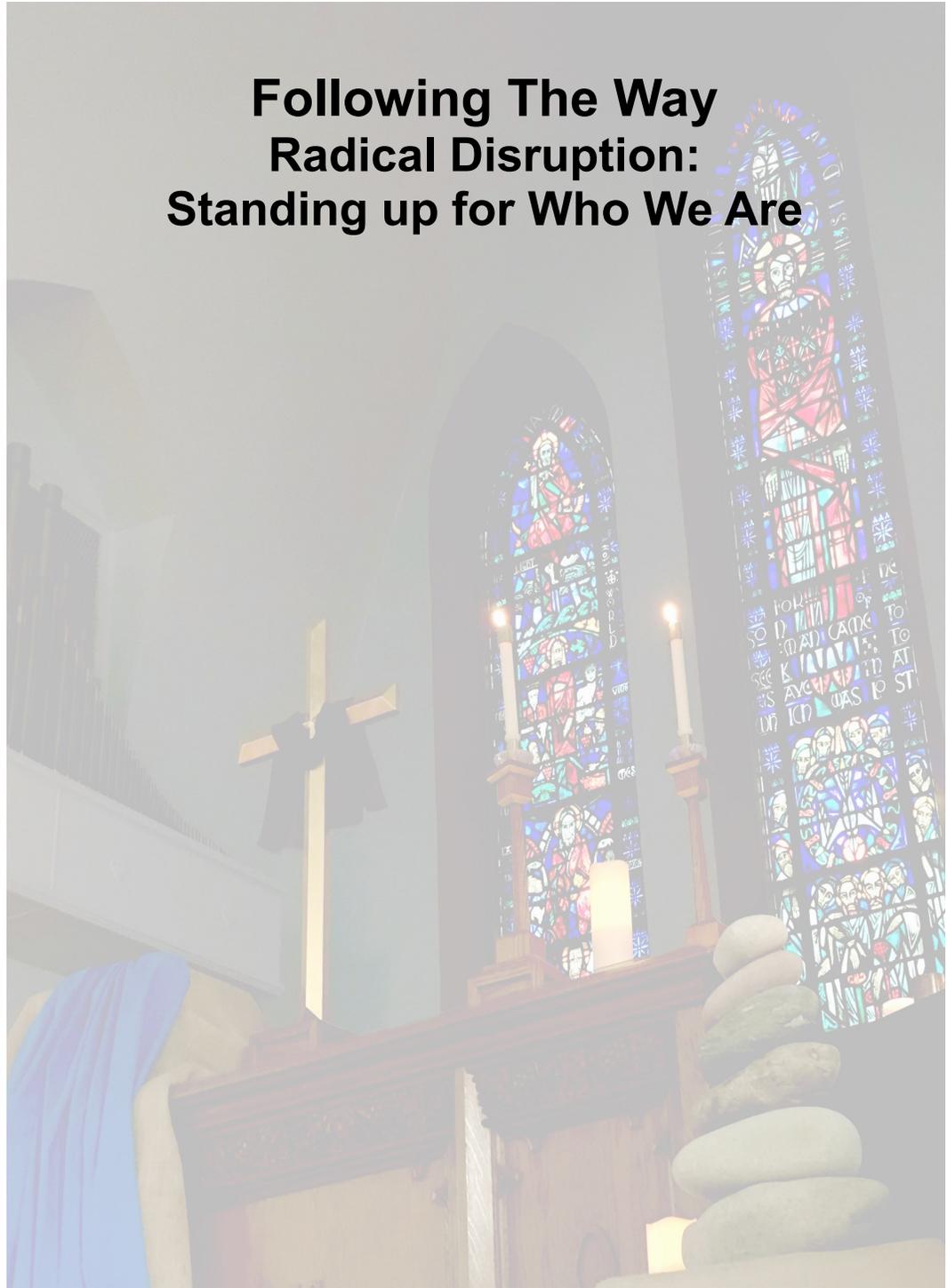
March 31. Inclusion: Affirmation of a diverse community

April 7. Restoring Community

April 14. Radical Disruption: Standing up for who we are

We know this path is not easy. We know where the journey took Jesus, and we know that **Following The Way** will indeed lead us on a similar trajectory. We also know that the fulfillment of God's Dream of Shalom (comprehensive well being) requires our participation on this journey.

Following The Way Radical Disruption: Standing up for Who We Are



The balanced stack of rocks, known as a cairn, has been used by many cultures over the centuries as a directional marker along a path. Our cairn today provides a simple, prayerful pause as well as direction for our journey in **Following the Way**.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS

Worship Ways

One: We gather together in this place.
 Many: **Raising our branches in joy!**
 One: Joining all who wish to see Jesus
 Many: **eager for a healing touch, a blessing received.**
 One: We gather together in this place.
 Many: **Raising our branches in hope!**
 One: Joining all who wish to hear Jesus
 Many: **longing for a message of welcome and acceptance on our journey.**
 One: We gather together in this place.
 Many: **Laying down our branches in fear.**
 One: Wondering if we are able to walk with Jesus
 Many: **through the week ahead, through anguish, accusations, despair.**
 One: We gather together in this place.
 Many: **Waving branches of prayer.**
 All: **Walking toward the Cross, and the empty tomb.**

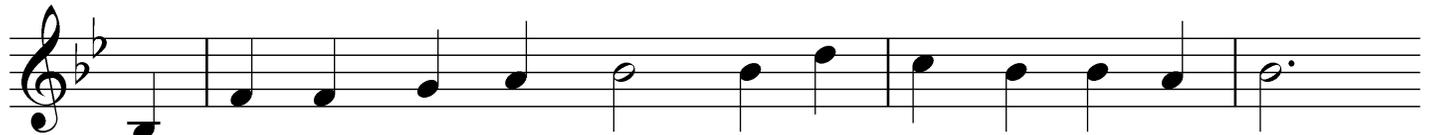
*OPENING HYMN NCH #216

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

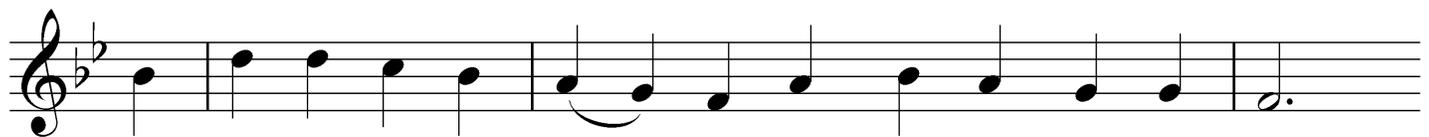
Tune: St. Theodulph



All glo - ry, laud and hon - or, to you O Christ, we sing,
 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da-vid's roy - al line,
 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 God, we sing,



Our prayer and praise 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!

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Hosanna, O God in the highest!
How you come to us in ways we never expect.
A king on a donkey?
A Savior on a cross?
How can we recognize 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 us, behind us and within us. We pray these things. Amen**

***RESPONSE**

“What Does the Lord Require?”

Jim Stratheed

The musical score is written for three voices in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of three staves each. The first system includes three numbered first endings: 1. 'What does the Lord re - quire of you?', 2. 'Jus - tice, kind - ness,', and 3. 'To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness'. The second system includes two first endings: 1. 'What does the Lord re - quire of you?' and 2. 'walk hum - bly with your God.' The lyrics are printed below the corresponding staves.

WORD IN SONG

8:30

“Blowin’ in the Wind”
Folk Choir

Bob Dylan

11:00

“Now is the Time”
Youth Choir

Jim Papoulis

SACRED READINGS

Mark 11:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’”

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out of the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What do you mean by untying that colt?”

They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

**“Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!
Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!”**

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Jesus lived and died in vain if he did not teach us to regulate the whole of life by the eternal law of love. **Thomas Merton**

Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world would do this, it would change the earth. We must always take sides. **John F. Kennedy**

We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. **Ellie Wiesel**

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. **Desmond Tutu**

One: For the marvelous blend of fact, myth, poetry, and story that is in scripture, we give thanks.

Many: **May the Spirit open us to the wisdom we most need to hear.**

SERMON

Rev. Wendy Bruner

***HYMN NCH #526**

“Siyahamba”

Tune: Siyahamba

(Phonetic Text) 1. See yah hahm buh koo kahn the
(English) 2. We are march - ing in the light of God.

See yah hahm buh Oo, see yah
We are march- ing Oo, we are

hahm buh koo kahn yen kwen kohs. march - ing in the light of God. (Repeat v.1)

You are invited to leave your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary.