



Trinitarian Congregational Church  
 United Church of Christ  
 Concord, Massachusetts  
 Palm Sunday  
 March 25, 2018

‘Taking up my cross’ means a life voluntarily surrendered to God.  
 – A. W. Pink

**SILENT PRAYER**

God of all time,  
 as we prepare to worship you today and this week,  
 help us to call to mind these events in Jesus’ life  
 so that we can see their significance for our present lives  
 and for the future you are preparing for all creation.  
 In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

18<sup>th</sup> c. German hymn tune  
 arr. Philip Moore (b. 1943)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 118 & Mark 11:1-11)

Voice One: Greetings, Everyone! *This* is the day that God has made.

**All: We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Voice Two: Today is also Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday – the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Prince of Peace. He and his followers stood at the gates of the Holy City as in Psalm 118. They were also standing at a crossroads in their mission.

**All: When we stand at a crossroads, we have a choice; we can celebrate what God has done or keep it to ourselves.**

Voice Three: *Jesus* chose to praise God for all the wonders accomplished during the three years that had led up to this moment. He decided to celebrate God’s Reign that day, with the crowds, in the streets and at the Temple.

Voice One: Jesus remembered the words of Psalm 118:  
 “God’s steadfast love endures forever!”

Voice One: Let this side of the sanctuary say:  
**Side One: “God’s steadfast love endures forever!”**

Voice Two: Let this side of the sanctuary say:  
**Side Two: “God’s steadfast love endures forever!”**

Voice Three: Let all of TriCon say:  
**All: “God’s steadfast love endures forever!”**

Voice Two: Jesus could have stayed away from Jerusalem, but he wanted to do what God wanted. So he followed the instructions that he, himself, had given to his disciples earlier; Jesus denied himself, took up his cross, and followed God’s leading.

Voice One: And the disciples followed *his* instructions; they found the donkey, untied it, explained the situation to the owners, and brought it to Jesus, giving this royal prophet a humble ride into town.

Voice Two: When this little band of followers arrived at the city gates, Jesus said:

Voice One: “Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may enter!”

Voice Three: Jesus wants to enter *this* sanctuary today, to worship and to celebrate all the good that God is doing with and through TriCon. We, too, are at a crossroads, and once again, we have a choice. We can welcome him or turn away the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Voice Two: It is up to us.

Voice One: If you wish to open yourselves to Jesus Christ during this worship service, please wave your palms and say:

**All: Welcome! Blessed is the One who comes in God’s name! Hosanna! We bless you from the house of the Lord!**

Voice Three: For *this* is the day that the Lord has made.  
**All: We will rejoice and be glad in it! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!**

**INTROIT AND PROCESSION OF PALMS** *Wave Your Branches* Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1962)  
 Senior Choir and Hosanna Singers with flutist Emily Roos

Wave your branches wave them high, Jesus now is riding by.  
 Wave your branches, shout and sing loud hosannas to your King.  
 Wave your branches, wave them now, with Jerusalem’s cheering crowd.  
 Wave your branches, shout and sing loud hosannas to your King.

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #88** (verses 1 & 2) All Glory, Laud & Honor *Valet will ich dir geben*  
 Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

**THE MESSAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN #89**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna  
 *Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

*Ellacombe*

(Children may leave for their Church School classes after the first verse.)

**WORDS OF WELCOME; OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY**

**READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

Luke 9:22-23

**HYMN**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus  
(The Choir sings this verse and the congregation repeats.)

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus – no turning back, no turning back. (Repeat)

**SERMON**

*Daily Cross – Everyday Choices* Robert Brown & Jean Vandergrift

(We will sing a verse of the hymn, *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, one verse at a time,  
between the movements of the sermon. For music see page 5 of bulletin.)

**1. Jesus anointed at Bethany – Mark 14:3-11**

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me – no turning back, no turning back.

**2. Jesus' prayer at Gethsemane – Mark 14:32-42**

Though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow,  
though none go with me, I still will follow – no turning back, no turning back

**3. Jesus on trial in Jerusalem – Mark 14:53-65 & 15:1-5**

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus? – No turning back, no turning back

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Silent Confession**

**Kyrie**

Choir: Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Choir: Christe eleison (Christ, have mercy)

Choir: Kyrie eleison

All: Kyrie eleison

All: Christe eleison

All: Kyrie eleison

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Prayer of Our Savior**

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 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.

**OFFERING OF GIFTS**

**Call to Stewardship**

**Offertory**

*Lord, Grant Us Your Peace*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us and grant us your peace.

Carlton Young (b. 1926)

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*HYMN #91**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty  
 *Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

*The King's Majesty*

**\*BENEDICTION**

One: The cross ...

Many: **We shall take it.**

One: The bread ...

Many: **We shall break it.**

One: The pain ...

Many: **We shall bear it.**

One: The joy ...

Many: **We shall share it.**

One: The gospel ...

Many: **We shall live it.**

One: The love ...

Many: **We shall give it! Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Innocent Lamb of God*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

\*The congregation is invited to stand.

† **Go Forth and Serve** †

**Leading Worship:** Rev. Robert Brown, Acting Senior Minister; Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift, Interim  
Minister for Spiritual Development and Congregational Life; Victoria Wagner, Director of Music;  
Mary Hennings, Liturgist.

## *Holy Week*

*Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 8:00 p.m.*

*Tenebrae Service*

*Music by the Senior Choir*

*Good Friday Service, March 30 at noon*

*EASTER SUNDAY, April 1*

*Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. at the North Bridge*

*A continental breakfast will be served at the church  
following this service.*

*Traditional Easter Services*

*9:00 and 11:00 a.m.*

*Rev. Robert Brown and Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift*

*Childcare for preschool children;*

*Older children are invited to attend worship with their families.*