

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
CANTON CENTER, CONNECTICUT  
(UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)**

**APRIL 17, 2011**

### **Words for Quiet Reflection**

*Hark! how the children shrill and high  
Hosanna cry,  
Their joys provoke the distant sky,  
Where thrones and seraphim reply,  
And their own angels shine and sing  
In a bright ring:  
Such young, sweet mirth  
Makes heaven and earth  
Join in a joyful symphony.  
- Henry Vaughan 1622-1695*

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

CHIMES

Kim Treadwell

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE

*Calvary*

-Carter

INTROIT

*Someone Song* (Nagy) Junior Choir; Betsy Ash, director

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsive**)

We gather together in this place.

**Joyful as our palm branches fan the air in praise**

Filling this space with peace.

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

We gather together in this place.

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.**

We gather together in this place.

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.**

We gather together in this place.

Waving branches of prayer.

**Walking toward Easter.**

HYMN 191 (*Chalice*)

Ride on, Ride on, in Majesty!

***Congregation please remain seated  
for the children's processional***

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in **unison**) followed by

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using **debts** and **debtors**)

**God of mercy, enter into our hearts and help us to be humble, loving people. Forgive us when we allow our desire to be praised to distract us from caring for the least, the last and the lost of this world. Help us to journey downward, leaving behind selfish pride, and turning to you as the source of our affirmation and strength. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, *Our Father...***

\*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice #35*)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***The children will be dismissed to their classrooms.***

OFFERTORY

*Trust and Obey*

-Tower/Helman

Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir

\*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice #46*)

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God of glory and majesty: We have stood with the crowds to sing your praises, and then we've been lured to other devotions. Yet you have with passion and compassion embraced us once again as your children. We pray that these gifts that we bring and the gifts of our hearts on this special day may be worthy in your sight. We pray with humble hope that we might be your steadfast disciples in our homes, our church, our community, our nation, and our world. Amen.**

**PALM SUNDAY CANTATA: *WE WERE THERE***

By Pepper Choplin

Performed by the Senior Choir

ANTHEM

*Were You There?* (arr. Lantz)

READING

**Matthew 26: 6 - 13**

ANTHEM *Holy Love*

READING **Matthew 26: 17 - 35**

ANTHEM *Christ Is Our Brother*

READING **Matthew 27: 27 - 54**

ANTHEM *Surely This Was the Son of God*

READING **Matthew 27: 55 - 56**

ANTHEM *How Can It Be*

READING **Matthew 27: 57 - 61**

ANTHEM *Still My Son*

READING **Matthew 26: 69 - 75**

ANTHEM *Were You There?* (arr. Lantz)

READING **Isaiah 53: 1 - 12**

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* -arr. Burkhardt

***Our Worship is Ended... The Service Now Begins***

(\*All who are able, please stand)

## FROM THE PASTOR

Today is Palm Sunday - the beginning of Holy Week. This week brings Jesus' ministry to its climax. After being proactive for so long, he **allows** himself to be handed over. Jesus becomes passive. Things are **done** to Jesus rather than Jesus doing them himself. He is edged out of the world and on to a cross. The entry into Jerusalem begins the handover process. A humble donkey carries him into the city that will crucify him. The crowd goes wild but what is it that excites them? Not somebody whose way is one of service and sacrifice. They think he is a mighty leader in the style of King David and he has to put up with that misperception. Control freaks, now as then, find it hard to hand over their power. Nevertheless, through martyrdom and other costly forms of loving, Christ's followers throughout time have recognized that Jesus is saying to them, "This is the way." Through the events of Palm Sunday and Holy Week we are forced to face the reality that we are hardly ever in control. We do not so much find the way but rather the way finds us.

Blessings and peace

*Rev. Rushan*

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

**Maundy Thursday Worship**, April 21, 7:30pm

**Good Friday**, April 22, 10:00am to 1:00pm  
Sanctuary will be open for personal  
meditation, contemplation and prayer.

**Easter Sunday**, April 24, 9:00am and 10:30am  
Two worship services. No Church School.  
Child Care provided for 9:00am service.

## MUNSON'S CANDY IS HERE!

Pick up your candy order  
in the Parish Hall after worship today.

## TALENT SHOW - PLEASE SIGN UP!

Talent Show, May 1, sign up at the table after worship  
to attend, and/or to provide lunch casseroles.

Wider Church Fellowship events coming up

## MOVIE ("Up") & PIZZA NIGHT

**Friday, April 29, 5:30pm**

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** at the Warner Theater

**Sunday, May 15, 2:00pm**

A job description for the position of **Church Secretary** is available on request. Contact the Pastor, First Congregational Church, 184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center, CT 06020 or by e-mail to [pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org).

**TODAY**

**Church School Palm  
Processional Assembly, 9:55am**  
in the Parish Hall

**SYF Meeting, 10am, Corner  
Room**

**Palm Sunday Potluck, after  
worship**

**Cherub Choir: 11:15am**

**Junior Choir: 11:30am**

**Deadline** for submitting items  
for the May issue of *The  
Churchmouse*

**Jazz Vespers, 5:00pm**

**MONDAY**

**Senior Choir: 6:45pm**

**TUESDAY**

**Pastor's Book Study, 10:30am**

**WEDNESDAY**

**Bell Choir, 7:00pm**

**THURSDAY**

**Maundy Thursday worship,  
7:30pm**

**FRIDAY**

**Sanctuary open, 10am to 1pm**

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**Easter Sunday Worship  
Services, 9:00am and 10:30am.**  
**Church School classes will not  
meet. Child care at 9am service.**

**PALM SUNDAY  
POTLUCK  
today after worship  
All are welcome.**

**WEEKLY OFFERING  
REPORT  
April 10, 2010**

Weekly Amount needed... \$ 5,465  
Last Week's Offering.....\$ 2,959

**YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERING  
REPORT**

through April 10, 2011  
Amount needed for Budget...\$ 81,275  
Year-to-date received.....\$ 50,758

We are very grateful for all who share  
in a generous way their Time, Talent  
& Treasure. Some do little things on a  
regular basis and others share in  
different ways. All contribute to  
building up the life of faith and the life  
of this community. Thank you for your  
continued giving and thank you to all  
of you who keep up with your pledges  
while you are traveling. Your support  
is appreciated.

## WELCOME

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Thank you for the gifts and the spirit you have brought to our time together and to our time of worship. Your presence and participation are an important part of shaping this experience of worship. Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!

If you are a guest here today, we would love for you to become a regular part of what God is doing in and through this church community. If you have any questions about this community, please ask the Pastor. Also, please let us know you were here by filling in the friendship card in your pew and placing it in the offering basket, or give it to a greeter.

**After Worship:** Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall, stay around for the potluck, visit with friends and meet someone new!

**Large print copies** of today's bulletin are available on the ushers' tables in the back of the church. Large print editions of the *Chalice Hymnal* are also available for use during worship.

**Nursery Care** is available in the lower level of the Parish House.



**The flowers** today are given by Michael and Linda Scarchuk in celebration of their family.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray
Director of Christian Education & Youth	Sarah W. LeGeyt
Organist, Director of Music	Mary Lou Keefe
Duty Deacons	Joan Colglazier and Larry Minichiello
Dave Heyer	Duty Trustee
Charlie and Marlene Whitney	Greeters

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