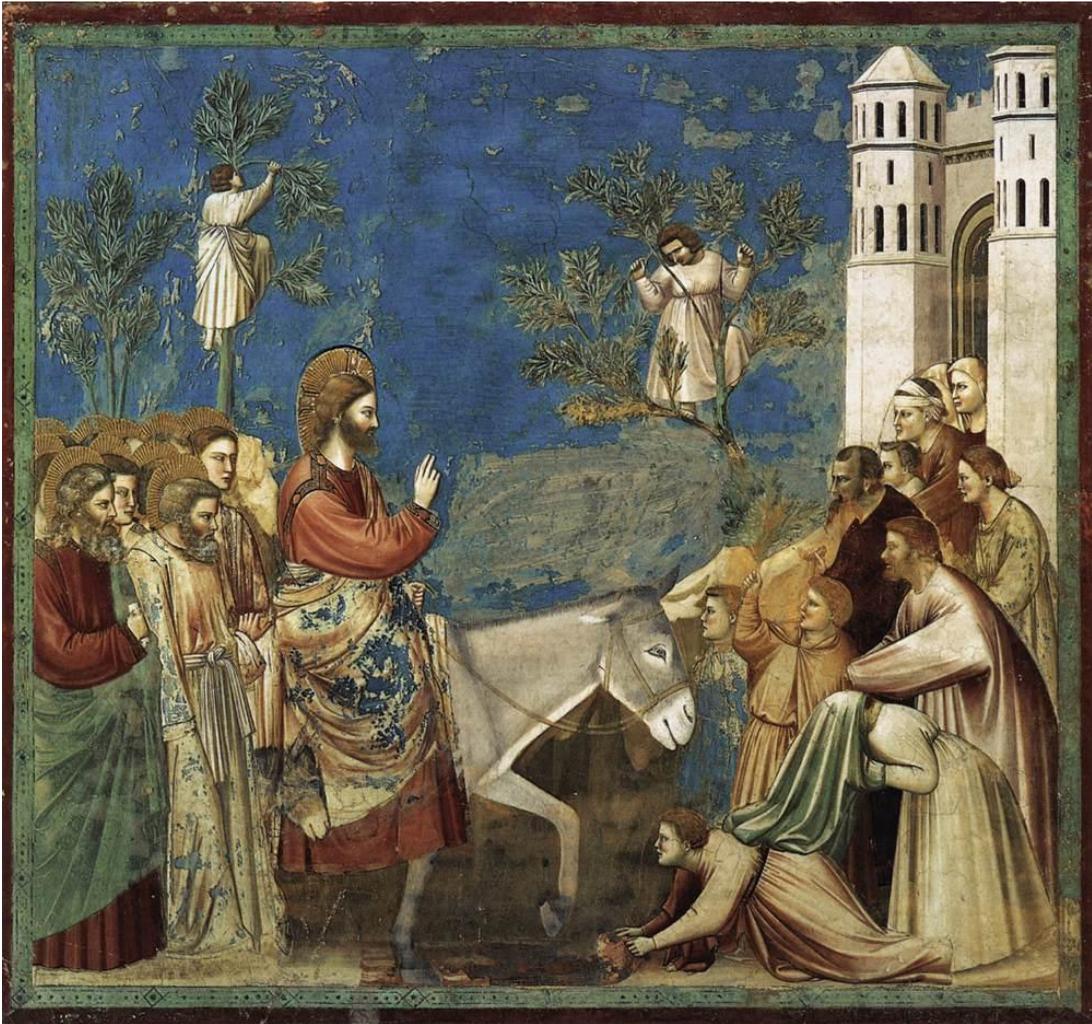




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



MARCH 25, 2018
PALM SUNDAY

Welcome

Please silence cell phones upon entering the sanctuary.

Children in Worship

Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Bags for children are located at the back of the church: teal bags for 2-5 years, navy blue for 6-10 years. We offer childcare in our professionally staffed nursery in our downstairs nursery for children ages infancy through 6 years old.

Sunday School

All are welcome to join us for weekly Sunday School in the Christian Education wing located on the lower level. Preschool through adult Sunday morning learning is offered at 9am.

Sunday Brunch

Please join us for fellowship after worship in the Son Cafe after worship. Today's menu: Pancakes with toppings, fruit, ham and sausage, and toaster items.

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, (309)-762-0787 or email craig@fccmoline.org.

Wi-Fi Password

Welcome!

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Open and Affirming

We are an ONA church, please visit fccmoline.org/ona

Cover Art

The Entry into Jerusalem, Giotto, 1266?-1337

Today from the life of the church

When we are really honest with ourselves, we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are.

- Cesar Chavez

Observe those who hold erroneous opinions concerning the grace of Jesus Christ, which has come to us, and see how they run counter to the mind of God! They concern themselves with neither works of charity, nor widows, nor orphans, nor the distressed, nor those in prison or out of it, nor the hungry or thirsty.

- Ignatius of Antioch Second Century

"Change and decay--in all around I see," we cheerfully sang in my days as a choirboy. Another stanza should have taught us this lesson: it is not only beauty and life that disappear in the cycle of time. Pain too passes, along with heartbreak, fear, and sickness. In a world doomed to fragility, death itself shall someday die.

- Robert Griffith

May my song rise like incense in thy presence. And for us may it be a perfume of consolation, of goodness and grace, so that these fumes will drive out every phantom from the mind and body, leaving us as the Apostle Paul phrased it, smelling sweetly of God. May all the attacks of demons fly from this incense, like dust before the wind, like smoke before the dancing flames.

- Anglo-Saxon blessing of incense

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

And the disciples began to rejoice and praise God saying, Hosanna!

Hosanna to the son of David

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the Kingdom of our father David that is coming!

Hosanna!

Hosanna in the highest!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Our Father, as we on this day keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into Jerusalem: Grant us we pray, that now and ever he may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of grace and glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full and joyful honor to him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

#88, *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

PALM PARADE

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace us in your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, forgive us.

Silence

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.

We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence

We acted when we knew better.

Silence

We were still when we should have moved.

Silence

**For the wrong we have done, for the good we failed to do,
have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

***SONG OF PRAISE**

Give Me A Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings.
Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low you.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare,

"God's mercy endures forever."

Open for me the gates of righteousness,

I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

"This is the gate of the LORD;

here the righteous may enter."

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me

and you have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done.

it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosanna! O Lord, save us!

We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and has given us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

You are my God, I will thank you

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good

God's mercy endures forever.

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Shout! Sing! Celebrate!, by Joel Raney

***GOSPEL**

LUKE 19:29-40

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Craig Jan-McMahon

***HYMN**

#81, *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna arr. Arnold B. Sherman

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God From whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

#489, *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

***BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**



*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Don and Margaret Watt, George and Katherine Staat and Willis and Josephine Watt
Given by Barbara Watt Johnson*

SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Tami Marshall

Kathy Harris

Mary Cox

Kerry Johnson

Noah Johnson

Lector

Audra Bailey

Liturgist

Mary Newcomb

Bell Ringer

Andrew Michl

North Door Greeters

Cliff Carlson, Heather Carlson

Sound Tech

Bill Henning

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC STAFF

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Michael Swartz, *Associate Pastor*

Maureen Holmes, *Chancel Choir Director*

Mason Moss, *Interim Organist/Pianist*

Gail Glockhoff-Long, *Campanella Ringers Director*

Jennifer Dailing, *Office Assistant*

Amber Moore, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

Becca Peterson, *Director of Family Ministry*

Sara Otta, *Finance Manager*

Wes Llewellyn, *Fellowship Coordinator*

Harleigh Jones, *Nursery Coordinator*

Amanda Peterson, *Red Wagon Preschool Director*

Mike DeToye and Ron Mahar, *Custodians*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gathered to Share God's Love