

The CHURCH of the COVENANT

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018, 10:00 AM

PALM SUNDAY

**All who are able are invited to stand.*



THE MCGAFFIN CARILLON

GEORGE LEGGIERO

WELCOME

THE REV. AMY STARR REDWINE

LITURGY OF THE PALMS AND PROCESSION

All are invited to gather on the front lawn of the church.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

MINDY STEWART

One: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; let the faithful come and worship God, singing loud Hosannas!

* HYMN 88

All Glory, Laud and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* CALL TO CONFESSION

KIM ALMCRANTZ

* CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

KIM ALMCRANTZ, LAY WORSHIP LEADER

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you: we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, our faith is often more show than substance, our hearts are in need of cleansing. There have been times we have observed lives falling apart and we did not inquire. We have been quick to speak and slow to listen. We have allowed communities to form with many pathways to violence, but few pathways to peace. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises and to receive us as your own as we silently confess our sins.

* PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN *(in silence)*

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the Good News! In our savior Jesus – the one who gives us hope and unites us together – we are restored, renewed and forgiven. Believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* RESPONSE

APPALACHIAN FOLK MELODY

You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy! You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 50:4-9

ANTHEM

Hosanna! Blessed Is He!

ARR. HAL HOPSON

The Children's and Covenant Choirs

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang. To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

"Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song is ours. We hail him our redeemer, and sing with all our powers; Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

KEVIN LOWRY

PARTING RESPONSE

Go with Us, Lord

TALLIS CANON

All are invited to sing as the children and youth depart for Sunday School.

HYMN 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
That in your spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

SECOND LESSON

MARK 11:1-11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God in an Apron

THE REV. MELANIE MARSH BAUM

* HYMN 76

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

JOYS AND CONCERNS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

THE REV. AMY STARR REDWINE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND PETITION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

CONGREGATIONAL AMEN

THOMAS PAVLECHKO



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

OFFERTORY

Meditation on the Passion Chorale

ARR. SONDRRA K. TUCKER

The Beckwith Handbells

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

TAIZÉ CHANT

**How blest are you who are poor; the kingdom of God is yours.
How blest are you who are poor; the kingdom of God is yours.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*LITANY FOR HOLY WEEK

One: Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed you as our hero.

All: Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.

Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.

Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide we can take care of ourselves.

Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.

Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.

Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we've never met you.

Today we have stared at you with the star struck eyes of fans and groupies.

Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because it's painful to see you on the cross.

Today we have expressed our hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.

Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.

Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Stay with Me

TAIZÉ CHANT

All are invited to sing in harmony.

Stay with me; re - main here with me; watch and
pray. Watch and pray.

CARILLON POSTLUDE

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

MUSIC REHEARSAL, Sanctuary, 8:00

CRÈCHE NURSERY, Education Wing, 9:30

WORSHIP, Sanctuary, 10:00

YOUTH CHOIR/SUNDAY SCHOOL, Ed Wing, 10:15

FELLOWSHIP, Narthex and Reception Room, 11:00

DOWD COMMONS UPDATE, Lower Level, 11:15

ADULT FORUM, Family Promise, 11:30

DWELLERS, Living Room, 12:00

CLEVELAND GUITAR, Living Room, 1:15

QUEER SPIRIT, Living Room, 3:00

VESPERS, Living Room, 5:00

WELCOME UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS!

Join us in the main entrance after worship for a time of fellowship.

To learn more: KLowry@CovenantWeb.org, 216.421.0482, ext. 236; CovenantStudentMinistries.org.

☞ **DOWD COMMONS UPDATE:** Meet Stephen Wonnell from Interfinish interior services and hear an update on the renovations that are transforming our lower level into the Dowd Commons. Head downstairs to the dining room after worship.

☞ **THIS WEEK AT COVENANT:** **Tuesday:** Staff Meeting, Office, 9:30 am; Bible Study, Library, 11 am; Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7 pm; **Wednesday:** Food Pantry, Office, 10 am-12 pm; Connection Center open, 12-5 pm; Twelve Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30-6:30 pm; Maundy Thursday Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 pm; **Thursday:** Connection Center and Student Food Pantry open, 12-5 pm; Friends of McGaffin Carillion Board Meeting, Herrick Room, 4 pm; Connect (college student meal and fellowship), Connection Center/Living Room, 5:30-6:30 pm; Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm; **Friday:** Food Pantry, Office Area, 10 am; Lower Level Meeting, Library, 10 am; Good Friday Service, Sanctuary, 12noon; Connection Center open, 12-5 pm; Restore Yoga, Creche, 4 pm; **Saturday:** Choir and Brass Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 9 am; Cleveland Guitar Orchestra, Choir Room, 9:30 am – 1 pm, Meditation Group, Herrick Room, 4 pm.

☞ **OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER** is Kim Almcrantz, a junior computer science major at CWRU. She is originally from Santa Barbara, California. She is a member of student ministry leadership team. Kim will be interning at LinkedIn this summer in California.

☞ **USHERS TODAY** are John Bromelmeier, Jim Greene, Suchi Nelson, Russell Hack, and Chris & Marilyn Langmack. Greeting are Helen Kunsman and Arnie & Susan Dahm.

☞ **MUSIC NOTES:** On this Palm Sunday, our full complement of music ensembles celebrate both the festive entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as well as the unfolding events of the Passion narrative. Hal Hopson's arrangement of the hymn "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" brings together the children's choir along with the Covenant choir in a festive responsorial anthem. The handbell choir presents a tranquil meditation on the Passion Hymn, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded." (hymn #98). In preparation for the upcoming services of Holy Week, our service concludes with a Taizé refrain on the text of Jesus spoken to his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Stay with me, watch, and pray."

☞ **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** Today we will participate in the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing. In addition to your regular gifts and pledges, we invite you take part in this church-wide special offering, collected annually between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. You can give using the special OGHs envelopes in the pews, by using your regular church offering envelope with the note, 'One Great Hour of Sharing 2018', or Text 'SHARING' to 56512 for mobile giving.

☞ **ADULT EDUCATION TODAY** Join us for the final Forum in our Lenten "Going Out" series. We will travel to be with our neighbors at Family Promise of Greater Cleveland, share a pizza lunch with the resident families, and have a tour of their facility. Family Promise is located at 3470 East 152nd Street, Cleveland 44120. Parking for visitors is available in the lot off of E. 150th St.

☞ **WE PRAY FOR** Judy Bourne, Akeya Clark (Marie Jones' niece), Connie Brand, Rachel Clevenger, Marlene Finkenthal (David Finkenthal's mother), Chick Holtkamp, Dee Hough, Shaun Kuter, Elizabeth Mierke, Greg Madison, Ward Porch, Sue Salvator, Liam Stewart & Emilee Stewart (Mindy Stewart's nephew and sister), Louise Wolfcale, Gabriel (Jenny Conner's grand-nephew) and Ray Tomko & Helen Kaweck (Nick Tomko's grandparents).

☞ **MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY** We will hold a Maundy Thursday communion service in remembrance of the Last Supper on March 29th at 7:30 PM and a Good Friday service reflecting on the seven last words of Christ on March 30th at 12noon. Join us as we reflect on the love, service, and sacrifice of Christ in preparation for receiving the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

☞ **EASTER BREAKFAST** Our Annual Easter Breakfast will take place in the Living Room on Easter Sunday, April 1st from 8:30-9:30am. Ministry of Service is working in partnership with Covenant Student Ministries to serve a pot-luck style community meal. Community members are invited to bring cooked breakfast items to share for the meal. Continental breakfast items including pastries, fruit, and hard-boiled eggs will be provided. Contact Kevin Lowry or Melanie Marsh Baum for details.

☞ **APOSTLES BUILD, THURSDAY, APRIL 5 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 9:00AM-3:00PM** Join us again this year (our fourth!) to help rehab houses through the Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build. Our first two workdays of the year are fast approaching on April 5 and 7. This year we will be working to rehab a house in the West Park neighborhood on the west side of Cleveland. As the first group to work on the house, we plan to get it off to a great start. Please sign up in the church office if you are interested in working on the house or providing a group lunch, for either or both of these days. Talk with Jim Prince for more information.

☞ **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 8 immediately following worship for the for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, trustees, and officers of the society (church).

