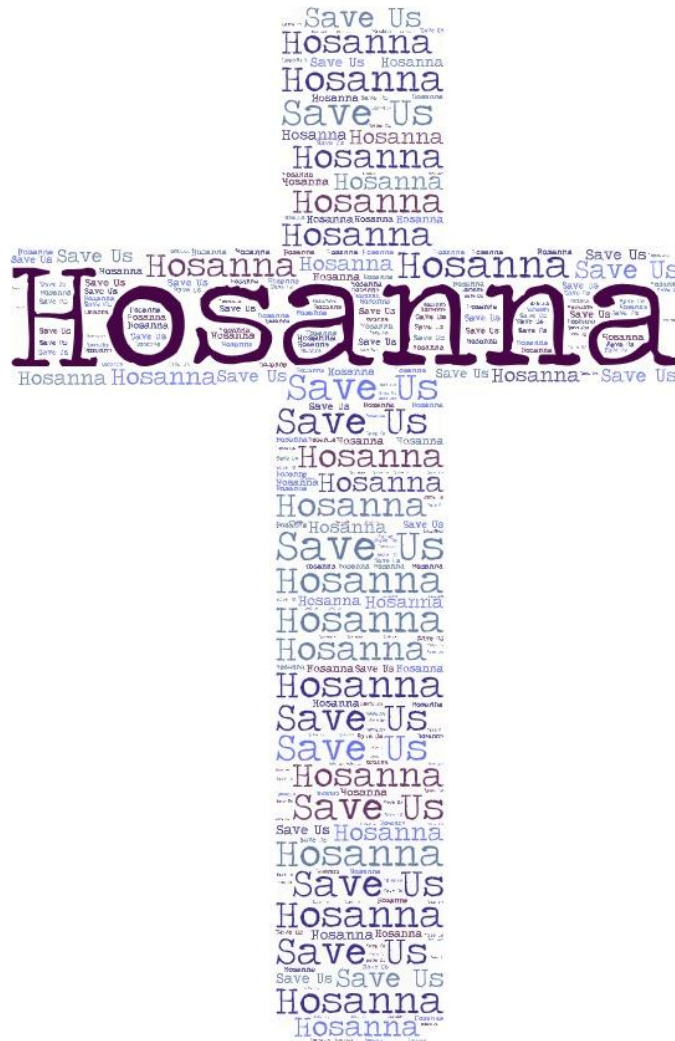


April 13, 2025 ~ 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



1031 S. Euclid Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237 ~ (941) 953-7044

www.uccsarasota.com

April 13, 2025

9:00a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Thank you to **Barb Brady & Tropex** (3220 Whitfield Ave.) for the beautiful palms and plants today. Flowers given by: **June Wolgemuth & Ed DuPree** to celebrate their 40th Anniversary

PRELUDE

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs

by Evan Gopely

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For those who seek a safe space for God to shape us into the sacred, we whisper this word to our shy souls.

Many: (softly) Hosanna!

One: With the ancestors who gathered on a dusty road to Jerusalem, we gain courage and conviction to say,

Many: (bit louder) Hosanna!

One: For a world that is too often filled with Good Friday moments, we break open our hearts in prayer and praise.

Many: (full voice) Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

*HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#213

“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang; through pillar 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.

“From Olivet, they followed, amid a cheering crowd, the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state, and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey’s gait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours. We hail our great 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!”

*OPENING PRAYER

God with this green palm branch in our hand, we offer a heartfelt, earnest, honest prayer, “Hosanna”! Save us, O God, from all the voices would deny or diminish all which is made in Your image. Save us, O God, from the color commentary in our minds that constantly point to our fumbles and bumbles. Save us, O God, from ways we lash out at others, because we are unsure if Your love is enough. Save us, not only from that which hurts and harms, save us for a world You continue to sing into being. In this holiest week, on this rollercoaster of emotions, when we want to fast forward to Easter lilies and Alleluias. Slow us down to a donkey’s gait and pace to encounter You in all that we experience, feel, sing, hear, and hold. In the name of the One who goes before, beside, and behind us every minute this week, Jesus our Christ. Amen.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

SERMON

Blessed Borrowing

OFFERING/ANTHEM

Alleluia

By Elaine Hagenburg

Deb Smith, piano accompanist

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and SUNG 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. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (Repeat)
Alleluia, sing praises to the Lamb, Alleluia, Gloria! Alleluia, we worship and adore;
Alleluia to the Lord! (Repeat)**

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! The people of the Hebrews, with palms adorned your way; our praise and prayer and anthems, we offer you this day.

O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line, the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine, To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today, whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway. All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Concerto for Horn & Orchestra
Melvin Jackson, Horn

W.A. Mozart

9:00 a.m. Ushers: *Phil Swain & Chuck Jarman*

11:00 a.m.

Liturgist: *Carol McCloud*

Greeters/Ushers: *David Abel, Karen Abel, Jan Andersen, Ed Andersen, Jerry Oliver, Dick Miller*

Bus Driver: *Sandy & Andre Plette*

Emergency: *Diane Miller*

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ April 13, 2025

Last day for an Easter Lily form to help decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday. You can also call Zooey in the church office. The cost is \$15 per plant.

HOLY WEEK 2025

Maundy Thursday, April 17th, 2025 ~ Maundy Thursday, at 6 p.m., in the Sanctuary **and online** ~ members of the Worship Team will share the story of the Last Supper, according to St. Matthew. Dr. Marsha Kindall-Smith will offer special music, and holy communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday, April 18th, 2025 ~ Good Friday, at noon, in the Sanctuary. Pastor Wes will preach on St. Matthew's narrative of God's vulnerable love suffering on the cross and the tears in things. We will conclude the service outside, beneath the cross of Jesus.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20th, 2025 ~ Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed!!

Alleluia! BOTH Services in the Sanctuary. We welcome special guest musicians ~ brass and percussion from the Sarasota Orchestra ~ along with our amazing choir, to help us lift our voices high. Pastor Wes will preach on Matthew's resurrection narrative.

Drumming as Spiritual Practice ~ April 15th, at 3 p.m., at the Chapel. Drums provided. New drummers welcome. Contact Lindsey Huddleston at (630) 338-9294.

Book Release Celebration ~ April 15th, 4-5 p.m, at Bookstore 1 Sarasota. Join **Pat Williams Owen** for a book release celebration of her most recent book of poetry. The event is free and open to all. Pat Williams Owen is the author of four poetry books, including *The Crossroad* (Shadeland House Modern Press, 2025), *Bardo of Becoming* (Accents Publishing, 2022), *Orion's Belt at the End of the Drive* (Accents Publishing, 2019), and *Crossing the Sky Bridge* (Larkspur Press, 2016). Her work has appeared in *Gulf Stream Magazine*, *Highland Park Poetry*, *The Hong Kong Review*, *The Louisville Review*, *Raven's Perch*, other print and online literary journals, and several anthologies.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, April 19th. Coffee is ready at 8 a.m., and breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m. Come for the fellowship and chance to connect with others. Call Zooey in the church office to RSVP.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted. Visit www.uccsarasota.com to view the new look and/or apply. The deadline for completed applications is **April 15th.**

Sacred Conversations on Race ~ On April 23rd: "Police Brutality and the Less Conspicuous Ways Racism Kills" - TED Talk by Oscar Holmes IV.

Glenn Priest will offer a free concert on **Sunday, April 27th, at 4 p.m.,** in the Sanctuary, with a reception to follow. Glenn's last Sunday with us is May 4th. Please bring a card of gratitude for all the ways Glenn has shared and shined his light! Stephen Fancher will be with us, beginning Sunday, May 11th through June 8th.

Pastor Wes will be away on continuing education on April 21st-25th. He will be spending the week at Montreat Retreat Center in North Carolina with pastors. Please keep Wes in your prayers. If you have a pastoral concern, please call the church office.

April 27th, we will celebrate Earth Day, with our Green Team leading worship.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 13~ Palm Sunday! ~ Glenn Priest, Organist

9 a.m. ~ Morning Service, Sanctuary

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online ~ Melvin Jackson, horn player

Noon ~ **COLLAGE ~ Report from Tallahassee**

Monday, April 14

Prayer Team Meeting, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Food and Hunger Group, 1:30 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Wednesday, April 16

Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Chapel

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Service, 6 p.m., Sanctuary and online

Friday, April 18

Good Friday Service, 12 p.m., Sanctuary and online

Saturday, April 19

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Syster Hall

Sunday, April 20~ Easter Sunday ~ Glenn Priest, Organist and Brass

9 a.m. ~ Morning Service, Sanctuary ~ Sarasota Brass and percussion

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online ~ Sarasota Brass and percussion

Noon ~ **Followship Time**

Pastor Wes away on continuing education April 21st-25th.