



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820
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March 29, 2015
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

March 29, 2015

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Children are always welcome at our worship services.

A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger
at the new Two's classroom starting at 9:45 a.m.

****Those that are able are invited to stand.***

PRELUDE

Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #197**

“AT THE NAME OF JESUS”

(omit verse 3)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Open to us the gates of righteousness,
that we may enter and give God praise.

**Our gathering is the gate of the Lord;
all who hunger for God shall enter it.**

Our king comes to us, triumphant;
riding on the colt foal of a donkey.

**All this is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Let us all keep our gaze on Jesus,
blazing a way never walked before.

**He endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

***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.

***GLORIA PATRI**



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

Today, the children will be learning about Holy Week.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

COLOSSIANS 1.15-25

Lou Converse, Deacon (8:30)
Karen Brennan, Deacon (10:00)

***HYMN #175**

“RIDE ON, RIDE ON IN MAJESTY!”

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 11.1-11

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: “GREAT TEXTS, CORE TRUTHS”

Rev. Rosenberger

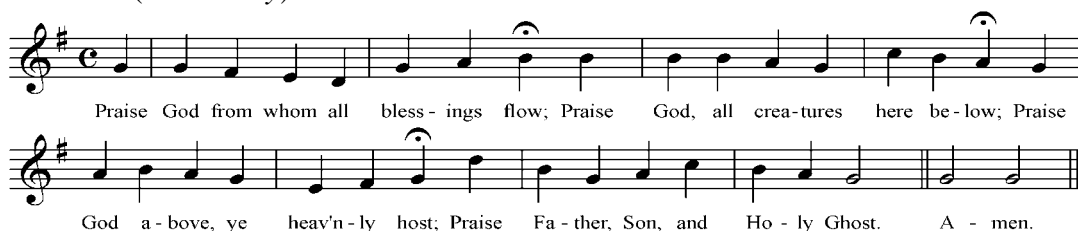
PART SIX - “WE LOOK TO JESUS TO SEE THE FACE OF GOD”

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

“THE PALMS”
Senior Choir

J.B. Faure

***DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)**



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise
God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (10:00 only)**

(unison)

Our hearts would not withhold our devotion to you, O God. Neither would our hands cling to retain for ourselves that which you summon us to share. May these gifts signify our commitment to follow Jesus Christ, our willingness to trust his grace, so far beyond our own sense of what is needed to heal this broken world. We find our hope in your way. Amen.

***HYMN #155**

“ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR”

(at this time, the children of our Church School will distribute palms to the congregation)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Maxim Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S GREETERS are the Adams family; Ben, Kim, Chloe and Carter.

TODAY'S USHERS Karen Brennan, Lou Converse (8:30), Gary Holmes and Michael Mullin.

CHURCH CALENDAR

For Holy Week Services and Events, see page 8

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Knitting Ministry, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

No Bible Study
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Third Grade Communion Sunday

It's almost that wonderful time of year again when our lucky third graders get to embark on a new religious journey. All third graders are invited to learn all about the communion process in our church. It will begin with two classes, held during Church School on **Sunday, April 19th and April 26th** where they will talk about the communion process, create projects and even try breads from all around the world! We will then have a special 11th hour meeting with Rev. Dale Rosenberger on **April 26th** directly following service, where the children will see first-hand how the communion table is set up and listen to Dale speak about our church's beliefs. There will also be an opportunity at the end of this meeting to ask any questions you or your children may have. Finally, on **May 3rd** the third graders will be asked to stay with the congregation for communion where they will have "front row seats" for the special occasion. If you have a 3rd Grader and you would like to participate, please contact Kate Nelson at KNelson@uccdarien.org. Please note that the first Communion class falls on the Sunday coming back from April vacation.

Easter Service Childcare

This year, we will be offering nursery care and Church School for children in Second Grade and below. If you prefer to keep your little ones with you please do so. This is completely optional. We will have one room dedicated to Easter crafts and another room for the Veggie Tales movie, "An Easter Carol". The nursery room will be available starting at 8:45am and 10:45am and will be staffed with a parent volunteer along with teens. If you would like to either volunteer or have any additional questions, please contact Kate Nelson at KNelson@uccdarien.org.

Darien House Tour

We happily invite you to come join us on the House Tour Committee!
Please come see what part you would like to play with our exciting new fundraiser!
Next meeting – April 7, at 9:30 a.m.

Do you have a special skill or connection you would like to contribute to the House Tour?
If so, we are seeking special donations for our Silent Auction! Please contact Karalesa DiFabio at Karalesa@gmail.com or call 917-847-7252

Knitting Ministry Schedule

The Knitting Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, March 31st at 7:30 P.M. in the Morehouse Room. Anyone interested in learning to crochet and/or knit is welcome to join the group. If there are questions, call Marnie Hodil at (203) 655-0888 or e-mail at grhodil@optonline.net.

Give the Gift of Family Time to a Fresh Air Child This Summer

Please consider welcoming an inner city child in your homes and hearts this summer and providing them with an experience they will never forget. By having them take part in your family life and the Darien community with all that it has to offer, hosting a Fresh Air child is often just as enriching and rewarding for the families as it is for the child. The weeks for our area are flexible throughout the summer (you can take a child for five days, 10 days, or two weeks) and there are no financial requirements for hosting a child. You can request the gender and approximate age of the Fresh Air child you would like to host. **On Thursday, April 9, there will be an information night at the Darien Library from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Bring your entire family and come learn about the program. Or reach out to two of our own FCC families -- the Brennans at KBrennan15@aol.com or the Foxes at emkfox@optonline.net. Both have been hosting children for multiple summers and can tell you lots about the program!

Tennis Items Wanted

The Confirmation Class is collecting new or gently used and washed, tennis whites and child-sized tennis rackets (21-26") for the participants in the Norwalk Grassroots Tennis program. Look for the bins on the stage in Parish Hall. Thank you for helping us bring tennis gear to inner-city children in Norwalk.

Youth Group Bake Sale – Profits to Support Summer 2015 Mission Trip

On Easter Sunday, the Youth Group will be running a Bake Sale during the 10:00-11:00 coffee hour taking place between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. As a reminder, the Easter Bunny will be leading an egg hunt for the younger ones at 10:30. Please bring your own baskets and fill them up with goodies from the Youth Group Bake Sale table! We'll have sweet treats of all kinds and desserts for your Easter brunches or dinners. Plan to leave with something yummy! All proceeds will go towards the travel expenses for the 2015 Mission Trip. Our youth and chaperones will be heading to western Maryland in June to tackle home repair work, with Sarah and Jim Gleason leading the trip. The Bake Sale table will be open at 8:30 for any early birds and will stay open until 12:30 or until all treats are sold.

Nite Owls - Dinner on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:30.

Nite Owls welcomes any women to join for dinner and fellowship. This month we are having a spring dinner. Please RSVP by April 6 to Debbie Nelson, dcnelson@optonline.net.

Share Your Skills!

Add your unique talents to the leadership of our church by joining one of our four Boards. We invite you to feel the reward of deeper involvement at FCCD.

Board of Deacons: Responsible for our worship services, including the order of worship, the music, the scripture readings, communion, ushers, greeters, and feedback to the clergy, as well as our church's membership. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Stewards: Handles our church's finances, including the budget, investments, restricted funds, as well as maintaining and improving the buildings and grounds. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Education: In charge of the Church School, adult education programs, special events (the Sunday Sundae ice cream social, the Blessing of the Animals, the Advent Workshop, etc.) and youth programs. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Outreach: Researches local nonprofits, allocates church charitable funds to these groups, organizes hands-on mission projects and our ongoing relationship serving the Norwalk Emergency Shelter. Oversees the In May We Help campaign, Christmas Dove Box program, and monthly FoodFirst Sundays. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

*"MEET NEW PEOPLE", "FEEL REWARD", ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OUTSIDE YOUR
CURRENT SPHERE", "HAVE FUN!" **
**(words of current board members)*

Your participation in the volunteer leadership of our church is an important and rewarding part of being a member of this congregation. **Ideally, each family is represented on at least one board.**

We look forward to helping you find the committee that best suits your current interests and talents! Send me an email to talk about the Committee that is right for YOU!

Leila Wetmore, Nominating Chair

203-662-9397

Leila@leilawetmore.com



Please join the
First Congregational Church of Darien for its
Celebration of Easter

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 7:00 p.m.

A quiet, contemplative, “tenebrae” service (i.e., early evening, without lights) with communion.

Good Friday Vigil – April 3, 6:00 a.m. – Midnight

As is tradition, FCC will be reading the entire New Testament from the pulpit on Good Friday. Sign up for 20-minute blocks between 6:00 a.m. and midnight. The signup sheet is posted in Parish Hall or you can contact Lou Converse at lou.converse@viacom.com.

Carrying the Cross – April 3, 10:30 a.m. in front of FCC (or join along the route)

Come help carry the cross from our church to St. Luke’s. An all-community Good Friday Worship will follow at St. Luke’s between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 5. Easter morning will commence with a 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

at Mather Cemetery on Stephen Mather Road. We will then have two identical services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., complete with balloons and “The Hallelujah Chorus.” In between the two services, please join us for coffee, fruit, and sweets – at approximately 10:30 – we will have an Easter Egg hunt for small children in the Nursery School playground. Bring your own baskets.

Find “The First Congregational Church of Darien”
on Facebook, Google+, Vimeo and “@UCCDarien” on Twitter.

