

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Palm Sunday



April 13, 2025

CCLI #292978, and #20547245

CHURCH ORGANIZED ON AUGUST 18, 1778

Present building erected in North Conway Village 1884

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are
welcome here!"**

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." —The Talmud

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude

Lighting the Community Candles
We invite you to use this time for silent prayer
and reflection as we prepare for worship.

Centering Song

Blessing of the Palms

Gathering

Call to Worship

One: Today we remember a different kind of parade—one that enters not with dominance, but with daring love.

All: We come to worship the Christ who rides not a warhorse, but a humble donkey, proclaiming peace.

One: This is not the procession of Caesar, but the arrival of a new kind of power—grounded in mercy and truth.

All: We come to follow the One who overturns the tables of injustice with the gentleness of compassion.

One: The crowds wave palms and shout praise, while the powers grow anxious and plot in secret.

All: Still, we lift our voices, joining with all who long for liberation, for healing, for hope.

One: Even if every tongue were silenced, the stones would cry out, echoing the song of the Spirit.

All: We will not be silent. With the earth, with one another, we proclaim the way of love.

One: Jesus enters the city not to claim a throne, but to walk the path of sacrificial grace.

All: We come to walk that path, laying down our egos, our weapons, and our fear.

One: This is the subversive parade—the beginning of the end of the old world and the birth of the new.

All: Let us worship the One who leads us with humility, and who saves us through love.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: Humble and Courageous Christ, you enter our lives not with force, but with love that unsettles and restores. You ride toward injustice with open hands and an open heart, inviting us to follow you in the way of peace. Forgive us when we cling to power, when we choose silence over truth, and comfort over compassion. Strip away our illusions, our pride, and our fear. Teach us the strength of simplicity, the courage of vulnerability, and the power of humble love. As you ride into the city, ride into our hearts, and lead us to be part of your subversive parade of justice, mercy, and joy. Amen.

*Hymn NCH #213 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 (Hebrew Bible p. 565)
 Luke 19:28-40

At the end of the readings, the reader will say, "The word of God for the people of God." We invite your response to be, "Thanks be to God."

Children's Message Following the Leader Pastor Walt

Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is he that comes. Blessed is he that comes,
in the name of the Lord, in the name of the Lord,
in the name of the Lord, in the name of the Lord!

Message

The Subversive Parade

Pastor Walt

Response

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Offertory

Doxology NCH #780

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer (*The St. Francis Eucharistic Prayer*)

One: The Holy Living God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharist Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (by John Phillip Newell)

One: Now as our Savior Jesus taught us, let us pray together:

All: Ground of all being,

Mother of life, Father of the universe,

Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence,

may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.

May there be food for the human family today

and for the whole earth community. Forgive us the falseness of what we have done as we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us in our time of conflict but lead us into new

beginnings. For the light of life, the vitality of life,

and the glory of life are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sharing The Gifts

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

We invite you to come forward via the center aisle, as directed by the ushers, to receive communion. ALL are welcome at this table.

When you receive, we will say: "The Bread of Life;" and then "The Cup of Salvation." We invite you to respond: "Amen."

Communion Meditation Medley

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray.

All: God of Courageous Love, we give thanks for this holy meal— for the bread and the cup that nourish us with your presence and remind us of the path Christ walked. In this communion, you

have met us with grace, strengthened us with mercy, and called us to follow in the way of sacrificial love. As we rise from this table, may the gifts we have received embolden us to live with integrity and purpose. May we go forth as companions on the Christ path—laying down fear, lifting up justice, and choosing love even when it costs us something. Let our lives become part of the subversive parade of peace that continues to move through the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sending Out

*Hymn NCH #216 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Benediction

Closing Song

Benediction
Red Hymnal – Inside back cover

Paul Burtis

Postlude

Hosanna
(from Jesus Christ Superstar)

Andrew Lloyd Webber

(Stay and enjoy OR head right on over for coffee and treats!)

Greeter: Mary Lou Waite

Ushers: Fred Starkey and Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Lee Coffield

Welcome to First Church of Christ! If you are visiting with us today, please note that there are two fire exits at the rear of the sanctuary and one at the back of the church through the kitchen. Additionally, there are two unisex bathrooms; one downstairs off the front entrance and one off the kitchen at the rear of the building.

Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and conversation!

Mission Corner:

- **The Noisy Offering for March/April will go to Mission's Scholarship Fund** to benefit our local students going into the trades.
- The 2nd Quarter **Mission collection is for the Vaughan Learning Center.** This will help with Supplies for the classrooms.
- **The Food Pantry welcomes non-perishable food and monetary gifts are most appreciated as they can be stretched further.** The pantry hours are shown in our *Week of Activities*. Checks can be made payable to: *Vaughan Community Service, Inc.* and placed in the collection plate.

Evelyn Porter is designated as The Coordinator of the Diaconates' Ministry of Greeting. If you would like her to send a card from the church to someone who is ill, grieving, celebrating or who just needs a "pick-me-up" note. Please call her at (603) 356-2881 or send her an email at hambro35@yahoo.com.

Week of Activities:

Monday: AA Noon-1pm;

Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 6:30-8:00pm

Tuesday: Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm;

Trustees meeting 4pm

Wednesday: Sedar Celebration at Gibson Center 5pm

Thursday: Food Pantry Open 12:30-2:45pm;

Bell Choir Rehearsal 4-5pm;

Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm;

Good Friday Interfaith Service 6pm

Sunday: Easter Sunrise Service with Continental Breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall 6:30am;

Easter Communion Worship Service 10am

Our **April** Newsletter is chock full of good stuff and important dates! You'll definitely want to check it out. You'll find it in your mail and by going online to our website at:

<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/April2025.pdf>

Church Address and Information

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
2521 White Mountain Highway
PO Box 401
North Conway, NH 03860

Pastor: Reverend Walt Hampton, J.D., CFC

Pianist/Organist: Patrick Speckamp

Associate Organist: Muriel Magg

Chancel Choir/Handbell Director: Anne Polak

Church Administrator/Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director: Heather Ouellette

Vaughan Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Pastor Walt's Phone: 603-356-2324 (Press 2)

Church Phone: 603-356-2324

Church Fax number: 603-356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213

Pastor Walt's Email: pastor@firstchurchnc.com

Church Office Email: churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com

Church Website: www.firstchurchnc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh

Thank you for worshipping with us today!



To make giving even easier for those who don't carry cash or use checks, we've started using QR Code, in the bulletin. Just scan the code with your phone like you would in a restaurant!