

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

**Holy Vessels**

**“Holy, Wholly”**

**Sixth Sunday in Lent  
PALM SUNDAY**



**March 29, 2026**

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!”**

**\*Please stand if you are able.**

## **GATHER**

*People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, for help.*

### **Prelude**

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

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Threshold to Worship**

*Leader:* When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

*Leader:* The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting...

*Leader:* Repeat after me and start waving those branches!

*Leader:* “Hosanna to the Son of David!

**People:: “Hosanna to the Son of David!**

*Leader:* Blessed is the one who comes

**People: Blessed is the one who comes**

*Leader:* in the name of the Lord!

**People: in the name of the Lord!**

*Leader:* Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

**People: Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

*Leader:* When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**The Parade**      Jesus is Coming Pave the Way with Branches      (see back page)

*(To be sung by all.)*

**Vessels, holy and whole  
Broken, needing the One  
Open, body and soul  
Healer, come.**

## **APPROACH**

*People opened their lives to Jesus. We are drawn to the Healer—opening our hearts with honesty about our lives and finding assurance that offers peace.*

### **Opening Prayer of Confession**

One: Let us pray:

**All: Forgiving God, We have opened ourselves to healing and sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers than to do the hard work of putting into action what needs to happen.**

**Help us remember the sacred nature of the holy vessels that we are, fragile and susceptible to shattering and yet capable of transformation. Help us to see ourselves as you see us. Help us to believe in our ability to change and heal as you believe in us. Help us, Healer. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care.**

*Silence*

*(To be sung by all.)*

**Vessels, holy and whole  
Broken, needing the One  
Open, body and soul  
Healer, come.**

## **Assurance**

### **\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of Christ is with you.

**All: And also with you**

## **BELIEVE**

*People were fortified by Jesus' words and deeds that revealed care for all—especially those marginalized. We strengthen our belief in the possibility for renewed health and vigor for all.*

## **Message for the Young at Heart**

### **A Contemporary Word**

“We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.”

— **Mother Teresa**

“What we do comes out of who we believe we are.”

— Rob Bell

**Musical Proclamation**

Ave Verum

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*(Sung in Latin)*

Latin has a different syntax to English and so some of the translation is not strictly line for line.

Ave, verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine, Vere passum immolatum in Cruce pro homine, Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit (et) sanguine, Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary, Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man, Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood, Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

**An Ancient Word**

Matthew 9:1-8

**Message**

Along for the Ride!

Pastor Sue

**ASK**

*People who were healed by Jesus were not afraid to ask. And so we come before the Holy One, making our petitions and desires known, trusting the work of the Spirit.*

**Song of Preparation**

Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole

*(To be sung by all.)*

**In your love, make us whole.  
May we rest in your compassion.  
Calm the lost, weary soul  
in the warmth of your love.  
May your peace fill our hearts.  
May we know the love of Jesus.  
By your grace, you console.  
Make us holy, make us whole.**

## Prayers of the People - Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer

#### Prayer of Jesus – The Lord’s Prayer

One: Let us pray together.

**All: 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.**

### Offering Invitation

### Offertory

### Doxology

Old Hundredth Tune

**Praise God throughout these 40 days,  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise,  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God’s love in Christ to faithful hearts. Amen.**

### Prayer of Gratitude

*(To be sung by all)*

**In your love, make us whole.  
May we rest in your compassion.  
Calm the lost, weary soul  
in the warmth of your love.  
May your peace fill our hearts.  
May we know the love of Jesus.  
By your grace, you console.  
Make us holy, make us whole.**

## KNOW

*The parting words Jesus' gave to those he healed were often as much balm as the healing act itself. We hear words of encouragement from the One who makes beauty from brokenness.*

### Ritual Action for the Week

## RESPOND

*Scriptural accounts of healing often end with responses from the "crowd" of witnesses. How will we proceed into the brokenness of this world and respond as the Body of Christ?*

**\*Hymn NCH #416**

I Will Trust in the Lord

### Commission

In this series, we have seen that Jesus' healing actions often get "buzz" from onlookers. This day we have seen two different reactions from the crowd: shouts of adoration and the scoff of judgment from religious officials. His words and actions seemed to get one or the other—praise or accusations of heresy. But he continued his work anyway. He loved those that were deemed unlovable. He proclaimed healing in the midst of despair. He urged people to give their best in the midst of the worst circumstances. To be followers of Jesus is not an easy task. But it is the way that we become whole once again... to participate in the holy endeavor of bringing the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. And as we enter Holy Week, these themes will come into sharp focus. May we follow him, even to the broken places.

We have asked this question each week: How can we as a church community become a "health hub" through our ministry and mission? What does this community of faith envision?

## Blessing

### Threshold Into the World

*(To be sung by all.)*

**Vessels, holy and whole  
Broken, needing the One  
Open, body and soul  
Healer, come.**

### Postlude

Thine Is The Glory

Händel / Mark Hayes

**Greeter:** Jackie Howe

**Liturgist:** Sonya Porter

**Ushers:** Fred Starkey and Jay Donabedian

**Pastor:** Sue Davidson

**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. There are two unisex bathrooms; one downstairs off the front entrance and one off the kitchen at the rear of the building.**

**The doors to the church are locked at 10:10am on Sundays for everyone's safety. One of the doors in the back of the sanctuary is kept open for the Ushers to keep an eye out for any latecomers. Please knock on the glass if you need to get their attention.**

*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 [hambru35@yahoo.com](mailto:hambru35@yahoo.com).

## Mission Corner:

- **The Noisy Offering for March/April** will go to **Friends of Conway Recreation** to help with the dog park planned in Conway.
- **The 1st Quarter Mission Collection** is to support the **Gibson Center for Senior Services**. (This changed from going to the Way Station for their Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Program as a large donation of \$10K was made by Mission to this program in January.)
- **The Food Pantry welcomes non-perishable food and monetary gifts are most appreciated as they can be stretched further.** 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.

**Our April Newsletter is full of good stuff and important dates! You'll find it by going online to our website at:**

<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/April2026.pdf>

## Week of Activities:

**Today: Palm Sunday**

**Monday** AA Noon-1pm;  
Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 6:30-8:00pm

**Tuesday:** Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45

**Thursday:** WIC Program 9:30am-2:30pm;  
Food Pantry Open 12:00-2:15pm;  
**Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm**

**Friday: Good Friday - Sanctuary Open for Prayer & Reflection 9am-3:00pm;**  
AA Noon-1pm

**Sunday: Easter Celebration**  
**Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am with Continental Breakfast to follow;**  
**Easter Worship Service with Communion 10:00am**

## *Easter Lilies!*



If you would like to purchase one in memory or in honor of someone, please provide the following information along with payment of \$10.00 (checks payable to First Church) and the lily is yours! These can be taken home after the Easter Service on April 5th for your enjoyment or for delivery to a loved one.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory or Honor of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

(If given in "Memory" the person has passed. If given in "Honor" the person is living.)

Your request and payment can be placed in the Collection Plate on Sunday, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church at PO Box 401, North Conway, NH 03860.

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST.**

## *Church Address and Information*

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

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

Church Phone: 603-356-2324

Church Fax number: 603-356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213

Church Office Email: [churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com](mailto:churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com)

Church Website: [www.firstchurchnc.com](http://www.firstchurchnc.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh](http://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**

# Pave The Way With Branches

Bret Hesla

G D7

1. Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch-es.  
 2. Hope for the down-trod. Pave the way with branch-es.  
 3. Land for the land - less. Pave the way with branch-es.  
 4. Debts are for - giv - en. Pave the way with branch-es.

G

Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na.  
 Hope for the down - trod. Ho - san - na.  
 Land for the land - less. Ho - san - na.  
 Debts are for - giv - en. Ho - san - na.

C G D7 G

Refrain: Ho - san - na. Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -

C G D7 G

san - na to the Prince of Peace.

*Other verses (with a pick-up beat):*

5. Release for the captives ....
6. The suffering servant ....