

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 24, 2024

6th Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday

“A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ.”

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renee Keiper

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Honor, praise and glory are yours Almighty God, now and forever,
in celebration, we join the crowds of old, waving branches, giving
honor to the Messiah.

***OPENING HYMN**

Who Is He

*Who is he who comes in triumph? Who is he who comes to die,
Comes in peace and comes in power, hidden One now lifted high?
Jesus, Jesus, Lord, Messiah, mighty Master of the grave.
See him ride, the King of glory! God himself has come to save!*

*See him there in humble splendor. Hear them shouting all around.
Joy explodes in wild procession Praise is now the victor's crown.
“Glory, glory in the highest!” Like the angels hear them sing,
Dancing ‘round the long awaited once their hope, and now their King.*

*Rise and join the glad procession! Hear them passing by again
All the ransomed, all his children, marching to Jerusalem!
Look ahead the gates of splendor! Hear the everlasting hymn!
Open wide your hearts in worship! Let the King of glory in!
Open wide your hearts in worship! Let the King of glory in!
Open wide your hearts in worship! Let the King of glory in!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess that we have sinned, and although we would
like to deny it, we have forsaken you.
We are horrified by the suffering we cause to you,**

ourselves and the world you have created.

**Open the gates of your forgiveness and restore us in your love,
for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Lord God helps us; we will not be disgraced.

The Lord God helps us; who can declare us guilty?

Sisters and brothers, beyond the shadow of doubt, your sins are forgiven.

By the mercy of Christ, let us stand together forgiven and free.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING – Basket located on table in the rear of the sanctuary.

INVITATION

Jesus gave himself for the life of the world.

With humble hearts bowed in awe,

Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

*Come behold the wondrous mystery In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness Now the Light of Life has come
Look to Christ, Who condescended Took on flesh to ransom us*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment Of the law; in Him we stand*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory Grace unmeasured, love untold*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him Praise the Lord; He is alive!*

*(3x) What a foretaste of deliverance How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected As we will be when He comes*

***DOXOLOGY**

*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. Amen*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Holy God, we give thanks for your saving love made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Bless these gifts that they may bring life on earth as in heaven; in Christ's name we pray. **Amen**

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Dora Tartar

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 31:9-16

(L) Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress, my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

(ALL) I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

(L) For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around! — as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."

(ALL) My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

*The Gloria Tibi: *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

*New Testament Readings: Mark 11:1-11 Pew Bible pg. 823

*Laus Tibi: *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

SERMON "Let's Go!"

Dan Smale

***THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL**

Led by Dan Smale

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.

CLOSING HYMN

All Hail the King of Heaven

*All hail the King of Heaven, Christ the Lord of all;
Whom thundering angels circle 'round ablaze with awe.
Let now the Hallelujah, of earth in glad refrain,
Ascend the throne, To him belongs immortal praise.*

CHORUS: *All hail the king of heaven; Creation join together.
Let endless praises crown his name: All hail the king of heaven.*

*All hail the Great Redeemer, who so humbly came;
The lamb of our salvation, O for sinners slain.
Let now the loud Hosanna resound from shore to shore.
You nations say, "His kingdom reigns, forevermore!" (CHORUS)*

*Let praise of nations rise now as a symphony,
To sound the endless wonders of his majesty.
Let every heart adore him, the great and small the same.
Through generations ever let his anthem ring! (CHORUS)*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Dan Smale

Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ.
Go forth in peace to love and serve the world!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE - ALL *Go Now In Peace

*Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love.*

Amen. Amen. Amen.
(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

***POSTLUDE**

St. Matthews United Church of Christ

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Council President: Diann Bittenbender

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Staci Gower

Office Manager: Renée Keiper

www.stmattsucckunkletown

Prayer Concerns

Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother)

Holy Week Services

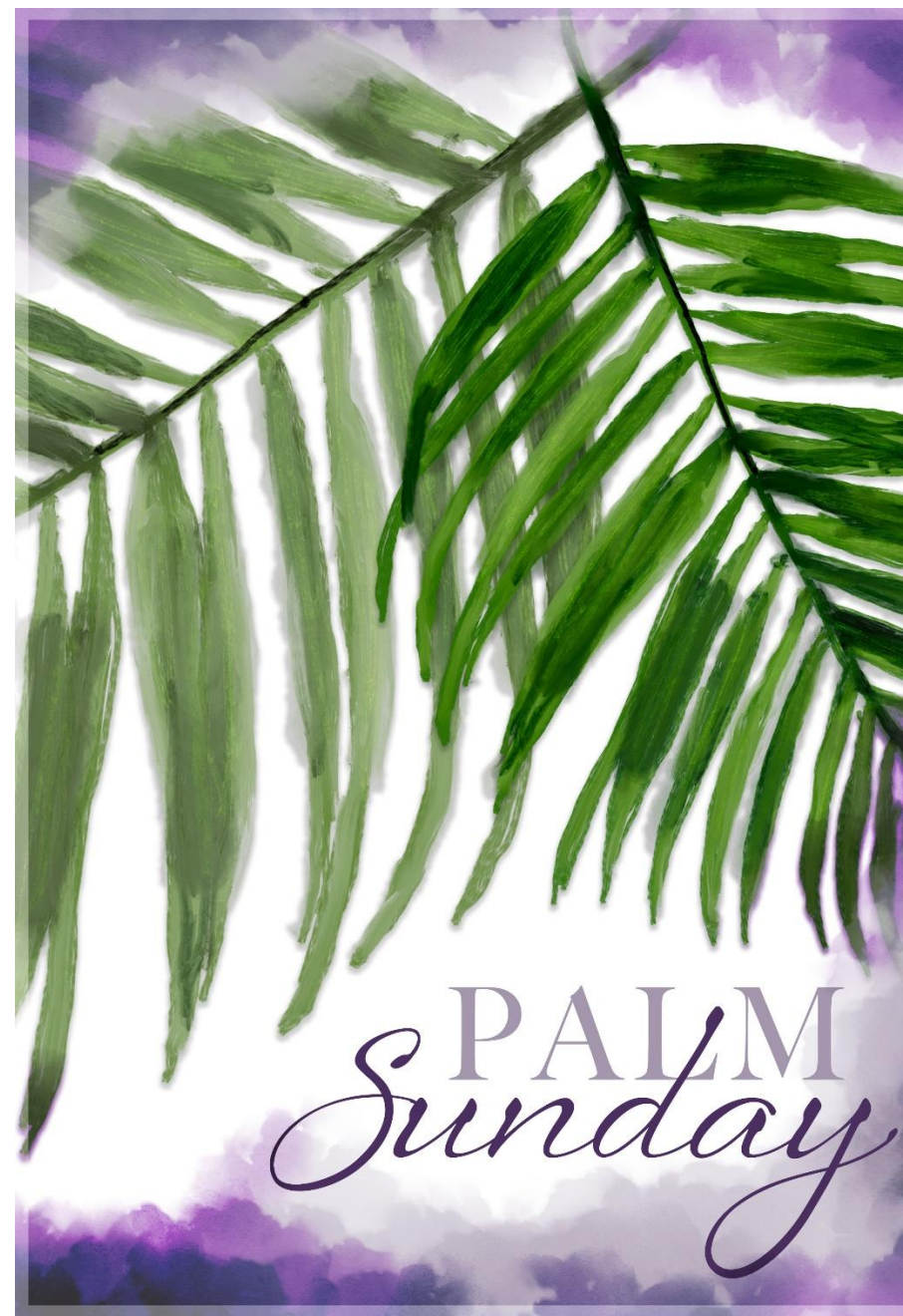
Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm service

Good Friday - "Son of God" movie at 6:30pm in the social hall

Easter Dawn - 6:30am (in the sanctuary) with communion

Light Breakfast - immediately following early service

Easter Service - 9:00am - there will be communion





The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, March 25		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, March 27		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, March 28		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
	Maundy Service	-Sanctuary, 7pm
Friday, March 29	Good Friday movie ‘Son of God’	-Social Hall, 6:30pm
Saturday, March 30	Egg Hunt	-WE Food Pantry, 1pm
Sunday, March 31	Easter Dawn Service	-Sanctuary, 6:30am
	Light Breakfast	-Social Hall, 7:30am
	Easter Service	-Sanctuary, 9:00am
	Guest Preacher – Keith House	

March Lead Usher – Tom Barr

Thank you to Dan Smale for leading our service today.

The Property Committee walked through the basement and saw the need to clean up/organize or clean out. All committees, please take the time to attend to your areas. Whatever is not removed or organized by April 13th will be thrown out.

Volunteers are needed for the Children’s Church and the nursery during the service.

There is a box on the table by the flower book for your questions for the Town Hall meeting on April 14th. Renee will forward the questions to Pastor Mike so he can prepare to answer your questions at the meeting.

Bishop Randy will be our guest pastor on April 21st. He is also planning to stick around for about an hour after the service to answer any follow-up questions that you may have after the Town Hall meeting.

Pastor Mike will be including information and resources in the bulletin to help us learn more about the EC and come up with questions for our Town Hall meeting on April 14th and the follow-up with Bishop Randy on April 21st.

Krispy Kreme donuts orders are due today. Pickup will be April 2nd 11am to 4pm and 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Christian Education Easter activities:

- March 30th Egg hunt at 1pm at the West end Food Pantry
- March 31st Easter skit during the 9am worship service