

# SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 29, 2026



**PALM SUNDAY/PASSION SUNDAY**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

# The Sixth Sunday in Lent

## Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC  
10:30 am Worship Service      March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL*

### **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

CENTERING CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look! The King comes to us, humble and riding on a donkey.

**People: Hosanna! Save us, we pray!**

Leader: We wave these branches of life, yet the road ahead is thick with dust.

**People: From the shouts of the parade to the silence of the garden, we follow.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who enters the city to bring life out of the dust of death.

*\*HYMN OF PRAISE & PROCESSION WITH PALMS*

*"Hosana, Loud Hosanna"*

*The New Century Hymnal #213*

ACT OF CONTRITION

Leader: It is remarkably easy to cheer for a winner. It is much harder to stay when the parade ends and the dust settles. We are a people of high "Hosannas" and low "Hiding". Let us come before the One who sees our fickle hearts and speak the truth of our shadows. Holy God, ...

**People: ...we confess that we love the spectacle but fear the sacrifice. We wave our palms with joy, yet we are the same people who will slip into the shadows when the path turns toward the cross. We confess that our loyalty is as thin as a leaf and our courage often turns to dust under pressure. Forgive us for the times we have traded your Kingdom for our comfort. As we enter this Holy Week, do not let us turn away. Wash the dust of betrayal from our feet and lead us toward your life. Amen.**

Leader: Even as the city turned its back, Christ moved forward for the sake of the world. The love of God is not a fleeting parade; it is an eternal commitment. In the name of Jesus Christ, the one who enters our chaos to bring us peace, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

## **THE COMMUNITY LISTENS TO THE WORD**

### THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 The Passover Praise Psalm

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

**People: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

Leader: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

Leader: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**People: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

**People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Leader: The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

**People: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.**

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever.

GLORIA

**All: Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and blessed;  
One God, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus Enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM: Lift The Palms

By J. Martin

## THE LITURGY OF THE PASSION

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 50:4-9a The Servant Submits to Suffering

Leader: The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

**People: The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward.**

Leader: I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

**People: The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;**

Leader: he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

**People: It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?**

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27:11-54 The Passion and Death of Jesus

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE READING Philippians 2:5-11 God Takes on Human Form

Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

**People: but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,**

Leader: he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

**People: Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,**

Leader: so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**People: and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

### ***THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD***

*\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION: "O, Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

*The New Century Hymnal #226*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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 trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

THE MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY

DOXOLOGY

***ALL: Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***THE COMMUNITY GOES INTO THE WORLD***

*\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"*

*The Celebration Hymnal #216*

\*BENEDICTION

EXTROIT

POSTLUDE

# Announcements

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Deacons Meeting at 6:00 pm

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Maundy Thursday Program 7:00 pm

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Sunday

Flowering of the Cross Drop In 8:30 am

Breakfast and Devotions 9:00 am

*(Choir Practice before Worship)*

Easter Morning Worship 10:30 am

**Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Margaret Lightbourne Circle at 11:00 am

**Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

### **\*\*Missions Project\*\***

We will be collecting the following items through March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please consider donating some items to help Allied Churches of Alamance County.

- Kitchen towels
- Bar towels
- Window cleaner
- 55 gal trash bags
- Paper towels
- Microfiber cleaning cloths

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Regular Office Hours**

Monday - 9am – 12pm

Tuesday – 9am – 12pm

Wednesday - 9am – 12pm

Thursday - 9am – 12pm

Friday - closed

### **Display of Crosses**

The idea is of a Cross Display during Lent, starting Ash Wednesday. This would be on display on tables in the church parlor like we did when photos of our parents were brought in. Invite people to bring photos, pictures, crosses of various sizes for stands or holders, and jewelry which will be laid flat on the table. Request that the crosses be labeled with names of owners in order to return them. The Spiritual Life Committee wishes to bring to people's awareness the importance of the cross. A plastic bin will be in the parlor as we start collecting them.

# Our Love and Prayers

Please remember all our sick, at home members, others in need of our prayers, and those in our area hospitals in your prayers this week.

Buster Freeman  
Nell Allred  
Amber Massey  
Joe Strickland  
Ross Strange Sr.  
Trisha Shelly  
Ray Palyok  
*(Matt's Step-Father)*  
Lewis Fowler  
Carolyn Wolley / Family  
Dave Smudski / Family  
David Hodges

Brenda Grogan  
Spanky Newsome  
Holly Bent  
Troy Marquardt  
Blake Jones  
June Sellars  
Nanci Isley  
*(Friend of Sherry Massey)*  
Curtis Foster  
Jon & Judy Kipp  
Mike Smith  
Betty King  
The Family of John Garrison

## Serving in our Armed Forces

*CPT Kirk Workman  
James Barnwell*

## Notes

Inspired by something said in the word or sung in a song today? Take a moment to write it here to remember later.

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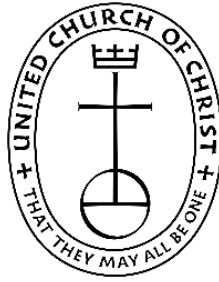
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## **Church Officers**

President: Jamie Fonville  
Vice President: Cindy Sharpe  
Treasurer: Judy Kipp  
Assistant Treasurer: Julie Miller  
Secretary: Matt Rice

## **Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Ball, OSL  
pastorfcucc@gmail.com / 336-276-0374  
Organist/Choir Director: Matt Rice  
Custodian: Rodney Paul  
Office Administrator: Debbie Norris  
*(Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9 -12pm)*

## **Worship Participants**

Liturgist: Carol Fonville  
Hymn Leaders & Anthem: Choir  
Greeters: Benjie Terrell & David Hodges  
Ushers: Benjie Terrell, Julie Miller, Charlie Vitou, Eleanor Lovgren