



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like.

***- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

Congressional Responses in Bold

Prelude *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Peter Black

(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Introit (please stand)

Hosanna (G #403)

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!

(repeat after verses)

Call to Worship

Psalm 118

Reader: Rev. Fred Hamlin

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good;

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Open to me the gates of holiness;

Many: Open the gates so I may enter and give thanks to God.

One: I thank you, O God, for you have answered me.

Many: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you.

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Many: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

One: This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Many: This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Opening Hymn,**

Ride On, Jesus, Ride

(Green Gather Hymnal No.405)

(Vs 1-5, Call and Response with cantor)

(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Blessing of the Palms

Loving God, today we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, being greeted with waving palm branches. Jerusalem represents our vision of a place of wholeness. The palms signify our receptivity and enthusiasm at welcoming the Christ light into our lives. Therefore, O God, send your Spirit upon these palm branches this morning. May they serve as a symbol for us of the promise of Jerusalem and a reminder for us to keep moving forward with enthusiasm on our spiritual journey to welcome and to resurrect the Light of the Christ in us. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: ***And also with you.***

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Passing the Peace

Spirit of Life

Spirit of life come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea.

Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close – wings set me free.

Spirit of life come to me, come to me.

Words of Integration & Guidance

Rev. Kathy Dwyer, pastor of UCC church in Arlington, VA

I have always struggled with thinking of Jesus as “King.” I have never lived in a monarchy, so using words like “Lord,” “Prince,” “Master,” and “King” have little meaning for me. Jesus did not call himself by any of the elevated titles we often attribute to him. John Knox, a 16th century Scottish clergyman, who is considered the founder of Presbyterianism, argued that “thinking that Jesus thought of himself in such grand terms raises serious questions about the mental health of Jesus.” These titles conjure up notions of power that are in sharp contrast with what I know of Jesus. That is the point, actually. In the book, *The Last Days*, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan describe how there were actually two processions on what Christians now call Palm Sunday; there was a military procession from the West led by the Roman Governor Pilate and the peaceful entrance, a counter-procession, from the East led by Jesus. Pilate entered on a war horse; Jesus entered on a donkey. Pilate came in the name of Caesar. Jesus came “in the name of the Lord.” Jesus and Pilate represented two starkly different ways of being: Pilate to domination, violence, and glory; Jesus committed to service, non-violence, and humility. To “come in the name of the Lord” was to come with a set of values that stood in contrast to the State. Today, for us “to come in the name of the Lord” and to let Jesus be “King” as opposed to the State often means we will be counter-cultural people. May this Holy Week strengthen us for the challenge.

Into Jerusalem

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Isaiah 50:4-9

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:1-11

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Two Processions” Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory

At the Foot of the Cross

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Composers: Ray Boltz & Lawrence Chewning

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: *Alleluia!*

One: O God,

Many: *Hear our prayer.*

***Doxology**

Grateful

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,

Joyful in your Spirit flowing over all O God of Love.

Grateful for the bread of heaven, thankful for your holy word,

Joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: *We lift them up to God.*

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: *It is good to give God thanks & praise*

***Creation's Praise** *Holy, Holy (St. Anne)*

Holy, Holy, Holy God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

Breaking of the Bread *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

(Repeat)

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

(grape juice only on both sides of the aisle)

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Mother/Father, always and everywhere, 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. Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever. Amen.*

***Hymn of Sending**

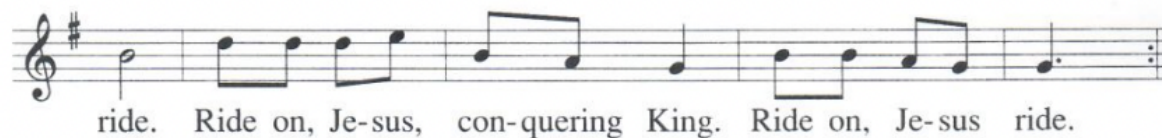
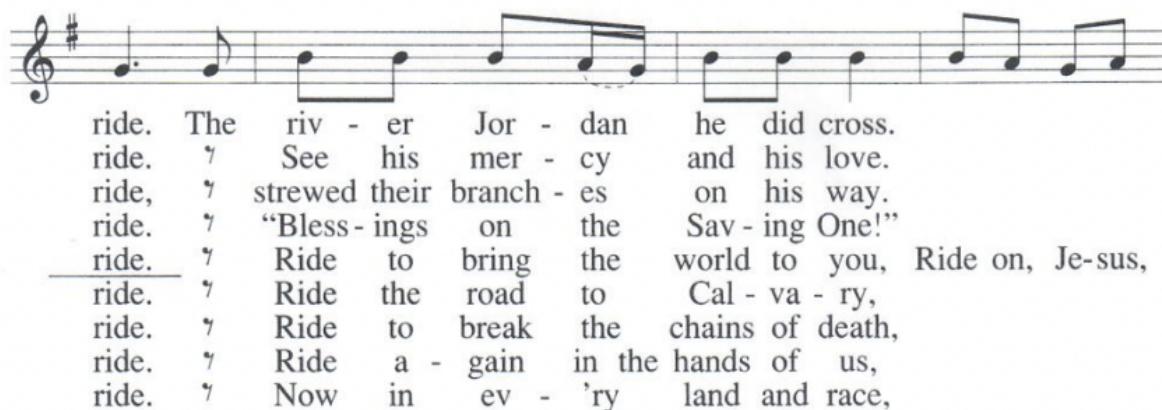
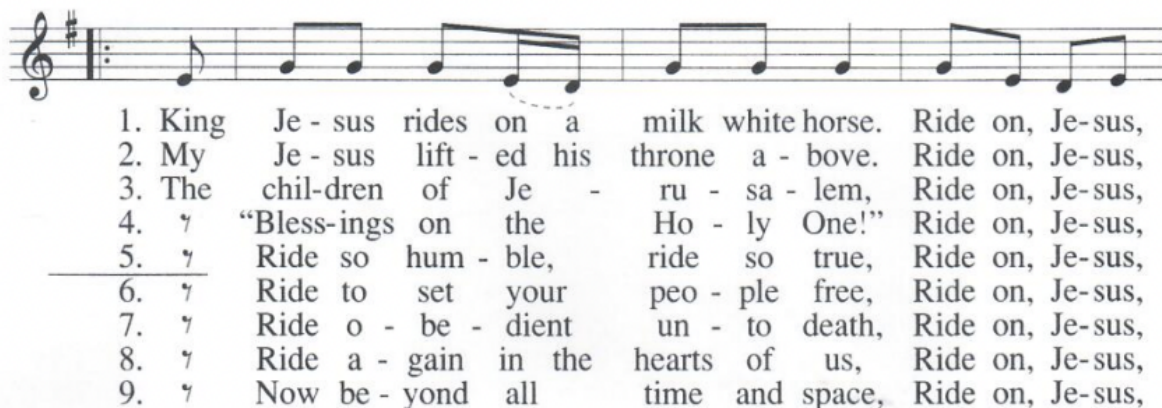
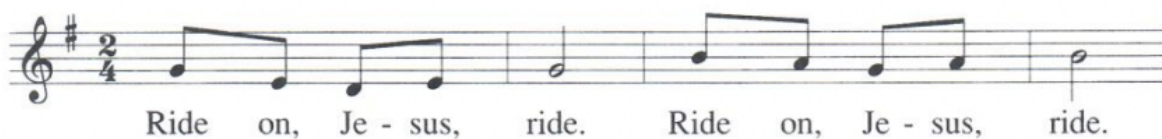
Were You There
(Green Gather Hymnal No. 416)
Verses 1-5)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

We will remain in silence as we leave the church.

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org
<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>
<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>
<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

Ride On, Jesus, Ride 405



Were You There 416



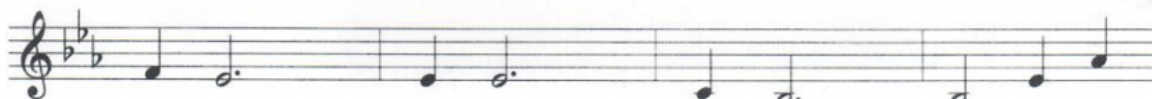
1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4. Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
6. Were you there when they rolled the stone a - way?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they rolled the stone a - way?



Oh! Some-times it caus - es me to



trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble, Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 there when they nailed him to the tree?
 there when they pierced him in the side?
 there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 there when they laid him in the tomb?
 there when they rolled the stone a - way?