

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2020

*It is only through disruptions and confusion that we grow,
jarred out of ourselves by the collision of someone else's private world with our own.*
~ Joyce Carol Oates

Welcome to our digital worship! In this church we focus on the things that matter. It doesn't matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

We invite you to “check in” on the social media of your choice, let them know that you are doing church, even in these uncertain times, ask your networks for prayer requests, or otherwise bring your online self into God’s presence today.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, or cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice – perhaps grape or cranberry – or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. We encourage you to have a candle to light at the time of the Lighting of the Christ Candle which follows the Welcome and Announcements. Perhaps you will place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

SHARING YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Because of a few minutes broadcast delay, prayer concerns and celebrations to be shared during worship can be emailed to admin@firstchurchnatick.org at any time before or during the worship service up to the Reflection.

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on 'St Theodulph'
Thomas Foster, *Organ*

Simon Sechter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

(Following the Announcements, we invite you to have a candle available to light as your worship leaders light the Christ Candle)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CELEBRATION

Sarallyn Keller, Dir of Spiritual Vitality
& Congregational Care

Cry out, people of faith! Rejoice and praise God!

If we did not sing praise the very stones would!

Cry out, people of God, for your Savior draws near.

Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!

Let us praise the God who loves us, sharing Christ's sufferings and facing with courage our path of faith.

Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!

HYMN

All Glory Laud and Honor

St. Theodulph

*All glory, laud and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the true and blessed One;
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*Loving God, with joy and amazement we acknowledge your presence in Christ
coming into the confusion, clamor, and brokenness of our lives.*

*We glorify you for this grace with praise and palms that promise
to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty.*

*Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time
that Christ has come and that Christ will come again!*

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Reach your hands out in a gesture of blessing or place your hands together over your heart and bow in a sign of Namaste. Once worship is concluded, consider being in touch with someone you know to share Christ's peace.)

TIME FOR CHILDREN

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

Sonata in G major, K. 283: II. Andante

W.A. Mozart

SONG OF PRAISE *(Please feel free to use either traditional or inclusive language.)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-17

REFLECTION

“Holy Intrusion”

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing.

Though we are many throughout the earth

and this church community is scattered, we are one in Christ.

*In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements
which we set aside today to be a sacrament.*

Let us ask God’s blessing upon them.

*Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing
and no quarantine on grace.*

*Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing
upon every table where your child shelters in place,
that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love
and this Cup poured out to give hope to all.*

Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you.

Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace,
rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship,
we have embodied the truth that Christ's love
is not limited by buildings made with human hands,
nor contained in human ceremonies,
but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

*Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives.
May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love,
not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world,
and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope
even in the midst of pandemic.
Wrap your hopeful presence around all
whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing,
and let us become your compassion and safe refuge.
Amen.*

HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

*Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

*“Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Postlude on ‘Sing Hosanna’

Christopher Tambling

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** Online Communion for Palm Sunday (adapted) was written by the Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi.

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Post Worship Fellowship

11:30AM – 12:30 PM, on Zoom following livestream worship

Join us for an informal virtual gathering where we can greet one another, and – if the spirit strikes us – talk about the day's worship experience.

Follow this link for the videocall: <https://zoom.us/j/314817921> or,

To join by phone: call in at (929) 205-6099, then enter 314817921# (and don't forget the # at the end!).

NOTE: Please be patient for the arrival of your Zoom host since he may still be transitioning from recording the service at 11:30!

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 5, 2020 - APRIL 12, 2020

Sunday, April 5	10:30 AM	Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus.
	11:30 AM	Post Worship Fellowship Zoom Call
	2:00 PM	Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.
	5:00 PM	Jr. Youth Group Zoom Call
	7:00 PM	Confirmation Class
Monday, April 6	10:00 AM	Spirit Connect
Tuesday, April 7	3:00 PM	Spirit Boost
Thursday, April 9	7:00PM	Maundy Thursday Digital Tennebrae Service on ZOOM
Saturday, April 11	8:00PM	Easter Prayer Vigil throughout the night
Sunday, April 12	10:30 AM	Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus.
	11:30 AM	Post Worship Fellowship Zoom Call
	2:00 PM	Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.

Together, We're Making A Difference!

Our church is responding to the current health crisis in innovative ways, by continuing to gather on Sundays in live-streamed worship, and being in fellowship and shared ministry through videoconferencing. Now we're also exploring how to further live into our identity as Natick's *Digital* Front Porch. Far from putting our mission on hold, this is the time when Spirit-led people can tend the spirits of others in our community feeling anxious and isolated. There's never been a more important time to proclaim and embody the Good News of God's abiding love given to us by Jesus!

We hope you'll continue your generous support of our shared ministry during this time. With the average congregation receiving 84% of its contributions from households through the offering plate, churches like ours will be helping members and friends know about the ongoing need for funding to keep our mission going, and how to shift from their weekly in-person offering plate giving to other ways like these:

- Mailing in donations to: 2 East Central Street, Natick, MA, 01760.
- Making one-time or recurring gifts online through our church website and its secure giving platform: <http://firstchurchnatick.org/give-online>.
- Setting up auto-bill pay with your bank (usually be done online), just the same way you would for paying utility bills.
- Considering making at least some portion of your contribution earlier in the year if you are an annual or semi-annual giver.

The world needs what FCC Natick can be and do, particularly in this time that is challenging all of us in unprecedented ways. Thanks for doing your part to make sure we can keep our unique and vibrant ministry going at just the moment it's needed most!

PRAYER LIST

Liam Schmitt	Family & Friends of Mike Keedy	Grace Osgood
Isabella	Family & Friends of Bill Mayer	Brad Stickley
Rick	Family & Friends of Bruce Wharton	Chris Gobron
Stephen	Family & Friends of Bob McDonald	Richard Keller
David	Family & Friends of Jack Gobron	Heidi Burger
Irene	Michelle, Catherine & Noah	Ed Kinley
Juan Mercado	Ellen, Jim & daughter	Bob Steen
Gerry Carlson	Jen M. & family	Joan Hayes
Carolyn Kennan	Bryan & his unit	Natalie Friend
Jack Gobron	Lily Dreher & her family	Connie Sullivan
Jenna Hayes	Shirley & her family	Chris Starks
Brad Jennings	Evelyn & her family	Barbara Dickson
Abby Robbins	Judge Shelley Joseph	Carolyn Sarbello
Jennifer	Jean, Kathy & Paul Joyce	Cheryl Gowdy
Jane Hall	Chris Leigh Manuell	Barbara Bidwell
Regan Lynch	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey	Jayne Hayes
Brian	Sari, Andrew & Tyler	Kim Palmer
Ronnie	Jose & family	Grandma Pat
Kathy	Yandow family	Christopher Parker
Savannah	Marcy Bailey-Adams	Peter McKinney
Allison	Sibyl Waterman Haley	Miriam's Mom
Susan	John & Kay Hartman	Tiffany Spigarolo
Patrick	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja	Carolyn Aycock
Oliver	All those struggling with substances	Alice Bridinger
Alex	All those waiting at the border	Mary Cerreto
Emmett	Health Care Workers	Faye Bishop
Mitch	Minimum Wage Workers	Pam Dotter
Polina	People who feel more isolated and separated	Paul Ladd
Amelia	People living at home in difficult situations	John Sullivan
Jean-Paul	People searching for a place to live	Gerry Granfors
Randall D.		Aphrodite Hoge
		Mo Carriker
		Eric Carriker
		Keith Jennings

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