



# FIRST PARISH of WESTWOOD, UCC

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## FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD LEADERSHIP

Ministers ..... The Body of Christ  
Pastor ..... Rev. JT Hills  
Director of Music ..... Dr. Sarah Tocco  
Office Administrator ..... Nicole Wietrak  
Custodian ..... Roger Matson  
Faith Community Nurse ..... Margery Eramo  
Moderator ..... Sharon Hobbs  
Technology ..... Doug Hyde  
Liturgist. .... Martha Crawford  
Ushers. .... Charlie Domina & Peter Kane  
Sunday School Teachers ..... Laura Hall & Darlene Wong  
Nursery Care ..... Alison Deininger  
Coffee Hour Host. .... Shelley Reeve

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*O How He Loves You and Me:* Kurt Kauser: Copyright 1992 #127376  
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*The flowers this morning are given through the Memorial Flower Fund, by  
Ruth Dorey and Nancy (Dorey) Stoll in memory of Larry Dorey.*

[www.firstparishwestwood.org](http://www.firstparishwestwood.org)  
Find us on Facebook!

Growing Faith.      Sharing Love.      Grounding Lives.



April 2, 2023 at 10 a.m.

## *Palm Sunday*

We Are an Open & Affirming Church  
*First Parish of Westwood affirms the dignity and worth of every person  
regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or  
expression, physical or mental ability, family structure, education level,  
economic circumstance and faith or religious tradition.*

†  
GATHERING

\*Please rise in body or in spirit. The congregation is invited to sing with choir.  
Items in **Bold** indicate congregational participation.

CHIMING

WELCOME AND NAMING OUR GRATITUDE

CENTERING OUR FOCUS UPON GOD

*Hope Op. 38 No. 4 Felix Mendelssohn*

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**People: If we did not sing praise, the very stones would cry out!**

Leader: Cry out, people of faith, for your Savior draws near to Jerusalem.

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

Leader: Blessed is Jesus Christ, who did not turn back for fear of the cross. Let us praise the God who loves us, sharing Christ's sufferings and facing with courage our path of faith.

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

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 216

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

RECOGNIZING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

On Palm Sunday, the crowds worshiped Jesus; on Good Friday they shouted for him to die. Let us who also worship him confess that we sometimes reject him, and ask his forgiveness: Holy Jesus, you come to us in peace, but we shut the door of our mind against you. You come to us in humility, but we prefer our own proud ways. You come to us in judgment, but we cling to our familiar sins. You come to us in majesty, but we will not have you to reign over us. In your mercy: forgive us and help us. Forgive our empty praise; fill our loveless hearts; come to us and make our lives your home forever.

**Coffee Hour Hosts**

Coffee anyone? Many big thanks to everyone who has been a host since September of our Sunday Coffee Hour. It is clear we missed coffee hours during the first two years of COVID! Now, we enjoy our time in the large gathering hall after worship where we catch up with each other over coffee, tea, juice and a snack. On Big Brunch Sundays, our two coffee hour hosts provide additional treats to sustain us while we meet with the church's ministries and plan for our collective futures. The sign-up sheet is next to the office.

**Calling All Shepherds!**

This is an opportunity for teens and adults to help other parishioners in times of need. Please complete and return the form in the lobby to the church office. We have listed items you can select from. There is no obligation. If you aren't available when contacted, that is okay. For any questions, please reach out to the church office.

**Lenten Food Drive – We Reached Our Goal, Now Let's Go Next Level**

At 1,169, there will be ample food to dine! You heard us correctly. One thousand, one hundred and sixty-nine food items have been collected so far for the Lenten Food Drive... surpassing our ambitious goal of 1,000! But this is no time to slow down... because together we can push forward, challenge ourselves to dig deeper and who knows, maybe we can surpass 1,500. It's possible people!

Each week bring your donations in to the sanctuary; the youth will collect them, bring them to the altar and track our count. While we will accept all non-perishable food donations, we hope that we all can focus our efforts on those items really in need.

- Today (Palm Sunday) - Peanut butter, jelly
- April 9<sup>th</sup> (Easter) - Any of the above items, and cleaning products.

There will also be a drop off bin in the lobby under the office window if you won't be able to make it to church.

Questions? Call Nicole in the church office or Barb Delisle 617-610-6307.

## Roundtable Roundup

Earlier this month, we held a roundtable to talk about where we might let our Open and Affirming statement lead us next. We heard a lot of perspectives in a healthy and energetic conversation, and from that conversation we landed on five areas of interest from the many ideas that came forth.

- Supporting Immigrants and Refugees through our time, talents, and treasure
- Celebrating our LGBTQ+ siblings, including marching in Boston Pride
- Offering educational opportunities for the church and the wider community, from classes to speakers
- Engaging more deeply in understanding what it means to welcome people and how to do it
- Creating more entertainment opportunities from and for a diverse community

Now comes the hard part: getting to work. None of these things will happen without your leadership, your participation, and your help. These are the broad strokes of what to do next. The specifics are up to those who are involved in creating all our future steps. If you are interested in helping to shape our work with Immigration, LGBTQ+, Education, Welcome, or Entertainment, please contact the church office soon so we can begin our work this spring!

## Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week is nearly upon us. Here are your opportunities to mark this special time in our spiritual lives.

**Sunday, April 2nd – Palm Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.** – Join us for a special Palm Sunday procession, starting in our Gathering Hall.

**Thursday April 6th – Maundy Thursday** – Join us for a simple soup meal at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Hall, followed by a Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come for one or both of the services. The 7:30 p.m. service will also be broadcast live on Facebook.

**Sunday, April 9th – Easter Celebration, 10 a.m.** – Join us for worship in the sanctuary, followed by a special coffee hour brunch and an Easter Egg hunt for our kids.

## Church Camp This Summer

Summer will be here before we know it! Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Sharon, CT, is providing church camp opportunities throughout the summer led by our friends in the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. Outdoor ministry has been a foundational experience for church youth for generations. This year, Silver Lake has individual options for youth entering grades 4-12, as well as family camps for all ages, scheduled throughout the month of July and into August. You can learn more by going to [www.silverlakeect.org/summercamp](http://www.silverlakeect.org/summercamp) or asking Pastor JT for more information.

*(silence)*

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

S C R I P T U R E

*Matthew 21:1-11*

A W O R D F O R A L L A G E S

A N T H E M

*Shout to the King Hosanna! - Mark Patterson*

S E R M O N

*Jesus' Triumphal Entry in Jerusalem*

H Y M N N O . 4 3 8

*When Peace, Like a River*

P R A Y E R S O F T H E P E O P L E

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## R E S P O N D I N G T O G O D ' S C A L L

C A L L T O O F F E R I N G

The amazing gift of one who fully embodied God's intention for humanity prompts us to make a grateful response. In Christ we have known a love that will not let us go. Through an offering let us share this love in our community and to the ends of the earth.

OFFERTORY

*O How He Loves You and Me - Kurt Kauser*

\* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, as the faithful disciples of Jesus spread their garments in the way and covered it with branches, so may we lay at the feet of Jesus all that we have and are, and bless you, in whose name and by whose mercy he came. Amen.

VENTURING OUT INTO THE WORLD

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 213

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* BENEDICTION

\* FOLLOWING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*Go in Peace -  
Kenneth White*

**Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you this day.  
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.  
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!  
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.**

POSTLUDE

*Allegro - Leon Boellmann*

*While it is our custom to sit during the postlude, you are free to exit the Sanctuary at any time at the conclusion of the service. Please join us after worship for our weekly Coffee Hour in the Gathering Hall.*

# { Announcements }



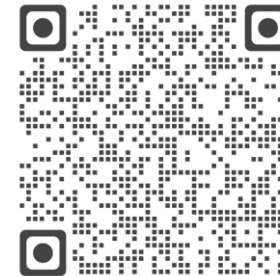
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Calling All Volunteers!

We need volunteer to set up Wednesday night before the services on Maundy Thursday. If you are available to assist, please contact Nicole at the office by email at office@firstparishwestwood.com or by calling (781) 326-5344. Many hands make light work!

### Building Relationship with Pastor JT

Because this is our year of relationship, Pastor JT wants to meet with you to hear your stories and learn more about you as we build relationships together. All members of the congregation are invited to schedule a time for yourself or your family to meet with Pastor JT, either at your home, somewhere out in the world like a park or a restaurant, or here at the church. You can schedule a time with Pastor JT by using the QR code below and selecting a time that works for his and your schedule. You can also contact the church office for help with scheduling. If you didn't take this opportunity during the Christmas season, now is a great time to schedule your meeting. But don't forget to find a time, because Pastor JT would like to meet with everyone in the church!



## *Dates at a Glance*

- ✓ **Today** – Worship service @ 10 a.m. and distribution of palms.
- ✓ **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** – Lenten Book Discussion Group @ 7 p.m. on Zoom (chapters 21-24)
- ✓ **Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** – Maundy Thursday: Simple soup meal at 6:30 p.m. & Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m.
- ✓ **Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Service at 10 a.m. followed by brunch and an Easter egg hunt