



Into Jerusalem

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (a paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room (accessible by the stairs from the Church Street entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

Hymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk, please stop by after the service. They would love to meet you, or please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift to the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us.

Plates for offering are placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, or donate online at www.erucc.org/give or by scanning this code:



We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Restrooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the second floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is more information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org
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Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*
Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

Elders of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Marc Kline | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Eric Weakly | Ave Barr | Matt Hueting



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

10:30 AM



The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

SERVICE OF PALMS

BRASS PRELUDE

Adante from Trumpet Concerto
Rondeau
Rondo
Where'er You Walk

Market Street Brass

– F.J. Haydn
– J. Mouret
– T. Susato
– G.F. Handel

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

BRASS PRELUDE

Pavane

Market Street Brass

– T. Susato

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing songs of loudest praise!

Hosanna!

Sing songs that are unashamed.

Hosanna!

Sing songs without being afraid.

Hosanna!

Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

Hosanna!

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of grace, your Word is like a song.

It is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. So as we return to scripture once more, we pray

that you would allow us to sink into this song. Allow us to hear the truth in between the words. Allow the cries of the crowd’s “hosannas” to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#216

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.**

**O Promised One of Israel, of David’s royal line,
the one called “God’s beloved,” of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence.

After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, “the disciples did not understand what was happening” (*John 12:16*).

A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God’s presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we’re standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing.

That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don’t want to miss our chance to sing:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(inspired by Psalm 31:9-16)*

Oh, Holy God, we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the Palm Sunday parade. We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you walk beside us as we experience life, from one week to the next.

We are too busy sighing and talking. We have insisted upon our own answers. We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things happen, about why the rich get richer as the poor get poorer, about why the world feels so broken.

We have assured ourselves that this is the way things must be, but this life is in your hands. Our lives are in your hands.

Dear God, speak to us and fill our silences. Comfort us with your love so we may find your understanding. Trust us to find your answers when we finally tire from our own. Save us, Dear God, with your steadfast love. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God opens your ears and speaks when you are silent. God will be your help, now and always. **Amen.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Children ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church,
located in the Thomas Room.*

***HYMN**

The Palms

– Jean-Baptiste Faure

**O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festal preparation,
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare;**

Chorus **Join all and sing, His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation:
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord!
Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation.**

**His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more regain freedom from degradation.
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness are restored to light.**

Chorus

**Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.**

Chorus

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

If you wish to give, you can give online at www.erucc.org, by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.



OFFERTORY

Hosanna to the King

Senior Choir
– D. Forrest

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O Holy One, Bless these gifts so that the world may know your love
even when we are silent. Amen.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Sonata from "The Chant Singer"

Market Street Brass
– Anonymous

– A PASSION NARRATIVE ACCORDING TO MARK –
“No Answer”

CONTEMPORARY READING

The Rev. Michelle Beadle

Come, Oh God. Fill in these stories from Scripture with your wisdom, with your love, and with your change, so we might rely on your answers, here and now.

Amen.

“If we want to dialogue with the Scriptures, we must expose ourselves to the political, social, economic, cultural, and religious situations of the ancient world where the writings were born and where the people did not necessarily enjoy peace and justice.”

(Hisako Kinukawa, *Global Bible Commentary*)

“Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead, on Ash Wednesday, were created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from older things that are allowed to die.”

(Richard Rohr, *Wondrous Encounters: Scriptures for Lent*)

THE PALM PARADE Mark 11:1-11

The Rev. Robert F. R. Peters Jr.

They were looking for answers. So, they went to Jerusalem. They gathered in the streets to make a way for peace. On the other side of the city, there was another procession. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, rode into Jerusalem with an army of horses, armored soldiers and waving banners.

On one side of the city, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus had sent two of his disciples to go into the village and find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. He instructed them, “If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They replied with the answer Jesus had given. “The Lord needs it,” they said.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and Jesus sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who needed answers, those who had come looking for peace, began shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

The congregation is invited to wave their palms and say in unison:

Come. Join in the parade, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.

SILENCE

THE ANOINTING Mark 14:1-9

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

They were looking for their own answers. They thought they knew how the world worked. While they worried, Jesus sat at the table in the house of Simon the leper. A woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. She did not reply. She continued with her task. She did what she could; she anointed his body beforehand for its burial. Jesus spoke, where she did not. "Truly I tell you," he said. "Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

In unison:

Come. Kneel beside her, ERUCC. Do not speak but remember what your own hands have done to proclaim the good news.

SILENCE

THE LAST SUPPER Mark 14:10-25

The Rev. Michelle Beadle

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased,

and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

They didn't understand his way. They didn't understand all that he taught but when it came time to share in the Passover feast, they turned to Jesus. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, those looking for answers, those who came looking for peace, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man, the Human One, goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Human One is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

In unison:

Come join us on Easter Sunday. On that day, one week from today, we will invite you to find your place at the table, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.

SILENCE

THE GARDEN Mark 14:32-40

The Rev. Robert F. R. Peters Jr.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. They had no answers.

In unison:

Come. Rest in the garden, you who are weary, you who don't have any answers.

INSTRUMENTAL HYMN

I Must Tell Jesus

M.L. Morgan, harmonica

THE BETRAYAL Mark 14:43-50

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. He was confident in his own answer. He thought he knew how this must end. So, he had told the chief priests, the scribes and the elders, "Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." When he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. They had come looking for answers. They had come looking for peace. This wasn't the way. They didn't understand. And so, they deserted him and fled.

In unison:

Come. Run into your fears, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.

SILENCE

THE ARREST Mark 14:53-65

The Rev. Michelle Beadle

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. They did not have one answer. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

The chief priests, the elders and the scribes knew their answer. They thought they knew the ways of God. They thought they knew all that God could do. There was nothing that could convince them otherwise. They spit on him and blindfolded him. They beat him for the words he said.

In unison:

Come. Listen to what God might be saying. Listen to what God might be doing that doesn't fit with everything that you have been taught about this world. Listen for God to speak.

SILENCE

THE DENIAL Mark 14:66-72

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." He answered, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

In unison:

Come. Join those who wander through courtyards, courtrooms, streets, and gardens. Join the crowds who have come looking for answers, looking for peace.

INSTRUMENTAL HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

M.L. Morgan, harmonica

CLOSING COMMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

Go into the world to find your voice, listening to what God will do.

Go into the world to find each other, reaching out when we need support.

Go into the world be amazed, knowing that God is always with us. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*

Adante from the Saint Mark Sonata

Market Street Brass

– T. Albinoni

We thank Market Street Brass for joining us in worship!

Trumpet: Daniel Cheston
Frank Gorecki
Horn: Oscar Cabello
Trombone: Nathan Lease
Bass Trombone: Brian Hinkley

WORSHIP NOTES: Portions of today's liturgy was written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The texts have been adapted for our use.

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us after worship in our Community Room for a time of fellowship with light refreshments. The Community Room is accessible by stairs or elevator on the 1st floor.

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed as a symbol of our offerings to God. May they praise the life and hope that Jesus Christ gives us, honor our loved ones, and give thanks for our blessings.

The yellow rose is presented in honor of veterans by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

*If you want to sponsor the yellow rose throughout the year,
please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.*

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 149 at 10:30 AM, and 69 online.



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 AM or on-demand:

<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

Serving Today: March 24

Scripture Reader: Michelle Beadle, Rob Peters
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder: Starr Schaeberle
Greeters: Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Rob Smith
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang, Pat Condo
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship: Susan Kulp, David Howard
Carolyn Roberts, Colin Neely
Robert Morris

Serving Next Week: March 31

John Shillingburg
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Peter Brehm
Bob and Nancy Manthey
Barb Barry
Thi Nguyen
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Colin Neely

HOLY WEEK AT ERUCC

MAUNDY THURSDAY: HOLY COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE SERVICE

Thursday, March 28

Sanctuary

7:30 PM

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment."

As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34).

This service has three main parts:

- A Service of Light-- based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
- A Service of Holy Communion in which we are invited to participate as one of The Twelve at the Last Supper;
- A Service of Shadows--Tenebrae--in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 28

Sanctuary and Livestreamed (evening)

12:00 and 7:30 PM

On this Holy Day, we are paying close attention to how Peter acts in Jesus' final hours. So much happens in a short amount of time: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, soldiers come and Peter draws his sword, Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him, Peter denies Jesus again and again and the cock crows, then Jesus is crucified and dies. Peter is prone to mess up, to fight, to deny, to leave, to seek safety for himself. But aren't we all? May we lament all the ways we are prone to leave the God we love.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31

8:30 AM

Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

10:30 AM

Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary and Livestream

We might expect that, after denying Christ, Peter would cower in shame—or perhaps even run away in an attempt to leave his past behind him. Instead, when he hears the news from the women, he doesn't dismiss them like the other disciples. He gets up and runs to the tomb. When he peers into the empty tomb and sees the linen cloth, he is filled with awe. Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst-case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter, will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?

The Senior Choir will sing, and we will have guest brass players.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

Evangelical Reformed UCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life event for which you, or someone you love, may need a visit.

ERUCC members who are in nursing homes and those who currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to regular Sunday morning services will continue to receive visits (and communion) from Rev. Bob Manthey.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

PRAYER LIST

We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Charlotte Blue and Family
(friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Delano Slifer
Virginia Gaul
Mark Ulrich
Emogene Wyand
Richard Leslie
Bob Pinner
Betsy Fisher
Caughy Family
Delmar Speak
Donna Hill (mother of Collen Baldree)
Philip Hill (father of Colleen Baldree)
Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen Baldree)
Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)
Lee Thomas
Joan Thomas (mother of Dan Smith's friend)

Lucy Patterson Cox (friend of Kathleen Jefferson)
Shannon Baxter (daughter of Kathy Gelles-Baxter)
Milt Crutchley
Sandra Trout
Autumn Crutchley
Christiane Armitage (sister-in-law of Linda Coyle)
Jason Rhoads
Nathan Cable
Hillal Eastburn
Barbara Rhoads
Pat Condo
Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones)
Greg Rhoads
Holly Davis
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)

Conway Barnes (brother-in-law of George & Linda Kline)
Jeannette Johnson
Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
The McCarty family
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Mary Remsberg
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield)

Remember to notify the church office when you want your request removed from the prayer list.

Today at ERUCC

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg

Sundays

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy

Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888

Passcode: 327128

We are studying the foundational stories of the Old Testament, the big stories in the order they occurred. No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible.

In March we will be skipping lightly through 1 & 2 Kings, focusing the stories of the destruction of the Southern Kingdom. What happened to God's promise to maintain the throne of David forever?

Class will not be held on Easter Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

9:30 – 10:10 AM

We have two classrooms for **Children's Sunday School**. Our Pre-K – 2nd Grade class meets in the Liz Coffey Room and our 3rd – 5th Grade class meets in the Thomas Room.

Our **Youth Sunday School** class for 6th – 12th Grade meets in the Clapp Conference Room in the Parish House Church Offices from 9:30 – 10:20 AM.

Classes will not be held on Easter Sunday.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

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www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

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CASH OR CHECK

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Evangelical Reformed UCC
15 W. Church St,
Frederick MD 21701*



*offering plates
are available in the
rear of the sanctuary
before and after worship*

This Week at ERUCC

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays

North Room / Zoom

11:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

Beginning March 26, we will begin a study using *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. Revs. David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy, along with an all-star cast of Bible scholars and top church teachers, provide a primer to a church movement that encourages every Christian to "live the questions" instead of "forcing the answers." We will supplement our reading with the DVD course of the same name, *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*, which includes commentary from such bestselling authors as Diana Butler Bass, John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren, and others. Books are available through the church office for \$10.

TUESDAY EVENING YOGA

Tuesdays

Community Room

7:00 PM

Join our drop-in Tuesday night yoga class! The first class of 2024 is January 16. You will need to bring yoga mat, blocks if used, and a water bottle. Each class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, March 26

North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants by Karen Bakker. The natural world teems with remarkable conversations, many beyond human hearing range. Scientists are using groundbreaking digital technologies to uncover these astonishing sounds, revealing vibrant communication among our fellow creatures across the Tree of Life.

At once meditative and scientific, *The Sounds of Life* shares fascinating and surprising stories of nonhuman sound, interweaving insights from technological innovation and traditional knowledge. We meet scientists using sound to protect and regenerate endangered species from the Great Barrier Reef to the Arctic and the Amazon. We discover the shocking impacts of noise pollution on both animals and plants. We learn how artificial intelligence can decode nonhuman sounds, and meet the researchers building dictionaries in East African Elephant and Sperm Whalish. At the frontiers of innovation, we explore digitally mediated dialogues with bats and honeybees. Technology often distracts us from nature, but what if it could reconnect us instead?

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE AND SOUP LUNCH

Wednesdays, through March 27 Community Room

12:00 PM

We will have a brief service at 12:00 PM each Wednesday during Lent, followed by a soup lunch and time for reflection in the Community Room.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with Rev. John Shillingburg

Wednesdays

North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500

Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this evening class offers an opportunity to read and discuss the scriptures, looking at them in their original context, considering when and by whom they were written, and how they have been interpreted through the centuries. All you need is a Bible; no prior knowledge is necessary.

We are studying the stories of the matriarchs and patriarchs in Genesis: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel, and Joseph. Just how exemplary were these heroes and heroines of the Hebrew Scriptures? Do they provide good models for us today?

EASTER CROSS DECORATING: CALLING ALL FLOWERS!

As we journey through Lent toward the promise of Easter, you are invited to bring fresh flowers with you to the cross on Easter morning, Sunday, March 31. Flowers may come from your gardens or florist.

When you come to worship on Easter Sunday, you may add your flowers to the cross in the sanctuary to help celebrate Christ's joyous resurrection. The cross is then carried out onto the portico at the end of the 10:30 AM service to proclaim life made new and beautiful through Christ to our Frederick community.



**LOVE IS
LOUDER**
Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**

Upcoming at ERUCC

LET'S TALK: BOOK STUDY OF CASTE

led by The Rev. Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm will co-lead a study of the book *Caste* by Isabelle Wilkerson for four Sundays in April. Participating in this class will offer many “ah-ha moments,” maybe some discomfort and lots of opportunity for discussion and reflection.

In Caste, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched, and beautifully written narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Participants are encouraged to read as much of the first one hundred pages as possible before the first class.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend *Let's Talk* in April to be part of this important conversation. If you would like to participate but need a book (\$17), contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

SPRING WORK DAY

Saturday, April 13

ERUCC

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Spring is coming! It's time for some spring cleanup at ERUCC. We are looking for volunteers to share their time and talent in cleaning up and completing small maintenance on our spaces. Tasks include painting (as always), cleaning windows, cleaning chairs in the Community Room, organizing, and other odds and ends. We are also looking for some volunteers to help provide lunch for the group.

If you have time we'd love your help! Please RSVP to the Property Chair, Owen York, in person, via email at property@erucc.org, or by phone/text (301) 401-4947.

2nd ANNUAL GREEN TEAM NETWORKING EVENT

Tuesday, April 16

Community Room

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Let's share, learn from and support each other in creating a more sustainable, just and healthy Frederick County at this event we are co-hosting with the Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS). Our ERUCC family is encouraged to attend to see all the great things being done across Frederick County to care for the earth.

We would also love to have some ERUCC volunteers to greet, direct visitors and manage the food and drinks!

Contact Linda Coyle, lkcoyle@yahoo.com, to RSVP or volunteer.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FREDERICK SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The Frederick School of Religion convenes for its 40th year on April 8. The School is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a ‘*Learning for Life*’ experience. This year’s school consists of 9 courses (8 six-week courses and 1 single afternoon course), which cover a broad range of topics appealing to diverse faith groups.

The location is Brook Hill United Methodist Church, 8946 Indian Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702. These courses will be offered on consecutive Monday and Tuesday afternoons and in the evenings from April 8th through May 15th. Each 6-week long course is eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information and registration forms, you may visit our website www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657.

ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skill in realization of their full potential.

These scholarships are gifts to church members for post-secondary undergraduate education and are awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The awards are based on the quality of the candidate's plan for use of the funds, the ability and promise of the applicant, and the need for financial assistance. The aid may continue for subsequent years after an interview with the Scholarship Committee, submission of intent to reapply, and a transcript of grades for the current year.

Scholarship applications are available through the Church Office for new applicants: (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

Students wishing to renew scholarships must also contact the Church Office providing the information requested. All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by the April 30 deadline.

Any further questions can be directed to Sandra Trout, Chairman of Scholarship Committee at troutsandra@aol.com.



Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Early Worship Service , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby, 2 nd Floor
9:00 – 10:15 AM	Let's Study the Bible , North Room, 2 nd Floor
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care , 1 st Floor
9:30 – 10:10 AM	Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Youth (6th – 12th Grade)</i> , Clapp Conference Room, Church Office
10:10 – 10:25 AM	Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship</i>
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Community Room, 1 st Floor

Stay Informed

TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*! Find printed copies in the back of the sanctuary or read online at <https://erucc.org/category/news/monthly-newsletter/>.

WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

Subscribe to receive our weekly email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code!



Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Wandering Heart: "Songs of loudest praise"

Courage

We summon every ounce of courage.

We give ourselves pep talks
and we call our friends.

We dig deep within.

We practice the words out loud,
rolling them around in our mouths,
imagining the response.

We deal out every "what if" card our brain holds on to
and spend absurd amounts of time
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.

And then finally, blessedly, we say it:

I love you.

To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.

It always has.

But please,

summon your courage,

join the parade,

and speak with conviction.

For God has been saying to the world since day one:

I love you.

What is your response?



PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

Wandering Heart: "Songs of loudest praise"



Then They Remembered

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 12:12-16

Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing

In the Matthew, Mark, and Luke versions of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, two unnamed disciples follow Jesus' orders to retrieve a colt. In these accounts, the disciples actively participate in the parade, laying down their cloaks and singing praise. In contrast, John's version of this story provides minimal details and the disciples are hardly mentioned at all. However, the text does a unique thing: it breaks the fourth wall to tell us something important:

"His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered" (John 12:16).

Is Peter at the parade? Does he lay down his cloak and follow the others? Does he sing songs of loudest praise? Or is he lost in the cacophony of the crowds, confused by and afraid of what is taking place? Maybe he is thinking about the blur of events in the days just before: Lazarus raised from the dead, Jesus anointed in Bethany, the crowds knocking down their doors, the plot to kill Jesus and Lazarus swelling like a darkened, fast-approaching sky.

They didn't understand at first, but then they remembered.

This image attempts to visualize these two locations in time and space. On the left, Peter looks out from the palm procession—his eyes glazed over as he watches Jesus riding into the city where he will surely meet his death. As the crowds sing "hosanna!" for a new, soon-to-be-killed-king, the dissonance of the scene causes Peter to tremble—like a guitar string snapped suddenly mid-tune.

In the top right is Peter's mirror image. In this mirage, we glimpse the future. Peter stands aghast at the empty tomb, waves of hope and relief rushing through him like a river of grace, the remembering happening all at once—like a childhood song plucked from memory, like the refrain of a chorus that won't let you go: *it's true, it's true, thank God it's true.*

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY
SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 24, 2024

Mark 14:1 - 15:47

“Into Jerusalem”

Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of the Holy Week that culminates in the passion and resurrection of Christ. The path of Holy Week is strewn with symbols to remind us of how Christ’s ministry, mission, suffering and new life continues to be reflected in the ministry, mission and suffering of God’s people today.

Take some time to sketch, journal about or pray the following words, visual symbols of this time. Which already have meaning to you? Which do you want to find out more about, either through reading and research or in contemplation and prayer? Which do you need to set aside as less meaningful for you, for this season at least?

- Donkey
- Beautiful alabaster jar
- Crown of thorns
- Women disciples
- Cross
- Men disciples
- Loincloth
- Chalice
- Overturned table
- Robe
- Rock
- Washing bowl
- Bread and Cup
- Place of the skull
- Torn cloth
- Blood
- Coins
- Sponge
- Rooster
- Evening
- Morning
- Tomb
- Angel



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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