



Into JERUSALEM

Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Thank you for worshiping with us at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

If you are a guest, please visit us at the Welcome Table in the sanctuary lobby. We would love to meet and learn more about you and are available to answer your questions about ERUCC. Please also feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. We encourage you to join us for in the Community Room for Fellowship after the worship service for casual conversation and connection over light refreshments.

ERUCC is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. We welcome into the full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff for ages 0-4. A deacon or greeter can guide you to the nursery. 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 and a children's table is available for quiet activities at the front of the sanctuary.

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, accessible and equipped with changing stations, are located on the 2nd floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1st floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2nd floor.

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

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.

15 WEST CHURCH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701
(301) 662-2762 • erucc@erucc.org • www.erucc.org



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



April 13, 2025

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

Rondeau
Highland Cathedral
Voluntary on Old 100th
Thaxted Hymn Tune

Market Street Brass
– J. Mouret
– M. Korb & U. Roever
– H. Purcell
– G. Holst

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

BRASS PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune

Market Street Brass
– H. Purcell

THRESHOLD MOMENT

If You Really Listen...

Camryn Huenger
– written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

In the city you'll hear horns, the clatter of the subway,
mothers calling to their children, saying,
"Take my hand before we cross the street."
You'll hear church bells, Salvation Army bells,
people asking for spare change, while others ask for directions.
You'll hear the whistle from the traffic cop,
the exhaust from the bus,
that a train is arriving in two minutes.
You'll hear mothers selling fresh mango,
theater kids selling tickets,
and religious groups selling ideas.
But even with all that shouting,
even with all that noise,

the birds still sing.
Against all odds,
thanks be to God,
the birds still sing.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this day, Jesus marched
in between the city walls and the Temple,
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.

On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.

May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in between!

***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**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Speaking God,
Most days we are inundated with noise.
Some of it is good—
laughter, music, storytelling.
Some of it is hard—
arguments, slurs, the sound of bomber planes.
Every day we live between silence and shouting,
rotating through quiet and noise.
So in the midst of this messy middle,
help us to hear what is yours.
Help us to hear your song,
your story, your good news.
Help us to hear your voice,
your Spirit, your will.
And show us how to release the rest.
We are listening.
Amen.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, we are truth-tellers in the prayer of confession.
We are honest about the fact that we are works in progress.
We tell the truth of our lives. We lay it all out before God.
But this moment of prayer isn't just about us.
In the prayer of confession we also reveal who God is, and our God is merciful.
Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
So let us pray, knowing that God's truth will always mean grace for us.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great Creator, forgive me
**when I speak before listening,
when I speak over my neighbor,
when I speak with barbed words.**

Creator God, forgive me
**when I listen to society,
when I listen to my friends,
when I listen to the news,
but I do not listen to you.**

Creator God, forgive me
**when I shout out, but do not shout your name,
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice.
Forgive me.**

Create in me a heart like yours.
Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals this year, whether or not this is your first time in church or your thousandth time, whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice, God listens to you. God is merciful. God is abounding in steadfast love. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven.
Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Children, youth, and all who wish to join them are invited to come forward for a special message.

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 aged 5 through 5th grade who wish to participate in **Junior Church** may meet leaders at the back of the sanctuary. Children will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.*

***HYMN**

The Palms

– J.B. 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*]

THE SCRIPTURES

Quynn Adkins

Luke 19:29-40 NT page 83

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that many years ago
a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.
We believe that on that day
the people cried out,
longing and praying for a better world.
We believe that these longings
came from a place of deep hope,
and we believe
that hope cannot be silenced.
So we listen for the Spirit.
We sing Hosanna.
We pay attention.
For in between the silence and the song,
we believe the Spirit is speaking. Amen.**

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

Let us return to God a portion of what we have been given.

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 our church's ministries and programs. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts to share God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshiping with us.

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

On the Road to Jerusalem

Senior Choir
– J.M. Martin

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, use our offerings and our lives to bring wholeness to this world.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Fanfare from *Orfeo*

Market Street Brass
– C. Monteverdi

– SERVICE OF THE PASSION – The Passion Narrative According to Luke

The cast of readers:

Narrator 1: Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

Narrator 2: Rev. Carolyn Roberts

Jesus: Rev. Michelle Beadle

Voice: Rev. John Shillingburg

Narrator 1: Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,

Jesus: Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.

Narrator 1: They asked him,

Voice: Where do you want us to make preparations for it?

Narrator 1: He said to them,

Jesus: Listen: when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” ’ He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.

Narrator 1: So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

Narrator 2: When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

Jesus: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Narrator 2: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

Jesus: Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

Narrator 2: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Narrator 2: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

Jesus: This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!

Narrator 1: Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

Jesus: The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Narrator 1: And Simon Peter said to Jesus,

Voice: Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!

Narrator 1: Jesus said,

Jesus: I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.

Narrator 1: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?

Narrator 1: They said,

Voice: No, not a thing.

Narrator 1: He said to them,

Jesus: But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.

Narrator 1: They said,

Voice: Lord, look, here are two swords.

Narrator 1: He replied,

Jesus: It is enough.

Narrator 2: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

Jesus: Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

Narrator 2: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

Jesus: Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

Narrator 2: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

Jesus: Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

Narrator 2: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?

Narrator 2: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

Voice: Lord, should we strike with the sword?

Narrator 2: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

Jesus: No more of this!

Narrator 2: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!

Narrator 1: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

Voice: This man also was with him.

Narrator 1: But he denied it, saying,

Voice: Woman, I do not know him.

Narrator 1: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

Voice: You also are one of them.

Narrator 1: But Peter said,

Voice: Man, I am not!

Narrator 1: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

Voice: Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Narrator 1: But Peter said,

Voice: Man, I do not know what you are talking about!

Narrator 1: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Narrator 2: Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

Voice: Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?

Narrator 2: They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

Voice: If you are the Messiah, tell us.

Narrator 2: Jesus replied,

Jesus: If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

Narrator 2: All of them asked,

Voice: Are you, then, the Son of God?

Narrator 2: He said to them,

Jesus: You say that I am.

Narrator 2: Then they said,

Voice: What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!

Narrator 1: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

Voice: We found this man inciting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.

Narrator 1: Then Pilate asked him,

Voice: Are you the king of the Jews?

Narrator 1: He answered,

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator 1: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

Voice: I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

Narrator 1: But they were insistent and said,

Voice: He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.

Narrator 1: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent

him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

Voice: You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

Narrator 1: Then they all shouted out together,

All: Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!

Narrator 1: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

All: Crucify, crucify him!

Narrator 1: A third time he said to them,

Voice: Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

Narrator 1: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Narrator 2: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

Jesus: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

Narrator 2: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

Jesus: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

Narrator 2: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

Voice: He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

Narrator 2: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

Voice: If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

Narrator 2: There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

Voice: Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

Narrator 2: But the other rebuked him, saying,

Voice: Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.

Narrator 2: Then he said,

Voice: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Narrator 2: Jesus replied,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Narrator 2: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Narrator 2: Having said this, he breathed his last.

All keep silent

Narrator 2: When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

Voice: Certainly this man was innocent.

Narrator 2: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Narrator 1: Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

***HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK**

Ah, Holy Jesus

#218

**Ah, holy Jesus,
how have you offended,
that mortal judgment
has on you descended?
By foes derided,
by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!**

**Who was the guilty?
Who brought this upon you?
It is my treason,
Lord, that has slain you.
And I, dear Jesus,
I it was denied you;
I crucified you.**

**For me, kind Jesus,
was your incarnation,
your mortal sorrow,
and your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish
and your bitter passion,
for my salvation.**

**Therefore, kind Jesus,
since I cannot pay you,
I do adore you
and will ever pray you,
Think on your pity
and your love unswerving,
not my deserving.**

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,

and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.
Amen.

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE

Sarabande in D minor

Market Street Brass

– G.F. Handel

During the postlude, please remain seated, letting the music flow over you as a closing blessing.



We thank Market Street Brass for joining us in worship!

Trumpet: Daniel Cheston
Frank Gorecki
Horn: Oscar Cabello

Trombone: Daniel Twentey
Bass Trombone: Brian Hinkley

Worship Notes: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Dedication was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a transitional pastor in the Heartland Conference, a certified facilitator of Sacred Conversations to End Racism, and a certified InterPlay leader.

Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor).

The flowers on the altar are placed by Rob McGuire and Alex Martinez in honor of their parents, Robert and Rosemarie McGuire and Jaime and Helen Martinez.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 10 at 8:30 AM, 138 at 10:30 AM, and 42 online.



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

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

Serving Today: April 13

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Peter Brehm
Acolyte: Ben
Scripture Reader: Quynn Adkins
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Sue Pinner

Welcome Table: Thi Nguyen
Lobby Attendant: Eric Weakly
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Dawn Lagrotteria
Fellowship: Ave Barr, Cliff Barr, Pat Condo
Joan Maples, Allen Maples
Jen Powell, Bud Rossig

Serving Next Week: April 20

Harrison Fisher, Kyle Miller

Jeanellen Kallevang
Willa

Rachel Ford, Tom Ford
Felecia Bishop
Cliff Barr
Sue Pinner
Larry Martin, Kelly Esslinger
David Howard
Meredith Neely
Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer
Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop
Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

BE A BLESSING PRACTICE PEACE.
LEAD WITH LOVE.
BE JOYFUL. PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.
DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.
BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HOLY WEEK AT ERUCC

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17

7:30 PM Worship in Sanctuary



In his final hours, Jesus redefines power through acts of humility, including sharing a final meal with his closest friends and those who will soon betray him. After breaking bread, the disciples argue about who is the greatest, but Jesus tells them that the greatest must be the least and the leader must be the servant, turning their hierarchy on its head. According to Jesus, humility is powerful, and real power is shown through humility.

We will commemorate the last Supper as we share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Senior Choir will sing.

HOLY FRIDAY

Friday, April 18

12:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

7:30 PM Worship in Sanctuary and Livestream



As Jesus dies on the cross, one thief resists him and the other accepts him as Messiah. Jesus resists the empire but accepts his fate. We also are called to resist systems of power and oppression, and yet we ultimately have to accept that Jesus dies—and one day we will too. We have to discern what to accept as given and what to resist, what is “God’s will,” and what is the result of our own unquestioned systems.

The Senior Choir will sing.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20

8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary and Livestream



Grief is a healthy response to Jesus’ death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don’t believe the women’s message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn’t have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.

This morning, we will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at stations in the front of the Sanctuary. The Senior Choir will sing and guest brass players will join us in celebration. We will also add to our Prayer Tree, expanding its inclusivity with brightly colored prayer flowers, alongside the fresh flowers we place on the Easter Cross, symbolizing our collective prayers and the beauty of resurrection hope.

PRAYER LIST

We invite you to hold the following people in your prayers this week. Though we may not know the specifics of their needs, God does, and our prayers are a meaningful way to surround them with love and support.

ERUCC seeks permission before adding a name to this list or in worship announcements. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Christy Kehlbeck (friend of Hollie Mercier)
John Howard (brother of David Howard)
Doris Esslinger
Kim Genau (friend of the Duncans and the Jeffersons)
Sandra Trout
Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Trish Coffey
Kathy Johnson
Mary Staley
Mike Robertson (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Pat Condo
Wells Condo
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family
Greg Alley
Dave Alley
Kitty Bradley
Beanie Cornell
Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)

Susan Bonhag (friend of the Mercier family)
Milt Crutchley
Father of Sherry Murray
Tom Frazier
Pauline Marendt
Kat Weedon (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Charlotte Blue and Family (friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Emogene Wyand
Bob Pinner
Delmar Speak
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)
Greg Rhoads
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Jeannette Johnson
Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)

PASTORAL CARE

ERUCC 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.

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 receive visits (and communion) from Rev. Dr. Morgan. Our Faithful Friends Team also makes visits, calls, and sends care cards.

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.

Christian Education: Spiritual Life, Learning, and Practices

BIBLE STUDIES for ADULTS

SUNDAY MORNING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy
Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888
Passcode: 327128

**The Sunday morning class will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 20.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor
with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERTuesday
Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398
Passcode: 973365

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with Rev. John Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy
Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500
Passcode: 848933

LET'S TALK

Let's Talk is an adult educational opportunity that focuses on how we can live out our faith and share our knowledge and expertise. Contact Linda Coyle, lkcoyle@yahoo.com with questions or ideas for a presentation.

Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity

Sundays, March 2 – April 13
Flora Room, 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Living the Questions invites us to explore a more authentic, open-minded faith. In this thought-provoking 7-week video series, Revs. David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy team up with an all-star cast of Bible scholars and church leaders to provide a primer to a church movement that encourages every Christian to "live the questions" instead of "forcing the answers."

Facilitated by Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg, each *Let's Talk* session in this series features commentary from bestselling authors like Diana Butler Bass, John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, and Brian McLaren. Together, we'll embrace curiosity, wrestle with tough topics, and discover how progressive Christianity offers a vibrant, compassionate path forward.

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays

Trinity Chapel, 7:00 PM

Experience tranquility and wellness in this Gentle Yoga Class. Led by experienced Yogamour instructors, this nurturing practice focuses on gentle postures, mindful breathing, and deep relaxation techniques. Participants of all levels are welcome.

Each drop-in class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

To access the yoga classroom in Trinity Chapel, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the side door, and into the hallway leading to the classroom.

LENTEN PRAYER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Wednesdays through Lent

Zoom, 9:30 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERenough

Meeting ID: 845 4002 5254

Passcode: 443871

Join us on Zoom every Wednesday morning during Lent at 9:30 AM for a time of intentional prayer, focusing on current events and the needs of our community, nation, and world.

Contact: Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg, rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com, or Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

While this gathering is virtual-only, please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to request in-person encouragement or pastoral care.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

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15 W. Church St,
Frederick MD 21701



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

Activities and Events

HOP INTO ACTION: HELP US GET READY FOR EASTER FUN!

We're gearing up for another egg-citing event at ERUCC—our **Good Friday Eggstravaganza**, and we need your help to make it happen!

Donation List: bit.ly/EReggs25



Can you help? Every bunny who can contribute makes a difference! Let us know what you can bring, and let's make this a joyful celebration for our children and community!

CHATS WITH THE TRANSITION TEAM

April 13, and April 25

ERUCC members are invited to connect and "Chat with the Transition Team" at one of three new gatherings:

Sunday, April 13, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

hosted at the home of Kathy and Neil Jefferson
2423 Mill Race Road
Frederick (Worman's Mill area)

RSVP by email to kathleen.jefferson@gmail.com.

Friday, April 25, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

hosted at the home of Owen and Tyler York
9314 Hillsborough Drive
Frederick (Spring Ridge area)

RSVP by email to tyork@erucc.org.



God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

SAVE THE DATES - INQUIRERS' CLASSES

Sunday, April 27 and Sunday, May 11

Flora Room and Zoom, 9:30 AM

Interested in learning more about ERUCC and what it means to be part of our community of faith? We warmly invite you to join us for our two-part **Inquirers' Class** — a time to connect, ask questions, and explore what membership at ERUCC looks like.

If you're seeking a church where...

- You don't have to check your mind at the door
- God's love embraces *every* person — no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey
- Faith engages with the real world — offering meaning, hope, and purpose
- You and your family can grow spiritually in an open, affirming, and thoughtful community

.... then we'd love to get to know you.

At our Inquirer's Class, you'll meet our pastors and church members, hear more about our values, beliefs, and history, and learn about the United Church of Christ — our wider church family.

Who should come? Anyone curious about ERUCC, whether you're brand new or have been worshipping with us for a while but haven't taken the step of membership. ERUCC members looking for a refresher or who simply want to be part of meeting and welcoming others into our church community are also welcome.

Questions? Contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

ADORN OUR FLORAL EASTER CROSS

Easter Sunday, April 20

As we embrace the joy of Easter, you are invited to help transform the cross into a beautiful symbol of resurrection and new life. On Easter morning, Sunday, April 20, bring fresh flowers—whether from your garden or a florist—and place them on the cross in the sanctuary.

During the 10:30 AM service, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection, and at the end of worship, the flower-adorned cross will be carried outside to the portico, proclaiming the promise of new life to our Frederick community.

Following worship, the Easter Cross will be moved to the outside stairs for photos. We especially invite children and youth to join Pastor Kirstin and Pastor Morgan for a group photo at the cross.

Join us in this cherished tradition as we share the beauty and hope of Easter!

ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in the 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.

All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by the **April 30 deadline**.

Request an application for new or renewing applicants by email: erucc@erucc.org.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 4

Community Room / Zoom, ~12:00 PM

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4, in the Community Room. Lunch will be served immediately following worship. We will elect new elders, deacons, and committee chairs. Members and friends of the congregation may also participate via Zoom.

Zoom information will be available in advance of the meeting.

To be elected by the Congregation:

Elder for first 3-year term

Elder for first 3-year term

Deacon for second 2-year term

Deacon for second 2-year term

Deacon for second 2-year term

Deacon for first 2-year term

Deacon for first 2-year term

Finance Chair for first 2-year term

Stewardship/Generosity Chair for first 1-year term

Christian Education Chair for first 2-year term

Worship Chair for first 1-year term

Member-at-Large for first 1-year term

Susan Kulp

Ave Barr

Jim Brittain

Robin A. Brady-Slifer

Robin L. Brady-Slifer

Tommie Bradshaw

Mark Ulrich

to be announced

Julie Clark

Holly Davis

Rebecca Shillingburg

Larry Martin

Children, Youth, & Families

CONFIRMATION MEETING

Sunday, April 13

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Parents and Prospective Confirmands (rising 7th and 8th graders) are invited to attend a Confirmation meeting in the Trinity Chapel Sanctuary. Enter through side door.

At this meeting, we expect to:

- Share the goals and structure for Confirmation
- Share some of the dates we ask families to commit to outside of Sundays
- Discuss the role of mentors
- Answer questions for youth and families

YOUTH RETREAT TO BETHANY BEACH

April 13 – 16, departing from ERUCC Parking Lot, 2:00 PM (April 13)



ERUCC Youth are invited to a meaningful retreat exploring Peace, paired with the Holy Week story at Bethany Beach! Cost is \$50.

Register today: bit.ly/ythBB0425

GOD'S KIDS CLUB AND EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Friday, April 18

Community Room, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Register your children today for our Holy Friday God's Kids Club, including our annual Easter Eggstravaganza! This special God's Kids Club will be filled with hands-on activities that bring the Easter story to life! Tots and parents are welcome, too!

- **Resurrection Eggs Lesson & Take-Home Story** – Discover the meaning of Easter in a fun and interactive way.
- **Paint Easter Eggs** – Get creative as we decorate eggs together!
- **Make Baskets & Sign Cards** – Share love and kindness with those in our church family who are homebound and in care facilities.
- **Paint a Cross to Take Home** – A beautiful reminder of God's love.

Youth helpers are welcome to be part of this special day! If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Kirstin.

We hope your child can join us for this exciting day of fun and faith!

Register today: bit.ly/GKC0418



CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Liz Coffey Room, 10:00 – 10:20 AM

This music group for children in Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to participate in rehearsals each Sunday morning following Sunday School from 10:00–10:20 AM in the Liz Coffey Room.

YOUNG SPIRIT REHEARSAL

rehearses the 1st and 3rd Sundays
dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

Rehearsals are held after the Thought for the Day on the first and third Sundays of each month and wrap up by 11:30 AM so you can rejoin your family in the sanctuary. No experience needed—just enthusiasm! Young Spirit Director: Trish Coffey

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children should be checked in by one of their grown-ups at the Check-In Station in the Kieffer Lobby before class.

Pre-K – 2nd Grade

Liz Coffey Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

3rd – 5th Grade

Thomas Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

**Sunday School classes will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 20.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Youth Sunday School, with Middle and High School classes, meets in Trinity Chapel, 10 West Church Street. Enter through the side door behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Always use the crosswalk. Youth will return as a group to the Kieffer Lobby at 10:15 AM.

**Sunday School classes will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 20, or Sunday, April 27. On Youth Sunday, April 27, youth should meet Pastor Kristin in Trinity Chapel at 9:15 AM.

JUNIOR CHURCH

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays
dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

Junior Church is a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities for children ages five through 5th grade. Children begin 10:30 AM worship with their families and are dismissed to Junior Church after the Thought for the Day. On the first Sunday of each month, children participate in worship and communion with their families.

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

Tyler L. York ~ *Executive Church Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

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*

CONSISTORY

Peter Brehm ~ *President* | Matt Hueting ~ *Vice President*

David Kehne ~ *Secretary* | Robert Morris ~ *Treasurer*

Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Will Duncan ~ *Finance Chair*

Shelley Weakly ~ *Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Chair*

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Dan Ebersole ~ *Property Chair*

Vacant ~ *Christian Education Chair* | Matt Davis ~ *Head Deacon* | Larry Martin ~ *Member-at-Large*

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Eric Weakly

DEACONS

Quynn Adkins | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | Angela Brittain

Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

TRANSITION TEAM

Felecia Bishop | Tommie Bradshaw | Karen Justice | Terry Logee | Allen Maples

Thomasa Pomeroy | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely | Katie Zander

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Early Worship , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby
9:00 AM	Let's Study the Bible , North Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Children's Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth</i> , Trinity Chapel <i>High School Youth</i> , Trinity Chapel
9:15 AM	Let's Talk , Flora Room
10:00 – 10:20 AM	Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room <i>Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)</i> Young Spirit Rehearsal , Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite <i>Participating youth are dismissed from Worship (1st and 3rd Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary <i>Children and Youth</i>

Thursday Rehearsal Schedule

subject to change

6:15 PM	Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary <i>Contact: Trish Coffey and Kelly Esslinger</i>
7:00 PM	Senior Choir Rehearsal , Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite <i>Contact: Alison E. Shafer</i>

Stay Informed

Subscribe to receive e-news from ERUCC at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code.



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
(SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT)

April 13, 2025

Luke 24:36b-48

Into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, where the passion of our Lord will play out before us, ending in his death on the Good Friday cross. But for now, we gather with that ancient crowd, waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (which means “save us!”).

On this day, we praise Christ our King who gave new meaning to that title “king.” For Jesus wasn’t like King Saul who towered in physical strength nor was he like King Solomon who was surrounded by wealth and great wisdom. Jesus was a king who chose the way of servanthood and who rode a humble animal rather than a warhorse. And yet the streets still overflowed with people wanting to welcome this man who had stirred the countryside with his radical message of God’s all-encompassing love.

Before riding into Jerusalem, Jesus asked his disciples to get a donkey and a colt. The disciples questioned Jesus if the animals’ owner would give them freely. Jesus replied, “Just say the Lord needs them.” Sure enough, the disciples didn’t run into any hesitation and were able to secure the animals for their friend.

We rarely linger on this detail in the story of Jesus’ passion, preferring to focus on the palm-waving fanfare. But let’s leave that cheering crowd for a moment and linger, asking ourselves what it is that the Lord needs of us.

Perhaps not a donkey, but a trusting heart? Perhaps not a colt, but our time to help others no matter how stretched our time seems to be?

Can we give drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry and clothing to the naked? Can we give Jesus our commitment to stay by his side when others fall by the wayside? Can we wait in patient faith for resurrection promises amid our dark nights of the soul?

My friends, the truth is that the Lord needs much more than a humble animal to ride on. He needs our hearts.

Come, let us rejoin that Palm Sunday crowd knowing that all too soon those hosannas will fade. Hold on to your palm branch tightly, though. Hold on and listen for all the Jesus is asking of you.

Redeeming God, we are quick to sing Your praises when things go our way, but when life’s cheers turn to jeers, we quickly doubt and run from the grace of Your Son Jesus. Help us to be present now and always to our Savior, giving whatever it is He asks of us this day. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.



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