

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 N. 2nd Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304.623.3397

email: cfumc@citynet.net

Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

Brett Miller, Director of Music

*"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"*



April 2, 2023

10:45 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY

WORDS OF WELCOME -----Pastor Michael Atkinson

PRELUDE ----- "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" / Emily Maxson Porter----- Dr. Jessica Scott

\*CALL TO WORSHIP ----- Rev. Harry Jenkins

Leader: Hosanna, Child of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the Sovereign's name!

People: What is this strange procession? Why are people so excited?

Leader: The prophet has come! The one who talks sense and listens.

People: But Good clothes are being trampled, and they're getting dirty underfoot.

Leader: Jesus has no concern about possessions; but people have been healed by a touch.

People: Why would a prophet come here? We like things quiet and predictable.

Leader: This is the One who saves us, who teaches us how to live.

People: Will salvation bring changes I'll regret?

What will it cost to take this One seriously?

\*OPENING PRAYER:

We come together, as believers and skeptics, to remember the drama of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We can get caught up in the excitement of a parade, especially in an important place or honoring someone we know. We like celebrations. But part of us holds back.

We know the rest of the story. It involves denial and betrayal, spitting and shame, a crown of thorns, and a cruel cross. O God, it's hard to make sense out of life when goodness is crucified and evil seems to triumph. Free us from our fear of consequences so we, too, can wave palm branches and sing praises. Amen.

\*HYMN #280 ----- "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ----- "Hosanna/Clippity Clop"

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS WITH THE PASTOR

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM ----- "There in God's Garden"/arr. Bankson

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom, Whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations;

Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering;

See there the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage; Our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.

Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome; Hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!

Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."

This is my ending, this my resurrection; Into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.

This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.

All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon.

Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!

### GOSPEL LESSON ----- Matthew 21:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, Gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

**"Hosanna to the Son of David!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

The whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered,

**"This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."**

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON- - - - - "Marching with Jesus" - - - - - Pastor Atkinson  
*(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)*

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we stand at the gate, hesitant and uncertain; we are reluctant to answer your invitation; we are slow to embark on the journey toward your reign. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us the help we need to be your people—the courage to join you in the procession; the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you; the freedom to lift our palms to your glory; and the knowledge that by your grace we are forgiven. Amen.

*(Silent Prayers of Confession Offered)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this good news! The procession is ever moving forward. We can join at any moment. The invitation still stands! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen!

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. . . .

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. . . .

...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

## 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 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.

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION - - "Joy and Celebration" / First Church Bells

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN #277 - - - - - "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

POSTLUDE - "Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der den Tod uberwand/Bach- -Dr. Scott



### **THURSDAY, APRIL 6th at 7:00 p.m.**

*During this service, we recall the event of the Last Supper, at which Jesus gave his followers a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them.*

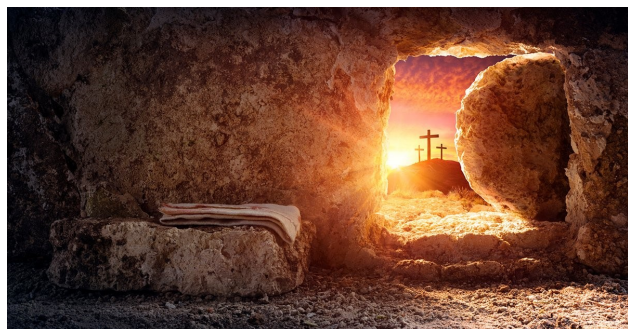
*The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum", which means commandment.*



### **FRIDAY, APRIL 7th at 7:00 p.m.**

*Crucifixion — Sacrifice — Forgiveness — Redemption*

*Before the glory of the Easter resurrection,  
we must journey to Golgotha...to the cross.  
Before the light, we face the darkness.*



### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9th at 10:45 a.m.**

*It is this day that defines who we are as Christians.  
"This is the day the Lord has made,  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"*

***Come...celebrate...give thanks...rejoice!***



WWW.CFUMC.ORG



cfumc@citynet.net



First United Methodist Church — Clarksburg



(follow us on Facebook) First United Methodist Church of Clarksburg



### **EASTER PROGRAM** **“THE GLORIOUS RAINBOW OF EASTER”**

A special part of next Sunday’s worship,  
Presented by our Children and Youth!

### **MUSTARD SEED**

“Thanks to all who support the Mustard Seed. This past Monday, 48 families came to us for food (170 people)!  
They are the working poor or those on fixed incomes.

**Current needs are: spaghetti & sauce, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, soup & crackers, shampoo & deodorant.**

. Donations may be delivered to us at the Mustard Seed, but  
please do not leave things at Mustard Seed unless someone is there to accept your gifts.

We are open Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri from 11 am to 3 pm.

For a specific delivery appointment, call any of our volunteers or Dolores at 304-624-6077.

### **OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY**

to the family and friends of Barbara Patton

A Memorial Service will be held here in our sanctuary tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m.

Visitation will be available here from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

**Contact Tammy Matheny at 304-476-2015**  
**if you would like information about our Prayer Chain.**

