

Welcome to First Congregational Church



Photograph by Benjamin F. Powelson, American, 1823 - 1885
Subject of Harriet Tubman, American, 1822 - 1913
Owned by Emily Howland, American, 1827 - 1929
Description A carte-de-visite of Harriet Tubman seated in an interior room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Question for reflection for Sunday, April 13th: Do you take the time to draw on the listening-imagination of the gentle voice at the heart of your life?

"Prayer for our Nation and the impact of our Nations choices" If you are interested in joining a weekly prayer gathering, please let Renee' Rouse know. We will meet via zoom date and time TBD. Blessings, Renee' Rouse, worship1st@gmail.com

Maundy Thursday Service - Please **RSVP** (to secretary@concordfirstchurch.org) by Monday, April 14th, so that we can be sure to have enough seating and food. Thank you!

Jazz Sanctuary in April is our Good Friday Service, April 18th at 7pm, in the Chapel. There is no Jazz Sanctuary service on Easter Sunday.

Lenten Offering (One Great Hour of Sharing): Please take a silk purse. Instead of giving up something, put a coin, or a "wooden heart" (available with the purses) or just an IOU in the purse every time you are so moved by God's beauty. At the end of lent you can donate what you have accumulated towards the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Racial Justice Team: Our next discussion and meeting is on Thursday, April 24th. We are reading *Night Flyer: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People* by Tiya Miles. You are invited to join us on Zoom for the discussion at 1pm, followed by our meeting at 2pm.

Page Turners for April: We are reading *Soul Boom: Why We Need Spiritual Revolution* by Rainn Wilson, and all are invited to join us for the discussion on April 28th from 2-3pm in the Chapel at Wesley or on Zoom.

Musical Invitation from Pastor Emilia in preparation for Easter worship on Sunday, April 20th: Listen to Handel's Hallelujah Chorus

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday, April 13th 10:30am Worship
11:30am Lenten Video Discussion

Maundy Thursday, April 17th 6pm Soup Dinner & Worship
(RSVP by April 14th)

Good Friday, April 18th 7pm Jazz Sanctuary Worship
(in Phillips Chapel)

Easter Sunday, April 20th 10:30 Worship
[No Jazz Sanctuary]

Welcome to First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 13, 2025—Palm Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Coleman's March (trad. American)

Annie Papinsick

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR WORSHIP WITH THE BREATH (from Cole Arthur Riley)

Inhale: The whole earth groans.

Exhale: Beauty is a cure.

CALL TO WORSHIP: ("Palm Sunday" by Cole Arthur Riley)

There is miracle in belonging to a God who rejects the image of the glorified hero and instead comes to us on a donkey, centering the plight of those who suffer.

Liberation begins with this: Do not be afraid.

COMING INTO THE INVISIBLE EMBRACE OF BEAUTY (from Hermann Broch, Austrian writer)

"For the soul stands forever at her source:

stands true to the grandeur of her awakening,

to her the end itself possesses the dignity of the beginning;

no song becomes lost that has ever plucked the strings of her lyre,

and exposed in ever-renewed readiness,

she preserves herself through every single tone

in which she has ever resounded"

OFFERING OUR MOMENTS OF BEAUTY

SONG:

#213

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (Public Domain)

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

2 From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,
the victory palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.

3 "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours.
we hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers;
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice.

Hear now Psalm 134 from the Rev. Benjamin Chavis psalter...
Psalter Lesson Psalm 134
Here ends the Psalter Lesson.
Amen.

Here now from the Gospel according to Luke
Gospel Lesson Luke 4:14-21 (The Voice) Tim Wildman
Here ends the Lesson.
Amen.

Hear now from the Letter to the Church in Rome...
New Testament Lesson Romans 12:1-3 (The Voice) Tim Wildman
Here ends the Lesson.
Amen.

CONFESSION: (written by Cole Arthur Riley)
Creator God, we confess that we have confined ourselves to the binaries of analytical and artistic, logician and poet, instead of existing in the full complexity of our humanity. That which is feeling and creative we have made optional as opposed to vital. And we destroy far more than we create. Forgive us. And in your mercy, restore our relationship to the Artistry that dwells within us all. Amen.

FORGIVENESS: (written by Cole Arthur Riley)

SERMON The Inner Voice of the Soul Rev. Emilia Halstead

PAUSING FOR MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HISTORY OF SONG PASTOR EMILIA

SONG: #593 Lift Every Voice and Sing
Lift Every Voice and Sing, James W. Johnson, 1871-1938
Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954.
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Global Ministries Weekly Prayers: Fiji
(Written by Nikotemo Sopepa, Pacific Theological College, Fiji)

Mission Moment from Fiji

Prayers with Fiji

God of the ocean, land, and sky. God of our ancestors who fared this vast sea, guiding our forefathers and mothers from island to island. You were the wind behind the sail. The sun on their faces. The rain in the storm soothed the pain and fear of tribal wars, famine, and disputes that caused our people to sail the high seas. God, you were also the courage behind their aspirations to find new land, life, and beginnings.

Today, in new oceans filled with hatred and capitalistic surges without fear or shame, we find ourselves lost again in the darkness of political storms. We search for land and light but are assaulted from every side. Help us cross this ocean. Please give us the strength, stamina, and willpower to weather the storm.

When we, as a people and nation, are afflicted beyond our strength to withstand, give us the grace to forgive and not to hate in return.

Sail with us to new beginnings, dear God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Response to each prayer:)

Divine Inner Voice,

Receive our prayers.

PASTORAL PRAYER ("Palm Sunday" by Cole Arthur Riley)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen:
Offertory

Dona Nobis Pacem (Public Domain)

Invitation (written by Ann Siddall)

GRATITUDE MUSIC

Unst Bridal March (trad. Shetland)

Annie Papinsick

LITANY OF DEDICATION (written by Joanna Harader)

Divine Inner Voice,

We give these offerings in gratitude,

rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give these offerings in faith,

trusting that you will provide for our needs.

We give these offerings in hope,

knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts and open hands. Amen

CLOSING SONG: #216

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (Public Domain)

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!

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD WITH THE BREATH (from Cole Arthur Riley)

Inhale: Do not be afraid.

Exhale: Liberation is coming.

GREATEST COMMANDMENT

BENEDICTION & SENDING (written by Cole Arthur Riley)

POSTLUDE

March of the Kings of Laois (trad. Irish)

Anie Papinsick

Photograph by Benjamin F. Powelson, American, 1823 - 1885

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Description A carte-de-visite of Harriet Tubman seated in an interior room. She is positioned slightly turned to the right and gazes off camera. Her right hand rests on the back of a wooden chair and her left hand rests in her lap. A boldly patterned carpet covers the floor and the wall or drop behind her is a blank light color. Tubman wears a black bodice that buttons at the center front and has dropped sleeves with heavy ruching and ruffled details on the sleeves. There is a panel of lighter fabric around the yoke, with the upper neck the same dark color as the body of the bodice. A white lace collar with short tails is crossed and pinned at the front of her neck. Her hair is parted at the center and gathered at the nape of her neck. Tubman's full skirt is made from a light and dark patterned gingham check. It drapes slightly on the floor and hides her feet completely. The text "Harriet Tubman" is handwritten in graphite across the bottom of her skirt. The print is mounted on card stock and a double-lined red border is printed around the front edges of the card framing the print. The photograph is housed in the album 2017.30. The album page has a triple-lined, gold border framing the print. Handwritten in graphite in the lower left corner of the album page with this photograph is the text "Powelson photog. / Auburn Ny". Credit Line Collection of the National Museum of African American History and Culture shared with the Library of Congress 1868-1869 Object number 2017.30.47 Restrictions & Rights Public domain Proper usage is the responsibility of the user. Type cartes-de-visite albumen prints portraits Medium albumen and silver on photographic paper on card mount Dimensions H x W (Image): 3 11/16 x 2 1/4 in. (9.4 x 5.7 cm) H x W (Image and Mount): 3 15/16 x 2 7/16 in. (10 x 6.2 cm) Place captured Auburn, Cayuga County, New York, United States, North and Central America See more items in National Museum of African American History and Culture Collection. Collection title Emily Howland Photograph Album.