

Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, Ukrainian artist Oleksandr Antonyuk

Palm Sunday

Payson Park Church

We are Growing with God, for the Good of the World

Sunday, April 13, 2025 10:30am

Congregational - United Church of Christ

365 Belmont Street, Belmont, Massachusetts 02478

www.paysonpark.org 617/484-1542

Serving Watertown, Waltham, Belmont, Arlington, Cambridge, and beyond

Gathering for Worship

*We are a Community of
DOUBTERS, SEEKERS, & BELIEVERS
Pursuing HOPE in our world.*

Prepare for Worship

Zoom participants - as you check in, practice using your Mute Button, and finding your Chat Box.

Choir Prelude

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”
*by Stephen Schwartz, from the musical Godspell
with Rev. Ragan on drums , YCOM Josh on guitar,
& Leah Kosch on piano*



Greeting

Welcome to all listening in or watching, whether near or far away.

by Pastor Eric

We are growing with God. **For the Good of the World.**
For the Good of the World. **We are growing with God.**

Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, & Honor”
music printed below

led by our choir

Call to Worship

led by Emily Dallman

Leader: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast
People: **but he was a threat to people with power.**

Leader: Jesus stood against corruption in the government,
People: **so he was a threat to leaders who abused the weak and the outsiders.**

Leader: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,
People: **so he was a threat to “good” people who focused only on themselves.**

Leader: People gave Jesus the titles of “Son of God” and “Messiah.”
People: **Those were the Caesar’s titles: Jesus was a threat to the government.**

Leader: Jesus came without violence,
People: **yet he disturbed the peace.**

Leader: Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom, the Country, the Realm of God,
People: **and the nations of this world were frightened.**

Leader: Dear God, help us to love your rule more than the realms of this world.
People: **For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

People are invited to raise their palm branches, in-person, or a potted plant on Zoom from your home.

Pastor: Hosanna!
People: **Hosanna in the highest!**
Pastor:: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: **Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

led by Grace Yuen

Leader: Gracious God, as we enter this Holy Week, we may be tempted to skip parts of the story that begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, There are challenging chapters ahead of us in this week. We may want to turn away from the betrayals and hardships and suffering in the Passion Story, just as we too often turn away from the hardships and suffering of people in our own time.

People: **Forgive us when our focus slips. Bring us back to the path you set before us. Renew our strength and increase our faithfulness. Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

led by Josh Lunde-Whitler, YCOM

Leader: Receive now God's unyielding, relentless love for you, by which "all manner of things shall be well" (Julian of Norwich). Our holiest of weeks begins with a strange, subversive parade, and appears to end with betrayals, hatred, and a gruesome execution – only to flip again with joy and renewed hope, shrouded in mystery and wonder! Help us, God, to receive the fullness of this story – its tragedy, its irony, its comedy – in all its ups & downs, so that we might draw our hearts ever closer to you, & continue seeking you, despite whatever life may throw at us.

people: **Spirit of Renewal, guide our steps to the cross, and open our hearts, as we draw near to the end of the Lenten season. Continue to work within and through us, that we might ever continue becoming your Resurrected people of compassion, peace, and hope, through Holy Week and beyond. Amen.**

The Passion according to Luke

Beginning of the Reading of the Passion according to Luke

read by Tom Best

Drama Parade for a King, by Clifton Harris

Chip Gaysunas, Kate Rodriguez-Clark, the Rev. Bill Ragan, Pastor Eric

End of the Reading of the Passion according to Luke

read by Tom Best

Solo

"Calvary"

arr by Betty Jackson King (1928-1994)

sung by Jayson Banton

Report from CityReach (April 11-12, 2025)

Video prepared by Josh Lunde-Whitler, *Youth & Community Outreach Minister*

Words from Fiona Rodriguez-Clark, *Participant in CityReach*

Prayers of the People

led by the Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate

People will be invited to say a one sentence prayer if you desire.

If in-person, please raise your hand. If on Zoom, please raise your hand or type in the Chat box.

Candles Prayer

People will be invited to come forward and light a candle, and speak a name, a prayer request, or be in silence. We will also light a candle for each prayer offered online.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: God, our Creator Parent, Loving Father, Caring Mother, we pray to you, saying-
People: **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.**

Peace May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Announcements

Responding to God's Grace

Call to Generosity & Prayer

led by the Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate

- www.PaysonPark.org to support the ministry of Payson Park Church
- Deacon's Fund, an emergency fund to help those in need
- Belmont-Watertown Welcome Circle – help resettle Ukrainian refugees locally
- Monika Foundation - help resettle Haitian refugees
- UCC Global H.O.P.E. - (Disaster Response to California Wildfires)

Offertory Solo

*“The Crucifixion” Op. 29. No. 5, from Hermit Songs, by Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
Sung by Pauline Lim*

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

Sending

Hymn

“Were You There” verses 1-3 *led by our choir*
music printed below

Benediction

Postlude

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” *arr. by John Carter*

*Our Call to Worship was adapted from the Rev. Drew Ludwig, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, New York.
Our Prayer for Transformation and New Life 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.*



Fellowship after Worship

Susan Clark and Kate Rodriguez-Clark

We thank our hosts this Sunday. Please check the schedule posted in the Kitchen & outside the Office. Please look for your spot. Let Lynda know at Office@PaysonPark.org if you need to update your assigned Fellowship Hosting date. Thank you!

Payson Park Church – Congregational - United Church of Christ –

365 Belmont Street

Office@paysonpark.org

Leah Kosch, Music Director

AMusicDirector@paysonpark.org

Pei-Chun Lin, Community Music Dir:

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Josh Lunde-Whitler, YCOM:

YCOM@paysonpark.org

Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate:

MinAssoc@paysonpark.org

Pastor Eric Wefald:

PastorEric@paysonpark.org

Upcoming Dates

Fri Apr 11 5pm **Children's Choir - Each Week**

Fri-Sat Apr 11-12 Cityreach Youth Retreat at common cathedral

Sat Apr 12 Every two weeks we make sandwiches for The Outdoor Church.

Please contact [Pam Curtis](mailto:PamCurtis@gmail.com) if you can help. pambcurtis@gmail.com

Sun April 13 Palm Sunday – Dramatic Reading of the Passion
9am TLC

Thu April 17 10am Thursday Morning Bible Study by Zoom - **Each Week**

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday – We will join at Plymouth Congregational Church.

Fri April 18 7:30 pm Good Friday – Plymouth joins us here at PPC.

Sun April 20 6:00 am Service Highland Meadow cemetery, combined with Plymouth.

Sun April 20 10:30am Easter Service. EGGstravaganza for children following worship.

Mon April 21 Patriot's Day and Boston Marathon Day

Tue April 22 We prepare home-cooked meals for the hungry of Bristol Lodge, Waltham.

Please contact [Cynthia Lasker](mailto:CynthiaLasker@gmail.com) if you can help. laskercynthia@gmail.com

Coro Allegro Concert,

Sunday, May 18, 3pm, Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury Street, Boston

Featuring: “In the Clearing” by Grammy-winning Kenneth Fuch.
& Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus

Coro Allegro is Boston's LGBTQ+ and Allied Classical Chorus. Please go to coroallegro.org.

2025 Climate Hope Art Contest “Planting Seeds of Hope”

The UCC's Susan Mueller, Climate Hope campaign organizer, kicked off the celebration by saying, “Caring for creation is not just a political issue, but a spiritual one.” She continued, “Together we are living out a theology of hope, resilience, and justice.”

Entries were sent in by 140 churches, with 541 artists participating.

In the 6 and under age group, the winner is Sara, age 5, from Payson Park Church in Belmont, MA.





He Is Not There, by He Qi, used by permission, heqiart.com

Easter

April 20th

10:30 am

Trumpet, Choir, Organ, Easter Flowers

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All are welcome!

p.s. 6:00 am Easter Sunrise service at Highland Meadows cemetery, with Plymouth Church

Buy Equal Exchange Chocolate and Baked Goods - Support Refugee Families

Easter

EGGstravaganza!

@ 

PAYSON PARK CHURCH
365 Belmont St, Belmont
April 20th

Following Easter Services, 11:30 - 12:30

Egg Hunt, Slime, Scavenger Hunt, Bubbles

Maundy Thursday

7:30pm
April 17th at
Plymouth

Good Friday

7:30pm
April 18th
Payson Park



First Fridays



COME AND JOIN US!
365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT
www.PaysonPark.org



6:00 PM COME-AS-YOU-ARE WORSHIP

6:30 PM DINNER FOR FAMILIES

CHILDREN'S CHOIR SINGS!
FAMILY DINNER IS PROVIDED



upcoming dates. . . .

February 7, 2025

March 7, 2025

April 4, 2025

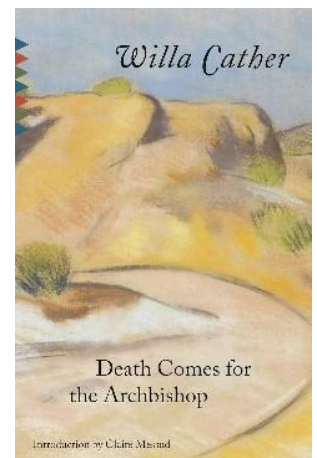
May 2, 2025

June 6, 2025

Theology, Literature and Coffee (TLC) News

TLC continues the discussion of *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather on Sunday, April 13.

For a while now, I have wanted to read Willa Cather, the 1923 Pulitzer Prize winner. *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927) promises to offer us much for theological reflection. The narrative is a stylized re-telling of the lives two historical figures of the late 19th century, Jean-Baptiste Lamy and Joseph Projectus Machebeuf, Roman Catholic clergy in New Mexico. Cather offers a literary example of the notion that religious faith is able to develop and maintain strong social bonds in nascent democratic political orders. Her personal religious realignment at the time allowed her to alter her perspective and develop more positive religious characters.



So, get your copy of *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather, and join us on Sunday, March 9th at 9:00 AM

Please feel free to contact Bill Ragan at minassoc@paysonpark.org or on his cell: 484-860-4108 with any questions about this adult education opportunity.



“God is so Good”

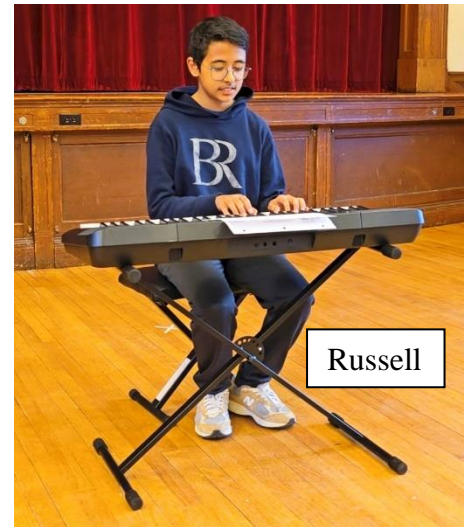


Bridget

**Children’s Choir Concert
& Piano Presentations**
*Gardner Hall
Friday, March 21, 2025*



Anton



Russell



Nola & Mira



Claire & Eva



Heidi



“Glory in the Highest”

Saturday May 10th
5-7 pm

Service Project + Food, Crafts,
Games, and more

At Plymouth Church
582 Pleasant St
(enter via Alexander St. entrance)

REGISTER
by May 3 -
Scan here:



FOR MORE INFO: - Text Josh at 626-298-0736 or email:
ycom@paysonpark.org

KIDS NIGHT



Spring 2025 LOCATIONS:

Apr 6: Rock Meadow
(off Mill St)

May 11: Lone Tree Hill
(off Mill St)

June 1: Habitat Ed Ctr (10 Juniper)

**SEEKING GOD
IN CREATION**

Palanca - A Tradition of Blessing our Youth/Children

Originally a Roman Catholic tradition that was part of confirmation, palanca notes are short words of encouragement and prayer that "lift up" children and youth closer to God (Palanca is Spanish for "lever.")*

At Payson Park Church, you will notice a "Palanca Board" on Sundays, where everyone can leave notes of encouragement, stickers, birthday wishes, etc., for the children and youth who are a part of our community!

* Elizabeth Corrie, Youth Ministry as Peace Education (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2021), 45-46.



Family Serve and Grow!



March: Clothing Drive; Donations for Cradles 2 Crayons
Seeds of Hope Art Contest

April: Cityreach (for Youth); Outdoor Church Visit?

May: Blanket Ministry and Mindfulness

June: TBA

Food Pantry Donations Every First Fridays!

From Missions & Outreach:

Monika Foundation:

HIGH NEED CURRENTLY! We're continuing to support Dieufiles and Kerlande, and others from Haiti who are being supported by the Monika Foundation. Check out the church's [Giving Page and donate!](#)

Other Refugee Support:

Update on Call to Action: Thanks to people's phone calls and letters, they are doing regular temp checks at Plymouth now !

Anyone with carpentry skills, looking to help a local Venezuelan family with freelance carpentry projects, repairs, cleaning jobs, etc - Please contact Josh [@ycom@paysonpark.org](mailto:ycom@paysonpark.org)

Supporting Legal Help
for Immigrants:



Beyond Bond
& Legal Defense Fund
(BIJAN)



RIAN Immigrant
Center
(Madeline C is
On Advisory Board)

If you have other suggestions, or want to be a part of a discussion on how we can support our immigrant neighbors, please contact Josh - ycom@paysonpark.org.

Current Donation needs for Homebase:

- Bedding
- Kitchen Utensils and Cookware
- NURSERY bedding, clothes, etc.
- **NEW >> RUGS**

- Email Josh (ycom@paysonpark.org), or use the sign-up sheet on the blue table in the chapel.



Our YCOM Josh Lunde-Whitler Has passed his Ecclesiastical Council! Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

The purpose of an Ecclesiastical Council is to discern if a person is called to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

We ask the Holy Spirit to bless Josh, as he takes these next steps in his calling as God's faithful servant. May it be so! Amen!



2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



ENROLLMENT



Admission: 15 Months to 5 Years Old

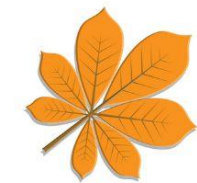
PAYSON PARK PRESCHOOL

PROGRAM FEATURES :

- School Hours:
8:00 AM to 5:30 PM
- Variety of Enrichment Programs
- Community Events
- Spacious Gym Area
- A Large Stage Designed for Performances
- Experienced and Talented Teacher

CONTACT NOW

 preschooldirector@paysonpark.org




All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulph of Orleans, c.760-c.821
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.



ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
Melody by Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635





1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,
2 Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al son,
3 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,




To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One;
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King.



The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore thee went;
To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,



Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore thee we pre - sent.
To thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring! A - men.



Were You There?

John 19:16-18; 20:11-17

African-American spiritual

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
3 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
4 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

O some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

While many spirituals begin solemnly but end on a high pitch of praise, this is one of the true "sorrow songs" that W. E. B. DuBois spoke about in his book *The Souls of Black Folk*.

Tune: WERE YOU THERE Irr.
African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992