

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

April 13, 2025 Palm to Passion Sunday



Order of Worship for April 13, 2025

Palm to Passion Sunday

Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music

Phyllis Ann Miner

Welcome

Rev. Darryl Kistler

The Moment for the Young & Young-at-Heart

The Carol Choir

Cheryl Wells

A Beautiful Psalm

Brad Nix

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Come rejoicing with beautiful song.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Worship God with voices strong.

Come before His courts with singing.
Bring to God an offering of praise.
Come into His gates with thanksgiving.
Let every heart and voice be raised.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Come rejoicing with beautiful song.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Worship God with voices strong.

Invitation to Worship

Reading Responsively

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, liturgist

text by Rev. Roddy Hamilton

(text continued...)

One: some shout hosanna
some shout crucify
some shout Jesus
some shout Barabbas
some wave palms
some shake their fists

All: today we choose...

One: some break bread
some break silence
some proclaim Jesus
some deny Jesus
some carry the cross
some run from the cross

All: today we choose...

One: some are angry
some rejoice
some anoint with costly perfume
some complain at the waste
some are salt of the earth
some have lost their saltiness

All: today we choose...

One: some weep
some conspire
some follow
some hide
some believe
some betray

All: today we choose...

One: to shout for life
to follow the Christ
to hold on
to trust love
and choose to follow Jesus

All: today we choose

Ringling of the Chimes

*The Chimes give us an opportunity to center ourselves as we
prepare our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to receive the message God has for us.*

The Palm Parade

Lori Henry Hutchings, liturgist

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 the other 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!"

~ Based on Mark 11:1-11

+ The Palm Processional - Hymn No. 197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Tune: ELLACOMBE

*Following the Palm Processional, the children are dismissed the Children's Worship Center.
Visitors, you are welcome to go with your children to see their classrooms and to meet their teachers.
Then come back and join us for worship!*

Giver of all that is Good, we often forsake our calling and cease from following Christ. We treat life cheaply. We normalize oppression, use violence to solve our problems, and disavow truth, without regard for human life. We see it in our schools, our sanctuaries, our soil. We feel it in our relationships, as violence invades the habits of our hearts. Creation groans, the stones shout out. The time for transformation is upon us. And yet, we hesitate to trust there is another way. Forgive us, we pray. Revive our nations. Restore our hosannas. Rekindle our flame for mercy and justice, that again we may join with Creation and proclaim, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Response

Healer of Our Every Ill

Marty Haugen

Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Fine

Blessing of the Lenten Alms Offering: *Healing Inside and Out* with Cherry Health

Prayers of the People and Our Savior's Prayer

Pastor Darryl

concluding, the congregation prays in unison:

...Our Father/Mother/God, 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

The Chancel Choir

Lord of the Dance

Arr. John Rutter

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun.
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on:*

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance and I still go on.*

*They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he!*

+ Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Amen.*

+ Prayer of Dedication

Reading in Unison

Bless these gifts we bring before you, Merciful God. So that our words and our deeds, and the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, may comfort those who suffer and bring hope to those in despair. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

The Passion Narrative

Mark 15 (Selected verses)
Lori Henry Hutchings, liturgist

Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

(continued...)

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

David L. Wells, trombone

Phyllis Ann Miner, harp

Were You There?

Arr. Rhett Barnwell

Sermon: Crucified with Christ

Pastor Darryl

+ Hymn - No. 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Tune: RATHBUN

+ Common Commission

Reading in Unison

Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage; holding fast to that which is good; rendering to no one evil for evil; strengthening the faint hearted; supporting the weak; helping the afflicted; honoring all people; loving and serving the Lord and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude

Steven B. Smith, organ

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Michael Burkhardt

Thank you for joining us this morning!

We'd like to know that you were here, answer any questions you have, and support you in prayer. Please fill out the information card and place it in the offering plate.

Following Worship

Coffee Fellowship in Spindler Dining Room

P.O.P.Table:Almsgiving and Cherry Health activities

Sign up for the Blood Drive

Joys and Concerns

We are very happy to share the good news that Andy MacGregor is safely back from deployment! Send welcome home cards to:Andy MacGregor, 4681 Pendleton Dr. San Diego, CA 92109

From Carrie Corbin:

Thank you to all the Park Church members who encouraged me last month during my brief illness. It was lovely to know that so many people cared! I am doing just fine now.

Dave Tulos has been experiencing some health challenges recently. Please keep Dave and Mary in your prayers during this time.You can send your support and best wishes to them at 1810 Southampton SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including: Ron Bickel, Grace McClary, Dr. Judith Meyer, Kurt Myers, Judy Strock, and Liz Taylor.

Remember our young people away at college including: Luke Barnum, Laura DeBoer, Mallory Hagemann, Lily Kugler, Jack O'Malley, and Drew Wolford.

Remember those serving in the military including: Jesse Campbell, Devon Goetz, Andy MacGregor, and Matthew Quick.

Pastoral care is always available. Contact Pastor Darryl at dkistler@parkchurchgr.org.

From Pastor Darryl

Our Director of Finance, Gene Gess, has submitted his notice to retire to Pastor Darryl and the Board of Trustees. Although there is no set date, Gene is hoping to retire sooner rather than later. Park Church is immensely grateful to Gene for the over 18 years he served as our Director of Finance. He has fulfilled his duties with the utmost integrity, professionalism, and kindness. His work has been guided by an abiding faith in God (essential for any good stewardship campaign!) and deep love for Park Church and its people. Please take a moment to thank Gene for his years of dedicated service and congratulate him on his retirement.

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In honor of our grandson, Andrew VanEk, on his 20th birthday.
Given by Grandpa and Grandma Robey.

The flowers at the Pulpit

In loving memory of Richard G. Bishop.
Given by Marcia, Scott, Shawn and family.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

Happy 5th birthday to our granddaughter, Nova Williams.
Given by Bill and Marcia Streeter.

If you would like to dedicate Sanctuary flowers, email Marcia Streeter. mabiti1@gmail.com

Holy Week at Park Church

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday

6:30pm in Merriam Hall

Join Pastor Darryl and your Park Church family for a ritualistic meal in Merriam Hall symbolizing first Maundy Thursday. We will share a simple family style kosher meal together. We will periodically pause to hear scripture, have our feet or hands symbolically cleansed, sing the songs of our faith, and celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. In this way, we hope to make real why Maundy Thursday is a Holy Day.

This is an all-ages, multi-generational event. An RSVP is not required but welcomed so that we may have an estimate of how many people to prepare for. Please RSVP to Marty Butler at mbutler@parkchurchgr.org. The meal will conclude no later than 8:00 PM as to not interfere with Choir rehearsals.

Friday, April 18: Good Friday

12:00pm Sanctuary Worship

Park Church is proud to be the host congregation for this years' *Ecumenical Good Friday Service of Word, Song, and Prayer*. Participating churches include First United Methodist, Westminster Presbyterian, LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed, Central Reformed, Bethlehem Lutheran, and Fountain Street. This service features a combined choir, bell ringers, and guest readers. *The gathering music will begin at 11:45am.*

Parking will be in demand for this daytime service. If you are able, please consider parking at one of the participating church lots slightly further afield.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Resurrection Service

While It Is Still Dark

Chancel Choir, Smith-Dively Ringers, Brass Quintet-in-Residence, and percussion.

The Together West Michigan (TWM) Spring Delegate's Assembly Saturday, April 26

9:30 AM – Registration and Community Building

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Assembly and Program

Hosted by St. Francis Xavier/Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
(250 Brown St. SE, Grand Rapids)

The Delegate's Assembly is an opportunity for members of TWM's participating institutions to gather to build relationships, approve the 2025 focus issues, and affirm the 2025 budget for Together West Michigan. The three proposed areas of focus in 2025 are:

- Immigrant and refugee support and advocacy
- Governmental accountability and transparency
- Public Safety, with focus in Grand Rapids 3rd Ward.

The theme of the April Delegate's Assembly is "Consecrating Chaos". The morning will focus on how we organize to build power together to effectively and strategically impact public policy and decisions in Grand Rapids and West Michigan, so the chaos does not overwhelm us.

Please make plans to attend and participate in the Together West Michigan Delegate Assembly on Saturday, April 26. Let's have a strong representation from Park!

For more information about TWM or the delegate assembly, please reach out to Rev. Forrest Hoppe at forresthoppe@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities: Children and Youth Ministry

For information about any of these opportunities, please contact Peter Smith.

psmith@parkchurchgr.org - 616-459-3203

Summer Sunday Fun Day @ The Worship Center (begins June 1)

This is our third summer offering consistent summer programming for children and youth. And we need volunteers! You could be a leader or an assistant and support planned activities like reading books aloud, assisting with a craft or activities, and serve snacks. The materials are prepped ahead of time. While the youth will be working with the children throughout the summer, we need some adults to join them in supporting this curriculum. If everyone takes one Sunday, we will have more than enough help!

Park Church Golf League

Wednesdays at 4:00pm starting April 16

Park's golf league is scheduled to begin, weather permitting, on Wednesday, April 16, at Ironwood Golf Course, 3750 64th Street in Byron Center. The league is open to all who enjoy the game of golf. All levels of players are welcome. If you don't want to commit for the entire season, you may stop out and play whenever you wish or fill in as a sub. Tee-off time is 4:00 PM. For questions or for more information, please contact Jim Butler at j.butler@comcast.net or 616-802-4355.

Park Church Semi-Annual Blood Drive

Sunday, April 27 before, during, and after worship

Roll up your sleeves! Our Park Church semi-annual blood drive will be held on April 27. If you have historically been deferred for one reason or another, it is very possible that you are now eligible to donate. Please check the most recent FDA eligibility guide-lines to see if your deferral has changed. Call or text Dave Kutsche at 616-901-3550 to sign up or check the Congregationalist for a link.

Volunteer Opportunity: Summer 2025 Grounds Crew

It's time to recruit our Grounds Crew for the season! We need willing hands to help with deadheading, weeding and litter pick up. You don't need to be a master gardener and all ages are welcome to help! Volunteers sign up for 2 week shifts and agree to stop by once a week to take care of the grounds, so grab your work gloves and a trash bag or two and come help Park Church look her best! Sign up online by clicking the QR code or contact Kelly Jasperse at 616-288-8047 or by email kellyjjasperse@gmail.com.



Pastor Led Bible Study

Wednesdays, April 23-May 14 at 7:00pm

Join Pastor Darryl and your Park Church friends for a four-week study on the Prophecy of Isaiah. We will be exploring the themes of Isaiah's prophecy, why it was so influential to Jesus' ministry and the establishment of the early church, and what good word it has for us today. You can join the Bible study in person or on zoom.

We Have Winners!

Congratulations to our March Madness Winners! Katie Ritters won the woman's bracket and Doug Rubingh won the men's! Make sure to see Terrie for your fabulous prizes!

Do You Have a Name Tag?

We have many new faces joining us in worship, which gives us the perfect opportunity to remind everyone to wear their name tags! Remembering names can be a challenge so let's help each other out! If you need a name tag (Anyone can request one. No need to be a member.) send an email to Terrie Hunter (thunter@parkchurchgr.org)

Do You Have a Graduate?

Graduation Sunday is June 1 and we would like to recognize your graduate! Please let us know if you or someone you love is graduating from high school or completing post secondary education or certification programs. We would like to know your graduate's name, school or institution and, if applicable, field of study and degree. Send an email to office@parkchurchgr.org.

Celebrating the Arts Concert at Beacon Hill

Phyllis Ann Miner, harp

Sunday, April 27 at 2:00pm

This free concert is presented in loving memory of Sara Fetty and is made possible through generous anonymous donations. Sara loved hearing Phyllis play the harp and now you have the opportunity to hear some of the music that she so enjoyed. Please join us at the Community House Auditorium at Beacon Hill (1919 Boston Street SE) on Sunday, April 27 at 2:00pm.

Music at Midday: A Free Concert Series in the City

Concerts (12:15pm - 12:45pm) are free to all.

April 15 – Easter Break (No Concert)

April 22 – Eric Strand, Organ

April 29 – Bruce Robey and Friends

May 6 – Mary Rademacher

Coming up at Park Church

- Sun. April 13 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - Palm to Passion Sunday
 at 9:30am Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center
 at 9:30am Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room
 Continental breakfast before worship/coffee fellowship after worship
 P.O.P. Table: Almsgiving and Cherry Health activities
 Sign up for the Blood Drive
- Mon. April 14 at 9:00am Cooking at Park for Degage
- Tues. April 15 at 11:30am Serving lunch at Degage
- Thurs. April 17 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
 at 6:00pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
 at 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service in Merriam Hall
 at 8:15pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Fri. April 18 at 9:00am Cooking at Park for Degage
 at 12:00pm Community Good Friday Service at Park Church
- Sat. April 19 at 7:00am Serving breakfast at Degage
- Sun. April 20 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - Easter Sunday
 at 9:30am Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center
 at 9:30am Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room
 Continental breakfast before worship/coffee fellowship after worship
 P.O.P. Table: Sign up for the Blood Drive
- Mon. April 21 The Office is Closed
- Wed. April 23 at 4:30pm Mobile Food Pantry
 at 7:00pm Bible Study Book of Isaiah
- Thurs. April 24 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
 at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
 at 6:30pm Parkmeisters rehearsal
 at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal



Click the QR code to sign up for Degage cooking and serving.



We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Mike Mitchell captain; Jan Edwards, Jeff Liggett, Janet Mitchell,

Gary VanderHeiden, Bob Wolford

Greeters: Sharon Seys, Kathy Miller, John Miller

Parking Lot Greeter: Andrew DeBoer

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Kevin Arnett

Live stream: Camille DeBoer

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel

Flower Care: Gail Bickel

Ministerial and Office Staff:

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, Minister of Music

Peter Smith, Spiritual Formation & Education Minister

Terrie Hunter, Congregational Life Coordinator

Gene Gess, Finance Director

Camille DeBoer, Communications Coordinator

Tim Persenaire, Lead Custodian

Marty Butler, Parish Life Assistant

Judi Stroh, Events Coordinator

dkistler@parkchurchgr.org

pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org

psmith@parkchurchgr.org

thunter@parkchurchgr.org

[ggess@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:gguess@parkchurchgr.org)

cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org

tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org

mbutler@parkchurchgr.org

jstroh@parkchurchgr.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:00

10 E Park Pl. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-3203

office@parkchurchgr.org

www.parkchurchgr.org

www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

The wifi password is parkchurchguest.



Access the online donor and
payment portal by using the
camera on your phone and
clicking the link that appears.