



March 21, 2018

*The Church Office is Closed today due to inclement weather.
There will be NO Youth Choir rehearsal this afternoon
& no Bible Study tonight.
Please check website & social media for updates on tonight's
concert.*

Holy Week 2018

Palm Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunrise: 6:36 a.m.
Festival Service: 10:30 a.m.

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Palm Sunday is such a strange, even ironic holiday.

It's ironic because it is such a celebration — Jesus and his followers enter the capital city to great fanfare. The crowd looks on and cheers, reveling in the thought that, one way or another, it'd be a hot time in the old town tonight — and yet, within days, all appearances will seem to suggest that the party's over. Jesus will be dead, his disciples hiding, the would-be revolution stopped in its tracks.

Palm Sunday invites us to rekindle the hope and joy of freedom on that first march. For many of us, it's not all that hard to do. After all, it's a hope that so many still yearn for, and it doesn't take much for most of us to imagine being in that crowd, cheering ourselves hoarse for the great reckoning that it seems to promise.

But of course, now we also know how the story unfolds from there. We know that the road to the future has not turned out to be nearly as simple as it might have seemed on that first Palm Sunday.

Most of all, we know what happens next to Jesus. The first reckoning turns out to be his.

Which means, in part, that the ultimate reckoning isn't only Rome's. It's also ours.

We know that because the freedom Jesus wanted for us was, in the end, something much bigger than simply throwing the bad guys out and putting the good guys in.

But the crowds weren't interested in that kind of complexity.

Instead, what interested them was religion's power to simplify — to curse — to demonize. They craved righteousness, but sadly, the only righteousness they seemed to recognize turned out to be of a kind made in their particular image.

Jesus had no time for ersatz righteousness.

He wanted to offer us nothing short of a new world — and one that operates according to different rules entirely

from the old world.

He saw a way of living with compassion and sacrifice, truth and fairness at the center, not only of our personal lives, but of our common life.

As we know, that's not the kind of life that everybody has in mind, or the kind of freedom that animates them. That's always been true.

In the last week of Jesus' life, it became clear that liberation — liberation in the way he meant it — turned out to be a much bigger proposition than many in that original Palm Sunday crowd were able to imagine, or were prepared to work for.

He asked them to imagine a world wise enough, patient enough, and confident enough to love enemies, pray for persecutors, and stand up for nuance.

He knew that to live that way was to live unshackled by fear and ignorance, and the self-interested persuasion of the wicked.

When the crowd cheered him on Palm Sunday, little did they realize that it was this deeper kind of freedom that Jesus was proclaiming.

As he rode on the back of the donkey along that royal road of palms, Jesus went straight into the heart of the city.

But more than that, he went straight into the heart of God — praying that we might follow and seek him there.

That's where he waits for us even now.

Hosanna.

See you in church,

Max

If you would like to hear past Sermons you
can
find them on our website: 2cc.org

Our Youth Choir is singing this Sunday!

**Bible Study has been CANCELLED for
tonight but please join us for
Prayer Group tomorrow morning at 11:00**

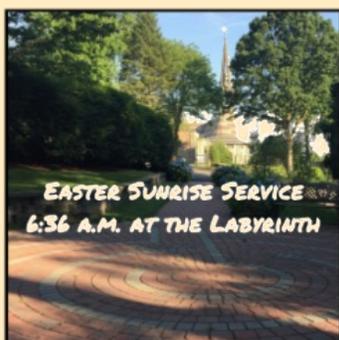
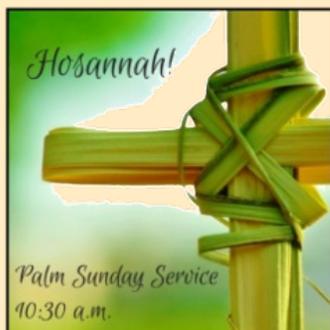
EASTER CHOIR!

Those who would like to be a part of our chancel choir for the upcoming Easter Service are encouraged to join us for a rehearsal on Thursday, March 22, from 7-9 p.m. in Brush Hall. Everyone is invited, regardless of singing experience. The music is very accessible, and we guarantee a wonderful time of singing together for our Easter service on April 1st (no fooling!).

All you'll need is your voice and a smile, and we'll provide the rest! Please e-mail me with any questions.

Alexander: alexander@2cc.org

Easter at Second Church



Following the Maundy Thursday evening service, our overnight prayer vigil will begin, and will continue until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30. A feature of Holy Week at 2CC for the last 16 years, the vigil offers a powerful experience for private prayer in the Sanctuary, which is illuminated by a single light, focused from the base of the cross.

Some come with a plan for their prayers, some read Scripture or find other devotional reading and go where it takes them, and some simply sit and "listen for God" in the silence. Most find that

the hour passes quickly, and that Easter is more powerful as a result. Join us!

A sign-up sheet is available in Fletcher Hall.

Ugandan Singers coming to Second Church in April!



We have been offered an amazing opportunity by the same group that brought the Soweto Melodic Voices to church two years ago.

A group from Uganda will be coming to Second Church & performing on April 22 at our 10:30 a.m. service. In our conversations with Creative Connections they have asked if we might be interested in acting as host families for these young performers while they are here on their tour.

If the Soweto group is any indication, this could be a phenomenal experience in ministry...

- Tour dates: Wed, April 18 – Saturday May 5, 2018 (we are opting to take one week or the other, not both)
- Group Total: 11 students: 5 girls (13-15 years old) 6 boys (14-18 years old) & 2 adult leaders (Frank and Brenda Katoola). The Ugandan guests can be placed in singles, doubles (preferred), triples or quads. Host families with children? Yes if possible. But empty nesters can work as well.
- Language: Fluent in English
- Transportation: Drop off Ugandans at a central pickup location at 8am & pick-up at same location between 3:30 and 4:30 M-F (We can arrange alternative transportation for days that are necessary)
- Food: Host families provide breakfast and dinner each day (hopefully sharing with host family)
- Family time: Hanging out each evening with family and independently. TV and Internet access most welcome!

Please contact Max ASAP with any questions or to offer your home as a host.

Coffee
Hour Hosts



The Memorial Service for
Eva-Maria Palevich will be
held on Saturday, March 24
at 11:00 a.m.



Needed:
Please email
[Stacey Brown](mailto:Stacey.Brown@2cc.edu)
with a date that
you are
available to help out. Thank
you!

Mark your calendars....

OUR TIME

An Evening of Really Good Music



YASMEEN AUDI



ALLEN LOUIS



KC MORSE

with Music Direction by Alexander Constantine

Wednesday March 21 @ 7pm

2CC Chapel

Please note change of date...

Men's Fellowship Dinner

Thursday, April 19, 2018

6:30 p.m.

More details & sign-up information to follow



**Last chance to apply for
Women's Fellowship Scholarship!**

Women's Fellowship Scholarship Program for Graduating High School Seniors

The Women's Fellowship of Second Church has established a Scholarship Program to honor and acknowledge the young people who have been involved in the life of the church.

High school graduating seniors who will be attending college in the fall of 2018 are encouraged to apply. Contact Gloria in the church office at 203.869.9311 or email womensfellowship@2cc.org, and we will email you an application



All applications due by March 30, 2018



[Click here to download 2018 scholarship application](#)

**VBS is June 25-29,
reserve your space today!**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
AT SECOND CHURCH
JUNE 25-29, 2018

AGES 4-5TH GRADE
9:00 A.M. TO
NOON DAILY



MORE INFORMATION & SIGNUP AT [2CC.ORG](http://2cc.org)

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: JESSICA@2CC.ORG

[Click here for more information & to download the registration form](#)

Do you "Like" us?



Are you following us on social media? No? You're missing out on a lot of inspiration & fun!

If you take pictures during the service(s) or on church grounds at any of our events please be sure to share the love on social media by tagging [@2ccGreenwich](#) on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)

Leaving you with a giggle...

