

trust, we enter this holy week, eager to participate in a world transformed by love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

NO.2023-14
April 2nd, 2023

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our Prayer.

PRAYER SONG

UMH 487

This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND

OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

May these offerings bring life-changing good news, both to those who give and to all who are reached by the caring ministries of the church. May they help to restore relationships of trust among us and outpourings of generosity that echo your steadfast love around the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

UMH 292 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

Worship Resources "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday



Grantsburg-Central
Since 1897



Atlas
Since 1887



St. Croix Falls
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
10:00 AM at Atlas (at 10:15 AM Sunday School)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
April 2nd, 2023
“Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G)/ Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

***CELEBRATE THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** (UMH 278)

All congregations follow a pastor and acolytes bring the palm leaves, enter the sanctuary

***PASSING OF THE GREETINGS**

“Peace be with you”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

This is the day of joyous welcome.

Yet joy is tempered by impending doom.

We welcome Christ with waving branches.

We wait with Christ through hours of agony.

Our leader comes humbly, riding a donkey.

Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name.

Jesus rides into the tumult of our times.

People still oppose the way of love.

Yet love prevails in spite of opposition.

Give thanks that God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Open to us the gates of righteousness.

Let us enter in the light God offers. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

UMH 278 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Gracious to us, O God, in our moments of grief and fear. Be with us as we rejoice in the day you have made. Our times are in your hands, both when we mourn and when we celebrate. Guide our thoughts and actions so we may appreciate the possibilities every day. We trust in you, O God. Let your face shine on your people who gather here before you. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION

Pastor Jenny Lee

CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All pray in silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13-14 (See insert)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING (TAKING) THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER Unison

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 21:1-11 (See insert)

SERMON

“The Lord needs Them!”

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Holy God, whose steadfast love offers direction and purpose to our lives, help us to be faithful in the small things you ask of us day by day, that we may see all that you reveal to us, give thanks in all circumstances, and grow toward the mind of Christ. In obedient

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples,

and said: “take, eat; this is my body which given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

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.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(Together) 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.

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 God, now and forever. Amen.

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:1-11

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

5 “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

APRIL CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

April Collection:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste & paper towels.



Easter Special offerings" 10 % of offerings goes to support Ukraine.



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is

MAC 'N

CHEESE SUNDAY!

Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"



APRIL SHOWERS

Let's shower the church with needed supplies.

Toilet bowl cleaner, Dusting spray, Multi-surface disinfectant spray, Bleach – 1 gal, Room deodorizer (solid, not spray), Hand soap - pump, Hand sanitizer - pump, Distilled water 1 gallon (for piano), 9V Batteries, D Batteries, Paper towels, Toilet paper, Kool-Aid or Crystal Light, Lysol Lime & Rust, Coffee-regular, Ziplock bags-sandwich, quart and gallon.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:



March's Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR.

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist
Liturgist
Acolyte(s)
Snow Removal
Fellowship
Counter
Cleaning
Communion
Sunday School

Toni Koons
Volunteer Needed
Willow Nyland
Tom Goepfert
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Barb Loomis
Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Acolyte(s)
Cleaning
Communion
Sunday School

Sharon Asp
Colleen Adams-Schween
Sue Olson
Chase Steffen
Volunteer Needed
Sue Olson
Younger/Older
Cheryl Olson/ In Service

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Money Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Communion

Sharon Asp
Jim Andrews
Jessica /Karen Sciacca
Peter Gionis
Jim Sciacca
Ladies of the church
Karen Sciacca



This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Willow Nyland 4/6

If you know anyone's birthday or anniversary is missing, please let pastor Jenny know.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.
Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday
God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

- 4/2: Communion Sunday
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 4/4 4:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (G)
4/5 6:30 pm Confirmation Class (A)
4/6 5:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (SCF), 6:00pm, Soup Supper (SCF)
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (SCF)
4/7 5:30 pm Good Friday Service (G)
4/8 8:00 am UM Men's Meeting (G)

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!



April 9: Easter Sunday Service

9:00 am, Sam Chute Baptism and Brunch Following Service (G)
10:00 am, Lila Tooze Baptism (A)
11:15 am, Easter Service and Fellowship (SCF)

April 12: Youth Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp

April 15: Confirmand volunteers at Feed my Starving Children

Next Sunday (April 9th) Volunteers:

Central:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Pianist | Toni Koons |
| Liturgist | Volunteer Needed |
| Acolyte(s) | Willow Nyland |
| Snow Removal | Tom Goepfert |
| Fellowship | Volunteer Needed |
| Counter | Volunteer Needed |
| Cleaning | Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson |
| Sunday School | Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis |

Atlas:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Sue Olson |
| Usher | Volunteer Needed |
| Acolyte(s) | Copelan Grimes |
| Cleaning | Volunteer Needed |
| Sunday School | Younger/Older
Cheryl Olson/Colleen Adams-Schween |

St. Croix Falls:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Pianist | Sharon Asp |
| Liturgist | Jim Andrews |
| Usher(s) | Jessica /Karen Sciacca |
| Money Counter | Peter Gionis |
| Bell Ringer | Jim Sciacca |
| Flowers | Ladies of the church |



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY April 2nd	MAUNDY THURSDAY April 6th	GOOD FRIDAY April 7th	EASTER SUNDAY April 9th
Service Times: 9:00 am Central 10:00 am Atlas 11:15 am SCF	Service Times: 7:00 pm SCF	Service Times: 5:30 pm Central	Service Times: 9:00 am Central 10:00 am Atlas 11:15 am SCF



April 2nd, 2023

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.

Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

The Lord Needs Them

I want to share my story. I lived in my grandparents' house with two uncles, two aunts, my parents, and my four siblings. I am the middle child of my siblings, so I have an elder sister, an elder brother, a younger sister, and a younger brother. So, I felt alone like nobody cared for me and I was a useless girl. But I had a dream to be a policewoman. That was my first dream. I wanted to be a policewoman because I wanted to voice up, be a strong woman, and be a leader as a woman. However, I had to give it up because my height made me ineligible to be a policewoman. I was less than five feet tall until I graduated from high school.

My second dream was to be a lawyer. That was the first one that my parents supported me in. You may wonder why my parents supported me in becoming a lawyer. When I was twelve, I saw my grandfather get upset with my father and scold him in front of all the family. The scolding was because my father used to drink and didn't work like he was expected to do. Of course, I was there. Even though I didn't like my father drinking, I hated hearing and seeing my grandfather rebuking him in front of us. I went against my grandfather, saying, "Don't rebuke him, grandpa. That's not his fault. If you wanted him to work in your field, you should teach him how to work in the field instead of supporting him with higher education in Seoul." My father graduated from a college in Seoul. But my grandfather always wanted more from him and brought him back home to work in his field instead of a getting a job in the city. The work on the farm didn't make him happy. That's why my father started drinking. However, my grandfather wanted him to go where he wanted and was never satisfied with him. The first person who went against my grandfather and stood up to him, was me. After that happened, my parents moved out of my grandparent's house and lived independently. And my parents supported me becoming a lawyer who could advocate for the powerless.

However, it wasn't for some time and I had another dream. I wanted to be an artist when I was an eighth grader. But, my father didn't support me at all, and didn't support me going to high school if I want to be an artist. I went to a private school with a full scholarship and entered an art university without my parent's support. And then, I moved far away from my home and family and during that time my family became Christians.

I was a painful finger to my mother and was her first concern and prayer, which means I never went where my parents wanted me to go. She prayed for me, "O Lord, she is out of my sights and hands. She is yours. I offer her to you. Please take care of her; use her for your kingdom." After I returned home with a broken spine, I became a Christian, graduated from a

seminary. And I planted a new church in Korea. It was much later. At the last moment of my mother's life in the hospital, she told me as her last wish, "I am sorry I offered you to God. I lived with worries, concerns, guilt, and shamefulness about you. I am sorry I couldn't support you. The only way I could do so was to pray to God. After I offered you to God, God gave me comfort. God said, 'I will use her. I need her. Don't worry.' So, please go to America, and become a pastor. God will use you there." It was motivating for me to come to the U.S.A. and become a pastor, and I am still here today.

Today, we came into the sanctuary together, waiving palm leaves. How do you feel when you pretend to march with palm leaves? Did you think it was fun, exciting, or just followed waving the palm leaves without thinking about it? More than 2000 years ago, many people crowded the streets of Jerusalem full of excitement and curiosity. They gathered together at one place and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" They have seen Jesus proceed into Jerusalem in a kingly manner. Jesus has marched into the holy city on a path covered, not by a red carpet, but by the leaves of trees, riding not on a fine horse, but a little colt and sitting not on a golden saddle, but someone's garments stinking of sweat. This parade, for the disciples, had still been much better than any other king's procession.

Palm Sunday is when the people use the palm branches to welcome and praise Jesus, who entered Jerusalem. The palm tree symbolizes "righteousness," "beauty," and "victory." Therefore, this entry procession of Jesus paraded and celebrated the commitments of God's kingdom as the symbols of righteousness and victory. On the other hand, a "Palm tree" is named from the shape of a leaf, likely our palms. Look at your palms, which are the soft centers of our hands. We may use our palms to honor Jesus by waving, clapping, and lifting hands. Using the palms of our hands to worship God might symbolize the commitment to the love of God and the love of neighbors.

We can do many things with our palms. What do you want to do with your palms? In today's scripture, I invite you to focus on the two disciples, a donkey and her colt. Jesus sent his two disciples to bring a donkey and a colt. It was almost there, nearby Jerusalem. Nobody wondered why Jesus needed the donkey and colt. But they just did it without asking about it. Until they took the donkey and colt to Jesus, the Word of God hadn't been fulfilled yet. When they followed what Jesus asked, at last, "it took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet." Even though you get an answer to your prayers from God, it is never fulfilled if you don't practice it.

The two disciples took the donkey and a colt to Jesus, and Jesus rode on a colt, not a donkey. A colt is still too young to work alone and has to be with his mom. Listen carefully; Jesus used a colt instead of a donkey. Please take your hearts to God, and open your minds. The Lord needs your children and grandchildren beside you. They might still be young or weak and need your help. While God uses them, you may be beside them, walking with them and praying for them. Do you have the most painful finger among your children or family members? God may say, "The Lord needs them." You may need to bring them to God. You may need to walk with them in prayer. Why don't you get them to the Lord? The Lord needs them. Thanks be to God! Amen!