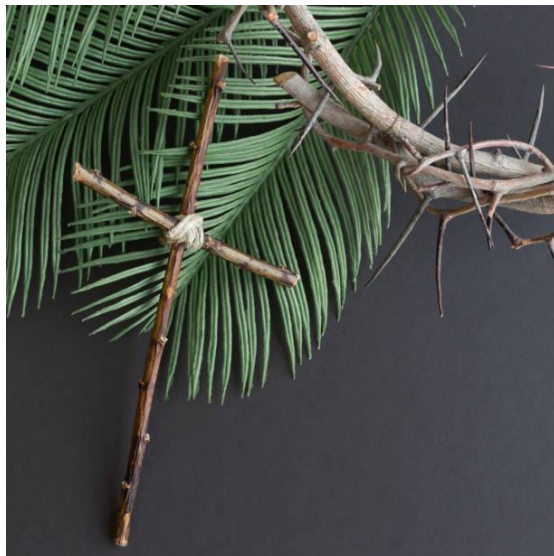


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of Falmouth, Massachusetts
of the United Church of Christ**



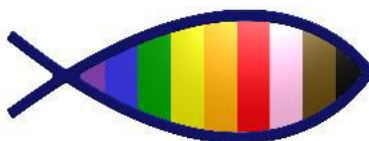
Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

**With the Church Choir performing John Stainer's
The Crucifixion**

You Are Welcome Here!

We welcome all who are joining us in worship this morning. Nursery care is available throughout the service - please speak to an usher. Children and youth in FCC KIDS may leave the service prior to the presentation by the Church Choir of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*. If you would like to share a prayer of joy or concern, we invite you to write them down on the podium outside the sanctuary entrances. During the *Moment of Greeting* we invite you to fill out the fellowship pad and pass the pad down your pew and back again. Your free will donation in support of our church programs is greatly appreciated; donation baskets and plates are located outside the sanctuary entrances.

REV. JONATHAN DRURY, Minister



ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE

[We request that the chimes be the signal for a time of quiet meditation before the service]

A MOMENT OF GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE LORD'S PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Isaiah 50:4-9a)

Come seeking words. Come to let your tongue give praise. Come to find your voice.

Come to hear the response. Come to open your ears. Come to listen.

Come to be healed by the silence.

Come to stand together.

All: Come to find God.

The Gospel According to Matthew Matthew 21: 1-9

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!"

The Blessing of the Palms

Congregation please stand if able and join the Choir in singing the Hymn: The Palms



The Palms

Music by Jean-Baptiste Faure, Arranged by Randa Kirshbaum

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
His word goes forth, and people by its might
Sing and rejoice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem,
Are strewn this day, in fes - tal pre - par - a - tion. Where Je - sus comes to wipe our
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gre - da - tion. Hu - man - i - ty doth give to
Of all they sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion. Through bound - less love the Christ of
tears a - way, E'en now the throng to wel - come Him prepare; Join all and sing His
each his right, While those in dark - ness are re - stored to light
Beth - le - hem Brings faith and hope to thee for - ev - er more.
name de - clare, Let ev - ery voice re - sound in joy - ous ac - cla - ma - tion. Hos - san na
Praise to the Lord! Bless Him who com - eth to bring us sal - va - tion.
tion.

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Come. Come O Holy One. Come through the streets. Come into the house and find a space beside us at the table. Come to challenge our answers and defy our expectations. Speak to us in the silence that your Spirit may guide us through this Holiest of Weeks, beside us, around us, before and behind us, within us, as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught saying, *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 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 glory forever. Amen.*

CALL TO PRAYER and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Children are invited to depart from the sanctuary for FCC Kids activities

THE CRUCIFIXION

Composed in 1887 by John Stainer (1840-1902)
Texts by William John Sparrow Simpson (1860-1952)

First Congregational Church of Falmouth Choir
John J. Dulina, IV, Director and Organist
Rev. Jonathan Drury, Tenor Soloist
Gregory Mills and Stephen Birmingham, Bass Soloist

And they came to a place named Gethsemane

Tenor Solo: And they came to a place named Gethsemane, and Jesus saith to His disciples: Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

The Agony

Bass Solo: Could ye not watch with Me one brief hour? Could ye not pity My sorest need? Ah! if ye sleep while the tempests lower, surely, My friends, I am lone indeed.

Chorus: Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish, and bearing all the evil we have done, Oh, teach us, teach us how to love Thee for Thy love; help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with Thee.

Bass Solo: Could ye not watch with Me one brief hour? Did ye not say upon Kedron's slope, Ye would not fall into the tempter's power? Did ye not murmur great words of hope?

Chorus: Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish, and bearing all the evil we have done, Oh, teach us, teach us how to love Thee for Thy love, Help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with Thee.

Bass and Tenor Solos: Could ye not watch with Me? even so: Willing in heart, but the flesh is vain. Back to Mine agony I must go, lonely to pray in bitterest pain. And they laid their hands on Him, and took Him, and led Him away to the high priest. And the high priest asked Him and said unto Him, art Thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith: What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy. And they all condemned Him to be guilty of death. And they bound Jesus and carried Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. And Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged Him, to be crucified. And the soldiers led Him away.

Processional to Calvary – Organ Solo

Fling Wide the Gates

Chorus: Fling wide the gates! for the Savior waits To tread in His royal way; He has come from above, in His power and love, To die on this Passion day. His cross is the sign of a love divine, His crown is the thorn-wreath of woe, He bears His load on the sorrowful road, And bends 'neath the burden low.

Tenor Solo: How sweet is the grace of His sacred face and lovely beyond compare; Though weary and worn, with the merciless scorn of a world He has come to spare. The burden of wrong, that earth bears along, past evil, and evil to be, All sins of man since the world began, They are laid, dear Lord, on Thee.

Chorus: Then on to the end, my God and my Friend, with Thy banner lifted high! Then on to the end, my God and my Friend, with Thy banner lifted high, Thou art come from above, in Thy power and

love, to endure and suffer and die. Fling wide the gates! for the Savior waits. Then on to the end, my God and my Friend, to suffer, endure, and die.

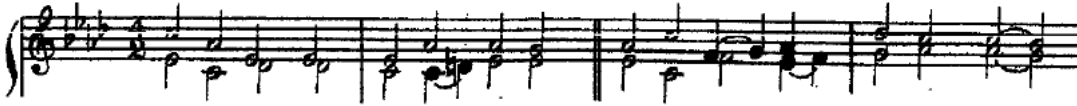
And When They Were Come

Bass Solo: And when they were come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him and the malefactors, one on the right, and the other on the left.



Congregation please stand if able and join the Choir in singing the Hymn:

The Mystery of the Divine Humiliation


(♩ = about 68.)



Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Here the King of all the a - ges, Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Ev - er - more for human fail - ure By His Pa - ssion we can plead;
From the "Holy Holy, Holy, We a - dore Thee, O most High,"



Per - fect man on thee was tortured, Per - fect God on thee has bled.
Robed in mortal flesh is dy - ing, Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
God has borne all mortal anguish, Surely He will know our need.
Down to earth's bla - spheming voices And the shout of "Cru - ci - fy."



He made Himself of no Reputation

Bass Solo: He made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, ev'n the death of the Cross.

The Majesty of the Divine Humiliation

Tenor Solo: King ever glorious, King ever glorious! The dews of death are gath'ring round Thee; upon the cross Thy foes have bound Thee — Thy strength is gone, Thy strength is gone. Not in Thy Majesty, robed in Heaven's supremest splendor, But in weakness and surrender, Thou hangest here. Who can be like Thee? Pilate high in Zion dwelling? Rome with arms the world compelling, proud though they be? Thou art sublime, Thou art sublime: far more awful in Thy weakness, more than kingly in Thy meekness, Thou Son of God, Thou Son of God. Glory, and honor: Let the world divide and take them; crown its monarchs and unmake them; but Thou, Thou wilt reign. Here in abasement;

crownless, poor, disrobed, and bleeding; there, in glory interceding, Thou art the King, Thou art the King! There, in glory interceding, there, in glory interceding, Thou art the King, Thou art the King, Thou art the King!

And as Moses lifted up the Serpent

Bass Solo: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

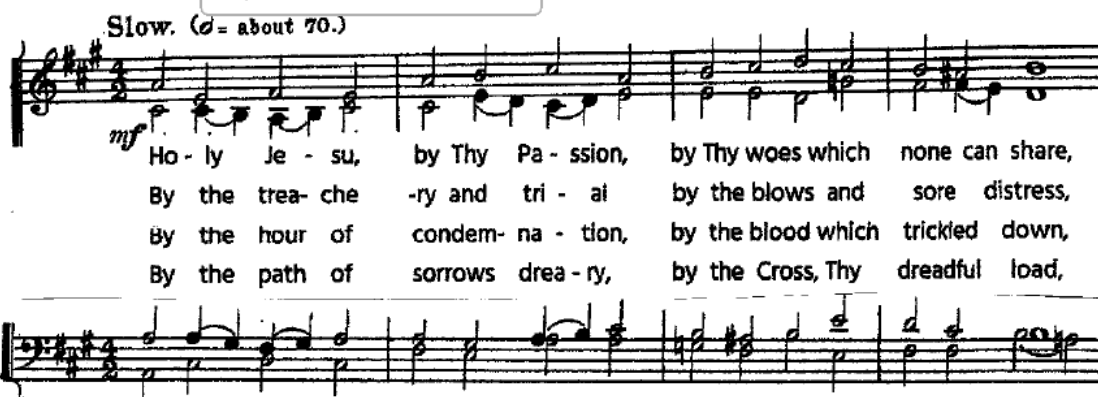
God so Loved the World

Chorus: God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

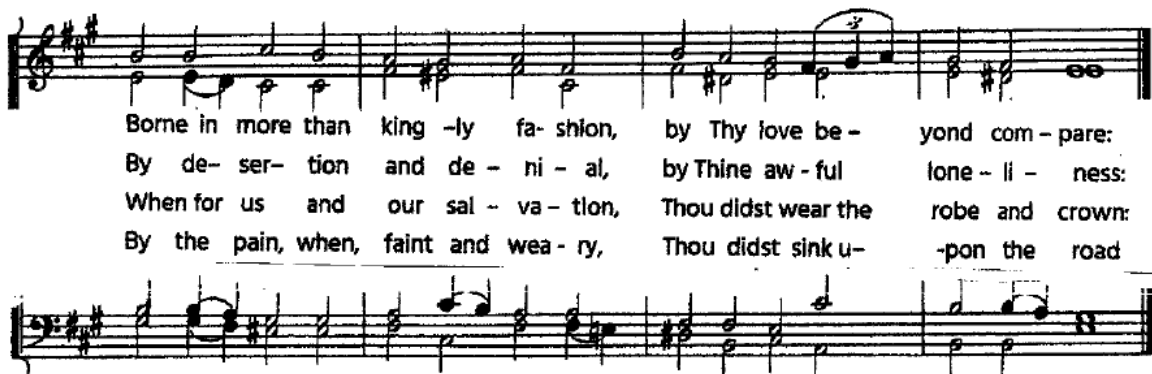
Congregation please stand if able and join the Choir in singing the Hymn:

Litany of the Passion

Slow. (♩ = about 70.)



mf Ho - ly Je - su, by Thy Pa - ssion, by Thy woes which none can share,
By the trea - che - ry and tri - al by the blows and sore distress,
By the hour of condem - na - tion, by the blood which trickled down,
By the path of sorrows drea - ry, by the Cross, Thy dreadful load,



Borne in more than king - ly fa - shion, by Thy love be - yond com - pare:
By de - ser - tion and de - ni - al, by Thine aw - ful lone - li - ness:
When for us and our sal - va - tion, Thou didst wear the robe and crown:
By the pain, when, faint and wea - ry, Thou didst sink u - pon the road

Voices in unison. *pp* Harmony. *rall.*



p Cru - ci - fied, I turn to Thee, *pp* Son of Ma - ry, *ralli* plead for me.

Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do

Tenors and Basses: Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.'

And One of the Malefactors

Recitative and Bass Solo: And one of the malefactors which were hanged, railed on Him saying, "If Thou be the Christ, save Thyself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom." And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say to thee, today shalt thou be with Me in paradise."

Congregation please stand if able and join the Choir in singing the Hymn:

The Adoration of the Crucified

Slow. (♩ = 86.)

I a-dore Thee, I a-dore Thee! Glo-rious ere the world be-
I a-dore Thee, I a-dore Thee! Thank-ful at Thy feet to
I a-dore Thee, I a-dore Thee! Born of wo-man, yet Di-
-gan. Yet more won-der-ful Thou shine-est, though di-
be; I have heard Thy a-c-cent thri-lling, Lo! I
-vine: Stained with sins I kneel be-fore Thee, sweetest
vine, yet still di-vine-est in Thy dy-ing love for man.
come, for Thou art wi-lling me to par-don, e-ven me.
Je-su, I im-plore Thee, make me e-ver o-nly Thine.

When Jesus therefore saw His Mother

Tenor and Bass Solos and Chorus: When Jesus therefore saw His Mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His Mother, “Woman, behold thy Son.” Then saith He to the disciple, “Behold thy mother!” There was darkness over all the land. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”

Is it Nothing to You

Bass Solo: Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto My sorrow, which is done unto Me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted Me in the day of His fierce anger.

The Appeal of the Crucified

Chorus: From the throne of His cross, the King of grief cries out to a world of unbelief: Oh! men and women, afar and nigh, is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? I laid My eternal power aside, I came from the home of the glorified, A babe, in the lowly cave to lie; is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? I wept for the sorrows and pains of men, I healed them and helped them, and loved them — but then, but then, they shouted against Me. ‘Crucify! Crucify! Crucify!’ Is it nothing to you? Behold Me and see: pierced through and through with countless sorrows—and all is for you; For you I suffer, for you I die. Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Oh! men and women, your deeds of shame, your sins without reason and number and name, I bear them all on the cross on high. Is it nothing to you? Is it nothing to you that I bow My head? And nothing to you that My blood is shed? O perishing souls, to you I cry, Is it nothing to you? O come unto Me, by the woes I have borne, By the dreadful scourge, and the crown of thorns, By these, I implore you to hear My cry, Is it nothing to you? O come unto Me, this awful price, redemption’s tremendous sacrifice, is paid for you, is paid for you — Oh! why will ye die? O come unto Me, for why will ye die? O come unto me.

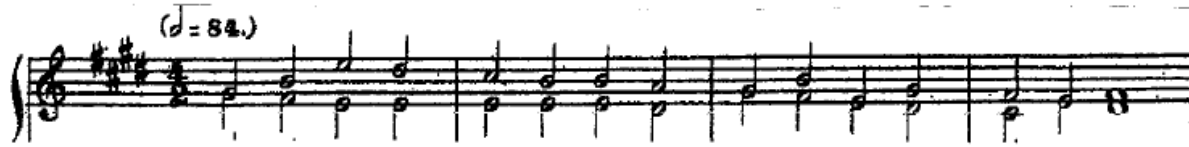
After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished

Tenor Solo and Chorus: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, saith: “I thirst.” When Jesus had received the vinegar, He saith: “It is finished. Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.” And He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.



Congregation please stand if able and join the Choir in singing the Hymn:

For the Love of Jesus All for Jesus



1. All for Je - sus all for Je - sus, This our song shall e - ver be;
2. All for Je - sus Thou wilt give us strength to serve thee, hour by hour;
3. All for Je - sus at Thine al - tar Thou wilt give us sweet con - tent
4. All for Je - sus Thou hast loved us All for Je - sus Thou hast died;
5. All for Je - sus all for Je - sus, This the chu - rch's song must be;



For we have no hope, nor Sa - viour, if we have not hope in Thee
None can move us from Thy pre - sence, while we trust Thy love and pow'r.
There, dear Lord, we shall re - ceive Thee in the so - lemn Sa - cra - ment.
All for Je - sus Thou art with us all for Je - sus Cru - ci - fied.
Till, at last, her sons are ga - thered one in love and one in Thee.



Amen

***BENEDICTION**

Please depart in silence and join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

Visitors - We welcome you to our church fellowship and hope you will come again. We invite you to sign the *Friendship Pad* that is passed in the pew. There are many new faces in our congregation; we encourage those with name tags to please wear them.

Please turn off your cell phones.

Greeters are Evelyn Johnson and Marcia Young.

Ushers are Grace and Susan Day

Worship Leader is Katie Dreyer

Flowers on the altar-table are given by Cynthia DiMestico in loving memory of Max and Niki.

Deacons for the service are Ed Jackson, Don Lans, and Debbie O'Neil

If you have not already picked up your 2023 financial statements they are available in alphabetical order in the office lobby area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Thursday, March 28, **Maundy Thursday**, we will celebrate the ancient **Office of Tenebrae** beginning at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. This service of music, readings, and contemplation will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All are welcome to attend.

Church Book Group

Members of the church are invited to attend the Church Book Discussion which meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 in the parlor of the church. At our meeting **on March 25 we will discuss "The Plot", by Jean Hanff Korelitz.** This is a psychologically suspenseful novel about a story too good not to steal and the writer who steals it. Members of the group choose the books to be discussed and use discussion questions as an aid in the conversations. You can come to discuss a particular book or join the group on a regular basis. If you have any questions or to sign up call Bette West at 508-457-9860.



Invite Your Friends!



Easter Sunday, March 31, 10am

Worship Service & FCC Kids

Followed by the Egg Hunt

Wear your hats for the Easter Parade before the Worship Service

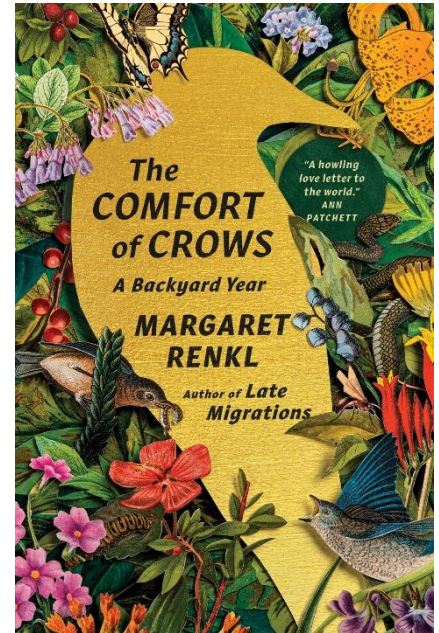
Author **Margaret Renkl**, bestselling author & New York Times op-ed writer, will discuss her new book, ***The Comfort of Crows***, in conversation with **Mark Long, Ph.D**, Academic Dean of Sea Education Association, on **Sunday, April 7 at 7pm** in the First Congregational Church of Falmouth's Sanctuary. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Free and Open to the Public



Copies of the book will be available for purchase, with a portion of the evening's proceeds to benefit the church. A book signing will take place in Fellowship Hall after the talk.

In *The Comfort of Crows, A Backyard Year*, we follow creatures and plants in the author's backyard, including a crow on New Year's Day. Join us for a fun evening with the author.



The event is sponsored by Eight Cousins bookstore and

The First Congregational Church of Falmouth, 68 Main Street, Falmouth, MA - on the Village Green

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mon. | 6:30 p.m. | Bible Study |
| Tues. | 9:00 a.m. | Prayer Group |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Friendly Circle |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Mahjong |
| Wed. | 9:30 a.m. | Playtime |
| Thurs. | 7:00 p.m. | Maundy Thursday worship service |
| Fri. | 6:00 p.m. | Guided Meditation |

Please check out our [website!](http://www.firstcongregationalfalmouth.org)

www.firstcongregationalfalmouth.org or use your phone to scan the QR code!



The **First Congregational Church Office** will be open on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** between the hours of **9:00 AM and 1:00 PM**. The church itself will be open five days a week to support all of the groups and activities, but the office will only be staffed on three of those days.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

68 Main Street, Falmouth, MA 02540

Phone: (508) 548-3700

e-mail: info@firstcongfalmouth.org

Web site: <http://firstcongregationalfalmouth.org>

REV. JONATHAN DRURY, Minister
JOHN J. DULINA, IV, Music Director
LAURA COLE, Coordinator of Care and Connection
JAMES ROWLAND, Site Manager
DANIELLE DALLIS, Director FCC Kids

