

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 South Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982
FAX: 203.877.8973

Palm Sunday March 25, 2018

Order of Worship
10:00 a.m.

(* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)

Please remember to mute or turn off cell phones and other electronic devices.

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” P. LaPlante

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Hosanna, Hosanna!”

*THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY Mark 11:1-11 Bible p.922 (LP, NT p. 57)

*HYMN #278 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” Ellacombe

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN #277, vs.1 (*seated*) “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” Stories of Jesus
*Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

°°°

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we praise thee for the Master, who rode in triumph into the city of his forebears. We thank thee that he came not as a conqueror to destroy but as a Messiah to save, and that he appealed to human hearts with the glory of love. In the spirit of praise and worship we ask that every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we like big demonstrations of power. We confess that we get confused when power is revealed in humility, kindness and love. We confess that too often we mistake kindness for weakness. Forgive our worldly mind and impulses as you help us to understand our Lord’s words, “My kingdom is not of this world.” Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE PSALTER Psalm 118:14-29 Hymnal p.839, R.1

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Hymnal p. 33

New members joining today and their (*sponsors*) are:

Letter of transfer: **Virginia McNair** (*Flo Berrien*)

Confession of faith: **Jeff Brockett** (*Ken Hawkins*)

Benjamin and Jackie Carter (*Holly and Scott Firmender*)

Hazel Ferguson (*Cheryl Griffin*)

Andromeda Macri and Kristen Campbell (*Kelly O’Hara*)

Donna J. Venditti (*Mary Lou Hastings and Phoebe Repetsky*)

Thomas and Victoria Woodard (*Carol Galloway, Cathy and Gianni Cono*)

HYMN #280 (*seated*) “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” St. Theodulph

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER Hymnal #895

*THE PEACE

L: May the peace of the Lord be always with you. P: **And also with you.**
(*Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.*)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “And Can It Be?” D. Forrest
(**The Adult Choir**)

*Presentation: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #285 “To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord” Kingsfold

THE EPISTLE Philippians 2:5-11 Bible p.1069 (LP, NT p. 240)

THE MESSAGE “If We’d Only Known” Dr. Bodt

*HYMN #526 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Converse

A RITUAL OF PRAYER AND HEALING ANOINTING

Each last Sunday of the month all are invited to receive prayer and optional healing anointing for oneself or on behalf of another. Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer. This ancient Church practice of God’s love is a mysterious, caring expression of Christ’s promise “I will be with you always.” Please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.

*HYMN #298 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Hamburg

*THE BENEDICTION

THE BELL TOLLS – *Sending us to walk with and witness for Jesus*

*POSTLUDE

“Finale in D Major”

F. Biggs

(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.)

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE STORY CONTINUES.....

“Blessed
is the
one
who comes
in the
name
of the
Lord!”

Mark 11:9, NRSV

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Bickerton
Lay Leaders	Shelly Lapadula & Beth O'Brien	Superintendent	The Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
Prayer Chain	Stacy Meszaros	Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Sexton	Andy Thomas	Outreach Pastor	Danielle Levine
Child Care Coordinator	Laura A. Brennan	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
		Theologian-in-Residence	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

*Grace Notes
March 25, 2018*

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

“If we’d only known.”

It’s something we often say in retrospect, looking at some event or tragedy with lament for signs we might have missed to avoid catastrophe. The most recent school shooting in St. Mary’s County, Maryland. The bridge collapse at Florida International University. Countless smaller upheavals in personal finances, relationships, employment. What if we’d seen the signs? Might tragedy have been avoided?

The powerful tension in Palm Sunday is that orthodox faith declares that Jesus knew exactly what he rode into. Jesus had been “around the block a few times.” Although young (33 years) as we measure age, he knew exactly the “principalities and powers” (Ephesians 6:12) he was up against: powers of government and religion that both saw him as expendable.

Yet in to Jerusalem he rode. Why? The age-old answer is found in Philippians (2:8): “he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.” Perhaps, in the midst of investigations of government corruption; murderous rampages in our schools and on our streets; conspicuous consumption contrasted with poverty on our streets, we could learn humility from our Lord Christ and hold it next to the opinions and behaviors we hold dear. Perhaps in humility we might learn to love as he loved: faithfully, obediently, eschewing prestige and power for the larger vision of humanity bound together by love.

Did he know how it all would turn out? Was he certain of the resurrection morning? Read his prayer in the garden (Mark 14:32-42) as he wrestled with HIS desire versus GOD’S desire. It’s enough to make us get on our knees and pray. We DO know. Now what?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Dave Doyle

Liturgist: Chris Carveth

Greeters: Diana Cable and Dawn Bettencourt

Bible Bearer: Zoe Browne

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Telephone: 203.874.1982 Fax: 203.877.8973

Website: www.mtm-umc.org www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

Acolyte: Natalie Rendon

Cross Bearer: Stefano Cono

Intercessor: Pastor Hal

Healing Anointers: Pastor Brian Bodt, Barbara Ann Griggs, Mary Lou Hastings, Beth O'Brien, Mark Platt, and Steve Wasko.

TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP, see our ushers for:

- Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins
- Hearing Assist Devices
- Children's bulletins for ages 3 – 6 and 7 – 12

WELCOME VISITORS! May you experience God's presence today. Please complete a red visitor's card (in the pew racks) and wear the "Visitor" peel-and-stick name tag to help us greet you. Our Ambassadors will look for you! **CHURCH INFORMATION** is in the Narthex.

PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. **Please return them completed to an usher or to the center aisle where the ushers will collect them on the opening hymn.** Our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. **You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.** Please obtain others' permission to share their concerns. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. **Please also consider joining our Yahoo e-communication group** (which was created for prayer concerns) to offer immediate posting of intercessory prayer requests. To sign up, contact the church office.

CHILD CARE for children five years old and younger is provided in the Wesley Center, the building to your left. Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary since our child care is not staffed to provide for older children.

IF YOU NEED TO LEAVE THE SANCTUARY DURING WORSHIP, please exit by the east (left) side aisle. **RESTROOMS** are in Dodd Hall (behind the altar). **PARENTS are respectfully urged to accompany their children** as required by our Safe Sanctuary policy. **PLEASE RE-ENTER** the sanctuary by the east side aisle.

TODAY'S LITURGY is based on Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992). The Unison Prayer of Confession was written by Pastor Brian Bodt.

SERMON COPIES from previous Sundays are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

SAVE THE DATE

ADULT CPR TRAINING will be offered on Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m. – Noon in Dodd Hall.

The trainer is Bill Katt, well-known former MTMUMC. Training is open to people 14 years old and older. Cost is provided by our Parish Health and Wellness budget. **Child care will be provided if the need is expressed TODAY, Sunday, March 25.** Up to 16 persons can be accommodated. We currently have 11 people registered. **Registration deadline is Mon., April 2.** To register please contact the Church Office (203.874.1982, ext. 110/ mtmumc@sbcglobal.net).

FAIR ON THE GREEN SPRING MEETING will be Sunday, April 8, 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Center, first floor. This is an all-church event annually raising in excess of \$15,000 for our church budget. Even more, it's great fun! Many hands make light work. Especially if you are newer to MTMUMC, come to this meeting or say "Yes!" when asked to be part of a team!

ST MARY'S CHURCH/PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH is offering The New Day 10 week bereavement support group program, starting April 12th on Thursdays from 1-3p.m. in Father Cronin Hall, 70 Gulf St., Milford. Anyone coping with the loss of a loved one whether recent or years ago is welcome. For more information or to register call Margaret at 203-874-2376.

OUR ANNUAL MISSIONS FAIR will be Sunday, April 15th, after 10 a.m. worship in Dodd Hall. 21 missions groups will present information during Fellowship Time to inspire and educate our congregation about the vital work we do through our missions partners. Please join us.

LITURGIST BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOPS for persons who have been, or desire to be, Sunday morning liturgists. Dates are Mon., April 23, 5:30 – 7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 28, 9:30 – 11 a.m. Details on page 6 of the March "Beacon." Paul Downing, Certified Lay Servant, is our workshop leader. Please contact him (paul.downing@snet.net; 203.676.5582) or Worship Co-Chairs Leigh Bak (leighb619@gmail.com) or Nancy Bennett (nancy516@aol.com) to learn more.

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PASTOR KRISTINA AND LESLIE in advance of Pastor Kristina's appointment will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at 7 – 8:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall. Pastors Brian and Kristina are developing the event design based on positive pastoral transition events of which they have both been a part. We hope you will make every effort to join this special time. Please let Mary Lou Kampert (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net; 203.874.1982, ext. 110) know if you plan to attend. After July 1st, a series of smaller "cottage meetings" will be offered, coordinated by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, to provide more personal opportunities to meet Pastor Kristina and Leslie. We hope you will attend one of these, too! Those MTMUMC members here in the summer of 2012 will remember similar meetings for Pastor Brian and Carol.

A FAREWELL / RETIREMENT EVENT FOR PASTOR BRIAN AND CAROL will be held on Sunday, June 24, in the afternoon, either 1:30 - 4 or 2 - 4:30 p.m. Stacey Cronk (fri1013@aol.com; 203.772.5997) will chair the committee on behalf of Staff-Parish Relations. More details will be provided as they become available. Please hold the date and attend if you are able.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, March 25</i>	<i>8:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School Jamboree Time – Chapel</i>
<i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School Easter Egg hunt – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship – Sanctuary</i>

	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Caring Ministry – Wesley Center, 1st Floor</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>GEUMC Worship – Chapel</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, March 26</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel</i>
	8:00 p.m.	<i>“The Twelve” rehearsal - Sanctuary</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 27</i>	5:45 p.m.	<i>NO Confirmation Class, Tres Dias team meeting, Disciple 4 or Adult Study this evening in observance of Holy Week</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 28</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Beacon Volunteers – Wesley Center Egan Room</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>NO Adult Study in observance of Holy Week</i>
	Noon	<i>Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i>
	5:00/6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Choir Dinner/Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29</i>	7:30 p.m.	<i>Maundy Thursday Service – Sanctuary</i>
<i>GOOD FRIDAY, Mar. 30</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
	Noon	<i>Good Friday Service – Trinity Lutheran Church, 21 Robert Treat Parkway, Milford</i>
	Noon to 3:00 p.m.	<i>MTMUMC sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation, led by Pastor Hal Vink</i>
	7:30 p.m.	<i>Good Friday Tenebrae Service - Sanctuary</i>
<i>Saturday, March 31</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel</i>
<i>Sunday, April 1</i>	7:00 a.m.	<i>Dawn service of Resurrection at Gulf Beach, Milford</i>
<i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	7:30 a.m.	<i>Breakfast by the Men’s Club – Dodd Hall</i>
	8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship/Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>GEUMC Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Monday, April 2</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 3</i>	5:45 p.m.	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Tres Dias meeting today – Dodd Hall</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Disciple 4- Egan Room – Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Adult Study: “Made for a Miracle” – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 4</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Study: “Made for a Miracle” – Gunn Library</i>
	5:00/6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Choir Dinner/Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, April 5</i>	6:00 p.m.	<i>Church Security Task Force meeting – Egan Room</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Missions Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, April 6</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers-Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, April 7</i>	8:00 a.m.	<i>CPR Training – Dodd Hall</i>
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel</i>
	8:30 a.m.	<i>Lay Servants course on preaching -Grace UMC, Southington, CT</i>

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted by Missions. Next Sunday’s Easter buffet breakfast will be hosted by the Men’s Club. **Please note that the breakfast will run from**

7:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., with serving ending at 9:45 a.m.

EASTER ITEMS sold by our Trash and Treasures team are available during Fellowship Time.

CHILD CARE REQUESTS FOR THE APRIL 7 CPR TRAINING are due to the Church Office TODAY. Contact us at mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982, ext. 110.

THE EASTER LETTER was mailed last Monday. Extras in the Narthex.

GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) meets **TODAY at 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center, First Floor Youth Lounge**. We are preparing for the Easter Sunrise Service. **All youth are requested to be in attendance** as we finalize the details of this fun and meaningful service. Leader for these two weeks is Dawn Bettencourt. Thank you! **Pastor Dani**

HOLY WEEK

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

March 26 **HOLY MONDAY** - Healing and Wholeness Worship in the Chapel, 7:00 p.m. Wesley Center, 2nd Floor (elevator accessible)

March 28 **HOLY WEDNESDAY – Noon** Holy Communion, Sanctuary

March 29 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7:30 p.m. A simple setting of the Lord’s Supper will feature a play entitled “The Twelve” and special music will be an alto saxophone rendition of “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart.” The worship will end with a stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

March 30 **GOOD FRIDAY**
Noon – 1:30 p.m. Our fifth annual Community Good Friday service based on the “Seven Last Words” of Christ will be hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church, 21 Robert Treat Parkway, sponsored by the Milford Clergy Association.

Noon – 3 p.m. Sanctuary will be open for the traditional hours of Christ’s crucifixion with prayer guides and readings available. Pastor Hal Vink hosts this time of prayer and meditation.

7:30 p.m. A service of Tenebrae (“shadows”) will use a reading of the Passion from John’s Gospel (18:1-19:42) and the lighting and extinguishing of candles to consider the mystery of Christ’s sacrificial love. Additional readings will be Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 and Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12. The message will be “What Wondrous Love is This?” Music by the Adult Choir and a harp and vocal duet by Mary Lou Kampert and Barbara Repetsky.

NEXT SUNDAY, April 1st

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, EASTER DAY

Please remember to bring a flower to place in the wire-mesh cross in front of the church. Watch

at the resurrection blooms as morning unfolds!

- 7:00 a.m. Dawn service of Resurrection at Gulf Beach, planned and led by the “*Growing Up Together Spiritually*” (G.U.T.S) youth group.
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast by the Men’s Club in Dodd Hall. All welcome. **Breakfast will serving will end at 9:45 a.m.**
- 8:30 a.m. Resurrection service of Holy Communion with music by Bell and Adult Choirs. **No Sunday School on Easter Day.** The message will be “Fools for Christ” based on Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 4:8-13 and John 20:1-18.
- 10:00 a.m. Resurrection service of Holy Communion with music by Praisemakers, Bell and Adult Choirs. The same texts and message will be offered.

SOUND SYSTEM FUNDING

At their March 15 meeting, the Church Council approved a plan for funding a new sound system for the sanctuary. The development of the system will happen later in 2018 and be overseen by the Board of Trustees with a committee of three Trustees (Tina Gage, chair, Chris Paton and Kelly O’Hara), two at-large members (Ty Gage and Tom Hollyday) and two staff members (Dr. Rick Riccardi and Pastor Dani Levine).

The estimated cost of the system is \$60,000, with \$55,000 currently committed from individual donors and available church funds. If you would like to make a gift to help us close the gap, please make your check payable to “MTMUMC” with the memo “sound system.” If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Brian Bodt (203.895.3753 or brian.bodt@yahoo.com).

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

BULLETIN NOTICES are ***due by noon Wednesday*** for the weekly bulletin.

DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS. *Beth O’Brien (203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net) is now taking orders for 2018.* Flowers are \$20. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to support missions are honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf on the altar. Checks for both are payable to MTMUMC, mailed to Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, 06460. **Our next open Sundays are April 8, 15 and 29.**

FOOD BASKET: Please place non-perishable food items in the basket located in the back of the church and monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: Wet and dry cat food is needed for seniors with pets and for the canine facility. Towels and blankets are needed. Animal Control will not take peoples' released pets but will spay and neuter feral cats. Please leave your donations in the designated basket in the back of the Sanctuary. The Youth Fellowship brings these items to Animal Control each week. Bless you for caring for God's children with fur. **If you and your animals are in need please help yourself to the available donations.**

CONTACT THE PASTORS directly or through the church office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) with pastoral care needs and hospitalizations: **Pastor Brian Bodt:** brian.bodt@yahoo.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 111 or 203.895.3753. He is typically in office **10 am – 1 p.m.**, Mon. – Thurs. **Pastor Hal Vink:** 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@gmail.com. **Pastor Dani Levine:** 203.927.9077 or Danielle.levine@mail.com.

“**FIX IT BOX**” is in Dodd Hall. See a need? Drop a completed form in the box.

WE HOST Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Recovery from Co-dependency (CODA) WEEKLY. Please call the church office for the schedule or see it posted on the bulletin boards.

PLEASE NOTE: During a medical or other emergency the Head Usher or a designee will call #911. Please do not call on your cell phone as multiple calls may delay response.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR March 18th

Total worship attendance all services: 229; Mar. 18th: 168; GEUMC: 29 ; Mar. 19: Healing and Wholeness: 12; Lent Mar.21: 20 (Noon); Total Offerings for Mar. 18: \$8,573.75; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$0; Engaged in Small Groups: 87; Sunday School: 24; “G.U.T.S” (youth group) : 10; Golden Hill Community Dinner Mar. 7: 10; Confirmation: 4; Disciple 4: 9; Adult Bible Study: Tues: 9; Wed. 12; Bell Choir and Adult Choir: cancelled for snow; Trash & Treasures: 6; Office Volunteers: 3; Total persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 0. *Small Groups – please contact the church office mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.