



**I really only love God  
as much as I love the person  
I love the least.**

**Dorothy Day**



# Church of the Palms

## United Church of Christ

*Where faith happens and love abounds*

1960 N. Swinton Avenue  
Delray Beach, Florida 33444  
561.276.6347 + [www.churchofthepalms.net](http://www.churchofthepalms.net)



Sunday, February 24, 2019, 10:00 am  
*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
No matter who you love, you are welcome here!*



**Guests are a special blessing!** *Please sign our Guest Book, located in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to receive our newsletters and weekly emails, include your email address. And join us after worship for conversation and refreshments in the Friendship Center.*



As an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, our goal is to extend to everyone an extravagant welcome in hopes that you will experience the abundant love of God here and be inspired to share that love with the world.

### To enhance your worship experience...

- Kindly silence your cell phone in the sanctuary
- Back cushions are available in the back pew or ask an usher
- A hearing loop encircles the sanctuary for those with hearing aids`
- There are no assigned seats – sit where you feel most comfortable
- If you do not wish to keep your bulletin, please place it in the recycle box as you exit to Friendship Center
- Let us know what we can do for you!

**Nursery Care** is available for infants and toddlers in the education building. Ask an usher for assistance. **Sunday School** classes meet in the Education Building following the Children's Conversation except on Communion Sunday.

**Prayer Requests** may be submitted using the Connect Cards in the pew rack and placing it on the offering plate or called into the Church Office during the week. Prayer Ministry Gatherings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

# SERVICE OF WORD

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## Welcome and the Life of the Church

### Prelude

*Steal Away*

arr. Smith

*(You are encouraged to use this time for prayer & meditation.  
In respect for others, please observe silence in the sanctuary.)*

### Call to Worship *(inspired by Psalm 1)*

One: We come seeking the holy love of God, that we may become whole and loving.

**Many: As Jesus Christ has shared the life of earth, through Christ we may share the life of God.**

One: In awe, we rejoice in sharing life with God in Christ,

**All: In thanksgiving, let us worship God!**

### \*Gathering Hymn #546

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

### \*Gathering Prayer and Prayer of Jesus *(trespasses)*

One: Christ is with us!

**All: Christ is in our midst!**

One: Let us pray:

**All: Holy Jesus, You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not.  
You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies,  
to bless those who curse us.**

**We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path.**

**Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You,**

**to allow ourselves at times to stumble,**

**to live into the hard way**

**so that we might fully experience**

**Your love, grace and peace in this world,**

**by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others.**

**In Your name we pray and in your words, Our Father...**

### \*Sentences of Praise *(from Psalm 37)*

One: Be still before God, and wait patiently;

**All: The salvation of the righteous is from God, who is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

**\*Gloria #759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit: Three-in-One.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Children's Conversation**

**Song: To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus! My desire to be like Jesus!**

**All through life's journey from earth to glory, My desire to be like Jesus.**

**Anthem**

*Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven*

arr. Kirkby

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute brings; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, ever more God's praises sing. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King. Praise the everlasting King.

Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress; praise God still the same as ever, slow to chide and quick to bless. Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness. Glorious now God's faithfulness.

Angels in the heights adoring, you behold God face to face; saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace, praise with us the God of grace!

**Prayer for Understanding**

**Reading of Scripture**

Old Testament          Genesis 45:3-11,15

Gospel                      Luke 6:27-38

**Response (Tune: Nettleton #59)**

**May we hear with understanding, by your Spirit taught and led;  
may the springs of all our being by your Living Word be fed;  
may our hearts accept with meekness all the grace your light makes known;  
may obedience mark our footsteps, till we make each word our own!**

**Reflection on Scripture**

*Love. Period.*

**Prayers of the People**

One: Healing Spirit,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

**Response #769**

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ears to us, and grant us your peace.

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

*Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen*

arr. Smith

**\*Doxology #780/778**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Loving God,**

**let our material gifts make possible spiritual ministries of reconciliation  
and love-restored community. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #170**

*Your Ways Are Not Our Own*

**\*Sending and Blessing**

***You are invited to exit quietly or remain seated  
during the musical postlude, to enjoy a last moment of worship.***

**Postlude**

*Processional March*

Martin



**PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE**

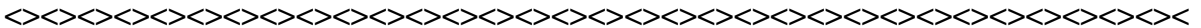
The Reverend Brad S. Lutz, Designated Pastor

Edward Krynicki, Music Director

Elaine Reinhardt – Pianist

Lizz Sanders- Liturgist

Beverly Drolette and Deirdre Scott - Greeters



**Next Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 3pm in the sanctuary  
A recital honoring some of the most influential female composers**

# THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Office Hours** this week are Tuesday - Friday- 9AM-1PM.

Pastor Brad will be in on Monday and Thursday.

**Congregational Conversation** on the *New Beginnings Report*, is today, 11:30am - 12:30pm.

**Spring Rummage Sale**, sponsored by the Women's Fellowship, is Saturday, 8:30am to 12:30pm. Donations are being accepted now. Call Margot Beck at 561-737-0012 for more information and to sign up to help.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS – Mark Your Calendars**

**Spiritual Life & Celebration Team** is looking for caring and concerned people to call, mail cards, and visit our shut-ins. The first meeting is next Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, immediately following worship, in the Volunteer Office. If you are interested, contact Polly Champ or Susan Moore.

**Ash Wednesday Worship** is Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11am in the Sanctuary. A lunch of soup and artisan breads will be served following the service.

**Women's Fellowship** Meeting is Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 11am in Fellowship Hall.

**Handbell Rehearsal** will begin soon. Contact Ed to sign up.

**Food Donations** are needed for CROS Ministries. Pantry items needed this week are Macaroni and Cheese. We have more than 100,000 food insecure people in Palm Beach County who rely on CROS for food. Please put your food items in the bins at the back of the church. To make a financial donation, go to [crosministries.org](http://crosministries.org).

## **REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS**

Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 1pm - Office Hours

Thursdays, 10:30am - Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Thursdays, 6:00pm – Choir rehearsal (Music Room)

4th Thursday of every month, 10:00 - 10:25am - Prayer Ministry (Sanctuary)

Sundays, 10am following Children's Conversation is Sunday School

2nd Sunday of every month, 11:30am - 12:45pm Super Sunday Team Meetings

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month, 6:00pm – Leadership Council (volunteer conference room)