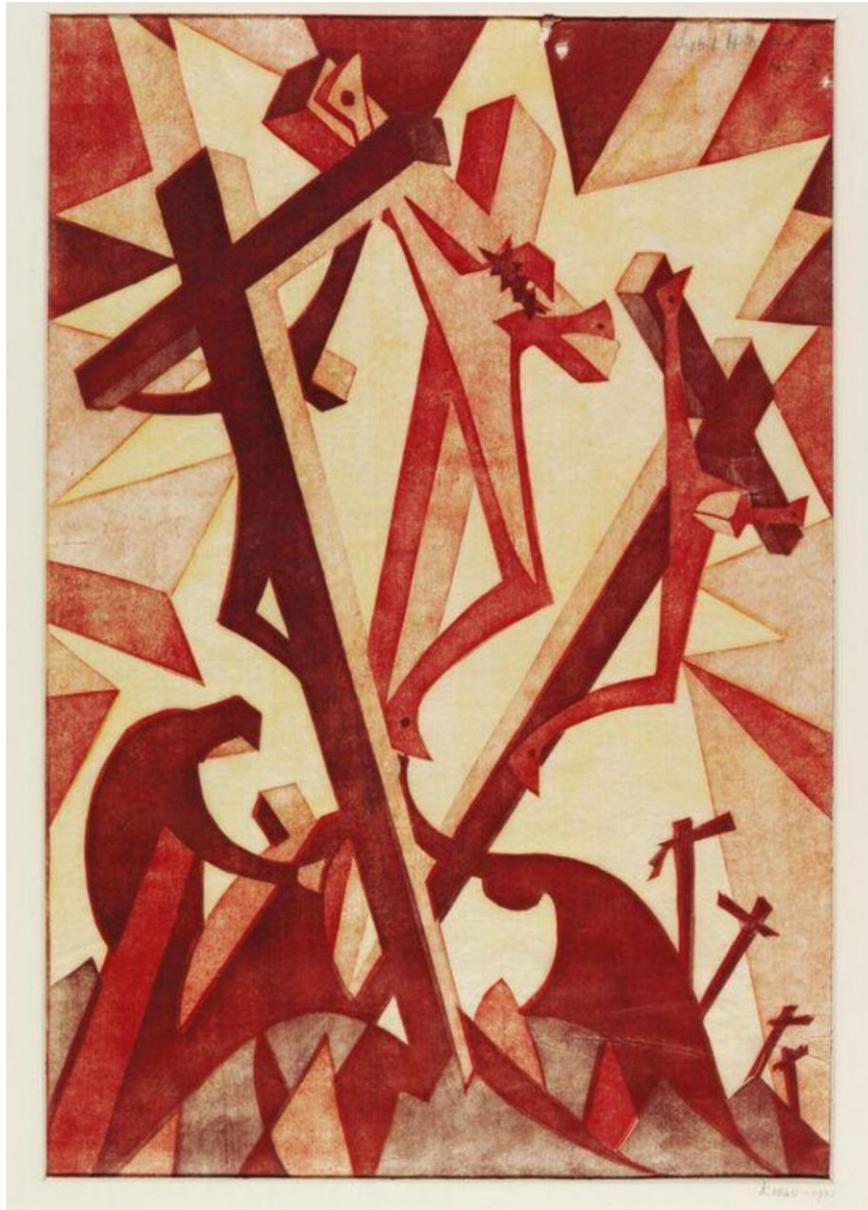


Congregational Church of Westminster West, UCC
Palm & Passion Sunday | March 26, 2026



“Golgotha” by Sybil Andrews

*“I want to know / if you have touched / the centre of your own sorrow / if you have been
opened / by life’s betrayals / or have become shriveled and closed / from fear of further pain.
[...] I want to know if you can / disappoint another / to be true to yourself. / If you can bear /
the accusation of betrayal / and not betray your own soul.”*

Excerpt from “The Invitation” poem by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

LEADER: We gather to celebrate God and their infinite, world-building love!

PEOPLE: Hosanna to our God, who breaks the world open into ever-deepening layers of love!

LEADER: We also gather to reckon with our doubt about the truth of God's scandalous love. Are we ready to experience the fullness of our desire for this love, *and* our fears that it can't possibly be real?

PEOPLE: We agree to witness our inner thoughts, however difficult or relieving it is to see ourselves clearly; only in this way can we become free from the false masters within and beyond us.

LEADER: Then let us celebrate our God, and let us also be honest about the ways we doubt and betray them, such that our joy and our grief become fertile ground for the "*kin-dom*" of love.

PEOPLE: Hosanna to our God, whose truest triumph is preceded by death, whose loyalty is not limited by our own treachery!

OPENING HYMN: 216 *All, Glory Laud and Honor*

Time of Confession

PEOPLE: God of life and death, you who experiences the full spectrum of existence alongside us, we confess that your infinite love is too much to comprehend. We cannot fathom the depth of your care, and our incredulity causes us to celebrate you one moment and betray you the next. Forgive us our trespasses, oh Holy One, and see our sincere desire to trust your impossible love – a love that is not forceful coercion into false fidelity, but an invitational reclamation of our deepest belonging, which is also our deepest freedom. Teach us to betray the right things, oh God, that we may become more deeply and properly loyal to you.

Assurance of Pardon

LEADER: Our infinite God loves us beyond compare and comprehension. Because of our finitude and our finite comprehension, by turns we embrace their love, and by turns, we doubt it. Thankfully, infinite God is infinitely loving and always sees past our worst and best moments. Neither our praise nor our betrayals could make God love us in any manner but infinitely.

"GLORIA" 756

Time of Prayer

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns, Silence, Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture: John 12:12-27, (Entry into Jerusalem); John 19:16b-22 (The Crucifixion)

REFLECTION HYMN: 213 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Sermon: "To be loyal, we must also betray."

Offertory

Doxology

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.

Dedicatory Prayer

God, we thank you for the many gifts in our lives, and for the many gifts gathered here today in gratitude for your abundance. May our offerings be in service to the furtherance of your abundance across the lives of many, here and elsewhere. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 215 *Ride On! Ride on in Majesty*

Benediction

Postlude

Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments downstairs following the worship service.

Church and Community Notes

As we seek a settled pastor through our search and call process, we will not be able to offer office hours as usual, but the Deacons (Karen Blanchard, Lee Crocker, Charlotte Gifford, Adrienne Major, Ray Huessy, and Sue Venman) are available to support the congregation. You can leave a message on the church number (802-387-1175) or you can contact a deacon directly. In case of pastoral emergency, a deacon will call on the Rev. Shawn Bracebridge (pastor of the Dummerston UCC) and help a person in need get in contact with him. For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith.

Worship Participants:

Service Leader: Gabriela De Golia

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacons: Karen Blanchard

Technician: Charlotte Gifford

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Upcoming Worship Leaders:

April 2, Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae Service, 7 pm – David Mulholland

April 3, Good Friday, 12 noon – Centre Church, Brattleboro

April 3, Good Friday, meditation service, 7 pm – Dummerston UCC

April 5, Easter Sunrise Service, 6 am – by Malenkovich's Pond

April 5, Easter Sunday, Holy Communion – Sharon Easterling