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**Palm Sunday**  
**March 29, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"          Setting by Paul Manz

BLESSING OF THE PALMS *(adapted from a poem by Jan Richardson)*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: From the mountainside, from the seaside,  
from the homes of the rich and the company of the poor,  
from the bedside of those who are sick,

**All: Jesus is coming!**

One: Along dusty roads, with a ragged band of travelers,

**All: Jesus comes to Jerusalem!**

**Jesus comes to worship and pray!**

One: And we come to greet him with Hosannas!

\*GATHERING HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #216 *New Century Hymnal* vv.1-2  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.**

**O Promised One of Israel, of David’s royal line,  
The one called “God’s beloved,” of flesh and yet divine,  
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)

One: Patient God, we confess that we love a parade. We are very happy to see banners waving and hear people shouting their praises. Our hearts thrill to the spectacle.

**All: But we fail to see the sadness on the face of the Savior; our shouts block out his sorrow. He comes to us as King, and we expect that royal treatment will follow.**

One: We do not and cannot believe that in a few days we will be among those who will turn our backs and run from his presence.

**All: Yet you continually forgive us and call us to turn our lives around--to see the needs of others, to reach out in trust and faith, to be willing to witness to your good news of saving love. (Silent confession)**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the Good News! God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ is everlasting grace.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” v.3

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,  
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.  
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

*All are invited to greet one another with the following words:*

Person 1: **“Hosanna!”**

Person 2: **“Hosanna in the highest!”**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "Hosanna! The King Comes Today!" Emily Lund

**LISTENING**

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING: THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible p.802

A Word of God that is still speaking,  
**Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

## SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #213 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.  
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,  
And glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey’s gait.**

**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours.  
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:  
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.  
Hosanna! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!”**

## RESPONDING

*We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY “Meditation in E Minor” George Oldroyd  
*A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)*

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE tune #778 *New Century Hymnal*

**Praise God, Creator of us all, praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,  
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free, our way is yours, the One-in-Three.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### **SENDING**

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

SCRIPTURE READING: THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Matthew 27: 15-31

Pew Bible p.810

\*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "What Wondrous Love is This" #223 (*New Century Hymnal*)  
(*For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack*)

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this that Christ should come in bliss**

**to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing;**

**To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme,**

**I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity**

**I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on!**

\*COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING: A LITANY FOR HOLY WEEK (1)

Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed you as our hero.

**Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.**

Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.

**Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide we can take care of ourselves.**

Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.

**Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.**

Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

**Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we've never met you.**

Today we have stared at you with the star struck eyes of ardent fans.

**Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because it's too painful to see you on the cross.**

Today we have expressed our unsuppressed hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.

**Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.**

Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

**Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising.**

## Worship Endnotes:

(1) Adapted from [www. carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship](http://www.carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship)

(2) Adapted from Nancy Townley, in the *Abingdon Worship Annual*

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**Palm Sunday Reflection: Parade**

silence

it is a strange thing at the end of a parade

silence

the echo of mayhem

the quietening murmurs of the small rebel crowd

now stealing into the shadows of alleyways

with whispered questions

of 'what just happened?'

gather in a hush of silence

with the hope the stones no longer remain quiet

now that the hosannas have been stolen

something happened here

but no one can name it

and belief doesn't dare name at what might have begun

a messiah arrived

but the kingdom did not

palm branches

and cloaks

were strewn in mock adulation

but heaven remains silent

faith tells us we must we wait longer

a different voice is coming

and another moment

to name love

and crush this ache

and break this ironic silence

with the sound of death

and the shutting of a tomb

--by Roddy Hamilton

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