

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
March 29, 2026 – Palm / Passion Sunday
A New and Right Spirit

PALM SUNDAY ENTRANCE

Opening Procession

Choral Introit – *Palm Sunday Introit* – Ashley Brooke

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Introduction and Welcome

Preparation for Worship / Breath Prayer

GATHERING

Prelude

Call to Worship

On this day, Jesus marched
in between the city walls and the Temple,
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.

On this day, Jesus marched
in between what had been and what could be.
So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.
May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.

Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in between!

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, we join with you today
in the procession from so long ago,
still remembering what it's like to put our hope
in the wrong people and institutions.
Be with us in worship
as we tell your story of redemptive love.
Create in us clean hearts
and put a new and right spirit within us.
In your holy name we pray, Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 196** – *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One.
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

**2 The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

**3 To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

**4 Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

Children's Song – *Where Children Belong*

**This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
this is where children belong.**

Time for Children

Children's Prayer

Announcement Reminders

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Great Creator, forgive me
**when I speak before listening,
when I speak over my neighbor,
when I speak with barbed words.**

Creator God, forgive me
**when I listen to society,
when I listen to my friends,
when I listen to the news,
but I do not listen to you.**

Creator God, forgive me
**when I shout out, but do not shout your name,
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice.
Forgive me.**

Create in me a heart like yours.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
**We are seen. We are heard.
We are loved. We are forgiven.
Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone.
Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

Lenten Sung Response No. 551 – *Lord Have Mercy*

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

And now as forgiven people, I say to you:
the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

LEARNING

Lenten Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading – *Matthew 21:1-11*

Anthem – *Lift Up Your Voice* – Mark Burrows

Introduction to the Readers Theater

Prayer

THE READER’S THEATER WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Readers Theater – excerpts from *Matthew 26 and 27*

Communion Music

Hymn No. 527 (Sing Multiple Times) – *Eat This Bread*
**Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst”**

Hymn No. 522 (Choir Verses, Congregation Refrain) – *I Am the Bread of Life*
**“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”**

Hymn No. 227 (Sing Multiple Times) – *Jesus, Remember Me*
**Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.**

Responsive Hymn No. 654 (Sing Multiple Times) – *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful*

**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that many years ago
a peaceful parade wove its way
through the streets of Jerusalem.
We believe that on that day
the people cried out,
longing and praying for a better world.
We believe that these longings
came from a place of deep hope,
and we believe that hope cannot be silenced.
So we listen for the Spirit.
We sing Hosanna. We pay attention.
For in between the silence and the song,
we believe the Spirit is speaking. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Sung Lord's Prayer for Lent

Our Father
Our Father
in heaven,
in heaven,
holy is your name.
holy is your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
your will be done,
on earth
on earth
as in heaven.
as in heaven.
Give us today
Give us today
our daily bread;
our daily bread;
forgive us our sins
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
who sin against us.
Save us from the time
Save us from the time
of trial,
of trial,
and deliver us
and deliver us
from evil.
from evil.
For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, forever.
For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, forever.
Forever,
Forever,
and ever.
and ever.

RESPONDING

Offering

Lent Offertory Hymn No. 470 – *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts*

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

1 For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.

In sorrow, in grief: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

2 For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.

In weakness, in fear: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

3 For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.

In sickness, in death: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.

*Doxology No. 606 – *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Offering Prayer

God, take our gifts as a holy sacrifice unto you.

Show us how to do more, give more,
and go further in our faith this Holy Week.

As we walk with your son, Jesus, to the grave,
may we be changed by Easter morning. Amen.

SENDING

***Closing Hymn No. 200 – A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd**

**1 A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.**

**2 They laid their garments in the road and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and psalms.**

**3 When day dimmed down to deepening dark the crowd began to fade
till only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.**

**4 Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.**

**5 Instead of palms, a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Lora East, Pastor
Clementine Martinez, Acolyte
Jude Lopez, Liturgist
Erika Stiner, Director of Children's Spirituality
Christian Carpenter, Media Technician
Zachary Ridgway, Organist
Keith Martinez, Director of Choral Music
Nicolas Dimick, Children's Choir Director
The UPC Adult and Children's Choirs
Mariah Ramirez, Cellist
Jim & Paula Gentner and Antje & Norman Klaunig, Greeters
Elder Sue Martino and Deacon Becky Huston, Communion Servers

READERS THEATER PARTICIPANTS

(in order of appearance)
Ashley Gans, Narrator
Keith Martinez, Judas
Mark Seaman, Jesus
Christian Carpenter, Tom Williams, David King, Crowd
Patty Nicholson, Peter
Zachary Ridgway, Pilate
Doug Posey, Centurion

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Call to Worship, Confession/Assurance, Affirmation of Faith,
Readers Theater, and Offering liturgy
from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.