



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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“No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!”

March 29, 2026

 **Palm / Passion Sunday** | Mark 11:1-11
**the good news is... inspiring us to
act**

Worship Leaders:
Pastor: Michael Small
Liturgist: Bev Jorland
Greeter: Dan Batson
Special Music:
Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

Tech: Ace Diehl (Video), Samuel Batson (Audio)
Spiritual Life, Chancel and Communion Preparation

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

#213

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Will you follow?
Will you lay down your coat?
Will you lay down something important?
Will you shout "Hosanna"?
Will you join the parade?
Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?
Will you cut down a palm branch?

† For those who are able, please stand.

Will you wave it in the air?
Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?
Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

**All: We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.
We will worship. We will follow.**

One: Hosanna in the highest!

All: Hosanna in the highest.

A TIME OF CENTERING

(During this time of centering, open your hearts to God; be in the present, here and now.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets, and cries of "Hosanna!" It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world. The first Palm Sunday was a day of peaceful, hopeful action.

So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join the saints before us in an act of faith. Let us begin with an act of prayer, an act of honesty, an act of transformation. Let us begin by drawing close to God and sharing the truth of our lives.

Let us begin with confession.
Join me in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus of Nazareth,
we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.
You marched through the streets and walked on water.
You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables. Your
good news was not confined to conversation.
It was not confined to the Temple.
Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.
Holy God, we long for a faith like that.
Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith
to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon.
Inspire us to love as you loved.
Inspire us to act.
With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

(Each person can take this time to surrender to God privately anything weighing heavy on their heart.)

† For those who are able, please stand.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Church family,
whether or not you wave your palm branch,
whether or not you live out your faith,
whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,
God will never stop loving you.
Jesus will never stop marching for you.
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.

**All: We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.
What good, good news. Amen!**

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Holy One,
if we've heard this story before,
the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, then help us to hear it
again.
And if we've never heard this story before,
if we've never heard the story of Palm Sunday or the cries of "Hosanna," then
give us the wisdom to follow along.
Give us the wisdom to hear these words.
Give us the wisdom to take them into our hearts.
Give us the wisdom to act on their truth.
We are listening.
Amen.

Focus Scripture: Mark 11:1-11 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 668). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples ² with this instruction: "Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing that?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.' "

† For those who are able, please stand.

⁴ So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. ⁵ Some of the bystanders said to them, "What do you mean by untying that colt?" ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

"Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our
God!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

REFLECTION

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HYMN

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

#216

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

One: God of the peaceful parade,
God of the humble entry,
God of the people and the song,
we come to you today with the prayers of our hearts.
We come to you today because we know that you are a God who listens. You
are a God who walks with us.

You are a God who acts,
and for that, we are grateful.

So today, Holy One, we pray for guidance.
Like Jesus, we want to act upon our beliefs.
We want to allow the good news of the gospel to move through us. We want to
gather people together.

We want to move toward something good,
but we admit, we are often unsure of what to do.

† For those who are able, please stand.

We are unsure of the steps to take.
We are unsure of the road before us.

So today we pray—
give us strength.
Give us the strength to live like the crowds that day in Jerusalem.

Where they held palm branches,
may we hold a hand out to our neighbor.
May we hold open the door for each other.
May we hold onto hope.

Where they cried “Hosanna,”
may we cry out for justice.
May we cry out with joy.
May we cry out to you.

Where they laid down their coats,
may we lay down our resources—
our energy, our creativity, and our time—
so that we can build your promised day here.

We do not want to simply talk about our faith.
We want to act on it, so may this prayer be the first step.
May this prayer, and the earnestness in our hearts, move us closer to you.

With cries of “Hosanna!” on our tongues, we join our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying . . .

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

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INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

One:

† For those who are able, please stand.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

DOXOLOGY: *(as collection plates come forward)*
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. Amen.

Tune #780

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One:

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
It sounds like welcome and feels like home.
It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.
It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive
in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

†HYMN

“Journey to Gethsemane”

#220

PARTING WORDS

One: As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.
For the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises,
and nonviolence that transforms.
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
so go forth speaking.

† For those who are able, please stand.

For if you won't, then who will?
Thanks be to God
for this good, good news.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

WI-FI – “Guest” Scan QR Code for Internet Access

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