

Community Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded



March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, \* indicates please stand, if able

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing songs of loudest praise!

**Hosanna!**

Sing songs that are unashamed.

**Hosanna!**

Sing songs without being afraid.

**Hosanna!**

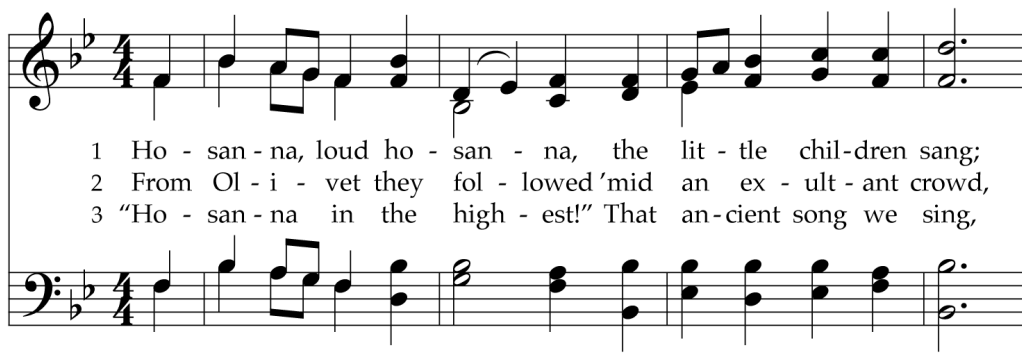
Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

**Hosanna!**

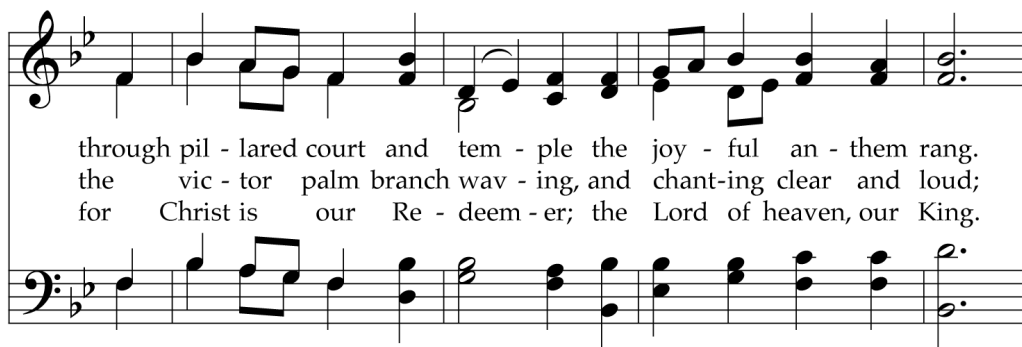
Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

## OPENING HYMN GTG 197

## Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,  
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.  
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;  
for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence.

After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, “the disciples did not understand what was happening” (John 12:16).

A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God’s presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we’re standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing.

That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don’t want to miss our chance to sing:

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise!  
 We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.  
 However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.**

**Too often we stay quiet.  
Too often we let others carry the song.  
Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade  
but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.**

**Show us which songs are ours to sing.  
Show us which parades are ours to lead,  
and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.  
With hope and honesty we pray, amen.**

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.

So, hear these words and trust them deep in your bones:  
We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today.  
And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. Amen.

#### LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

##### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of grace, your Word is like a song.  
It is the melody that we long to sing,  
the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads.  
So as we return to scripture once more,  
we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song.  
Allow us to hear the truth in between the words.  
Allow the cries of the crowd’s “hosannas” to feel like our own.  
With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.

##### LENTEN POETRY

*Courage*

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

We summon every ounce of courage.  
We give ourselves pep talks  
and we call our friends.  
We dig deep within.  
We practice the words out loud,

rolling them around in our mouths,  
imagining the response.  
We deal out every “what if” card our brain holds on to  
and spend absurd amounts of time  
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.  
And then finally, blessedly, we say it:  
*I love you.*  
To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.  
It always has.  
But please,  
summon your courage,  
join the parade,  
and speak with conviction.  
For God has been saying to the world since day one:  
*I love you.*  
What is your response?

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Hosanna to Jesus, the King!*  
words & music by Lloyd Larson

Mark Neville

GOSPEL READING

John 12:12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Carla

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

### OFFERING

*An offering plate is placed near the back of the room to receive your offerings and is available before, during the hymn of the day and shortly following the service.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 200

### A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd



1 A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had  
2 They laid their gar - ments in the road and  
3 When day dimmed down to deep - ening dark the  
4 Lest we be fooled be - cause our hearts have  
5 In - stead of palms, a wind - ing sheet will



stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as  
spread his path with palms and vows of last - ing  
crowd be - gan to fade till on - ly tram - pled  
surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as  
have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more



king a - loud, waved branch - es in the air.  
love be - stowed with roy - al hymns and psalms.  
leaves and bark were left from the pa - rade.  
this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.  
fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.**

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest.**

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.**

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.**

Hosanna!

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Through the grace of God, we have gifts in abundance and pour them out like perfume from a flask, not for our sakes, but to worship the One who lavishes love on the world.

Gracious God, we thank you for the mystery that you give yourself to us. Lead us by your Spirit in this Lenten season to repent in hope, to serve you in faith, and to die and rise with Christ. Amen.

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**O Divine Parent, Giver of Life,**

**whose presence is holiness,**

**may our hearts be in you.**

**Transform the world**

**according to your delight,**

**that all earth may become a holy place.**

**Give us each moment that moment's breath.**

**Give us your gift of forgiveness,**

**that receiving it deeply we may give it freely.**

**Transform our desires,**

**and free us from evil powers;**

**for all creation, and all power, and all beauty**

**are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

#### SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - ered there for me;  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.  
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.



\* BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place,  
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.

May you look for God in every face.

May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb,  
and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within,  
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."

You are called. You are blessed.

In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God.

Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

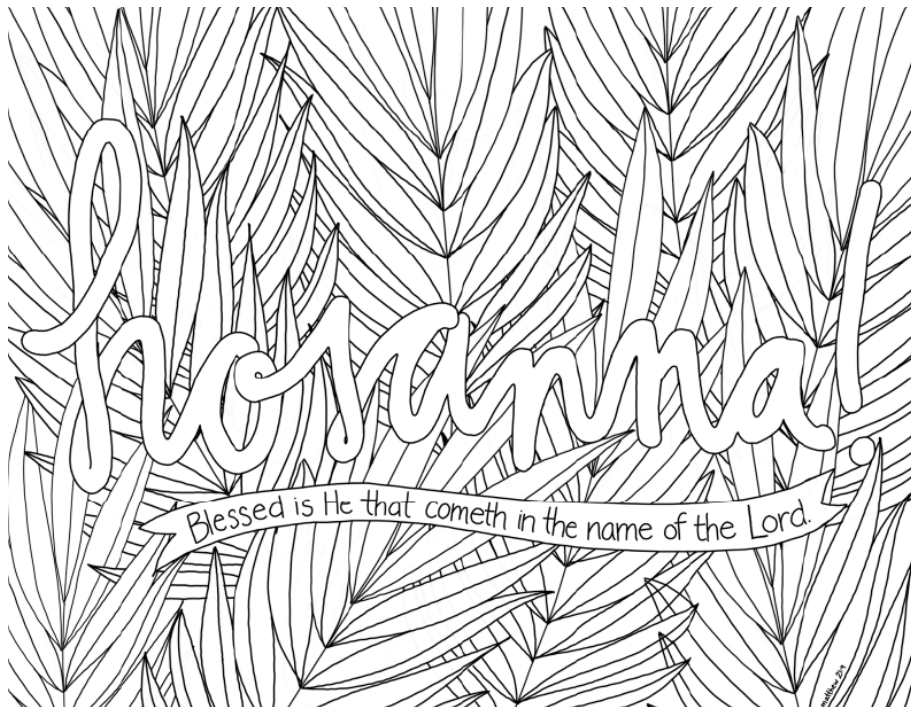
POSTLUDE

"Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org"

Lord's Prayer adaptation from *Unfolding Light*.

You are welcome to take home a palm branch after worship.

Please do not wave them in the church building.



*Then They Remembered*

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 12:12-16

*Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing*

In the Matthew, Mark, and Luke versions of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, two unnamed disciples follow Jesus' orders to retrieve a colt. In these accounts, the disciples actively participate in the parade, laying down their cloaks and singing praise. In contrast, John's version of this story provides minimal details and the disciples are hardly mentioned at all. However, the text does a unique thing: it breaks the fourth wall to tell us something important:

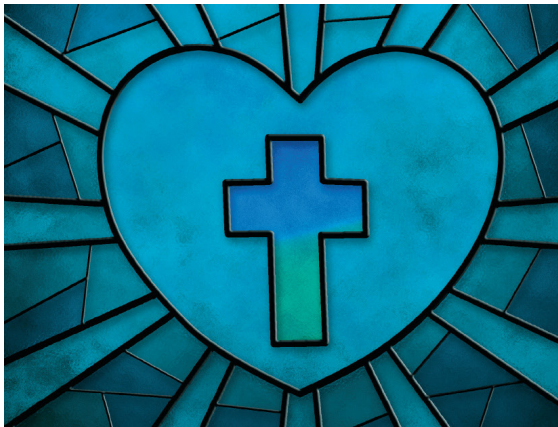


“His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered” (John 12:16).

Is Peter at the parade? Does he lay down his cloak and follow the others? Does he sing songs of loudest praise? Or is he lost in the cacophony of the crowds, confused by and afraid of what is taking place? Maybe he is thinking about the blur of events in the days just before: Lazarus raised from the dead, Jesus anointed in Bethany, the crowds knocking down their doors, the plot to kill Jesus and Lazarus swelling like a darkened, fast-approaching sky.

*They didn't understand at first, but then they remembered.* This image attempts to visualize these two locations in time and space. On the left, Peter looks out from the palm procession—his eyes glazed over as he watches Jesus riding into the city where he will surely meet his death. As the crowds sing “hosanna!” for a new, soon-to-be-killed-king, the dissonance of the scene causes Peter to tremble—like a guitar string snapped suddenly mid-tune.

In the top right is Peter's mirror image. In this mirage, we glimpse the future. Peter stands aghast at the empty tomb, waves of hope and relief rushing through him like a river of grace, the remembering happening all at once—like a childhood song plucked from memory, like the refrain of a chorus that won't let you go: it's true, it's true, thank God it's true.  
—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity



75  
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 31, 2024

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY —  
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

*Every time we set a table where all hungry hearts can eat;  
every time we welcome neighbors and we add an extra seat;  
and every time we live as servants,  
free to wash each other's feet,  
IN OUR LIVING, IN OUR GIVING, WE ARE THERE.*

**WE ARE THERE**, with the Middle East Council of Churches, repairing damage to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people following a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake.



HOLBERGSTRONKIN • VILLAT

**WE ARE THERE**, with Caridad Gardens, a Las Vegas-based nonprofit dedicated to "humanizing the homeless, and repairing what's broken due to trauma and destitution."



CARIDAD GARDENS

**WE ARE THERE**, with Kasupe Ministries in Malawi, helping women who are repairing their world to overcome challenges made worse by a cyclone that destroyed crops and the ongoing impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has decimated their community.



AMINA

*We are there*

For 75 years,  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
has partnered with others to take action  
to share God's love.

Through these three life-saving programs,  
we are there to advance the causes of  
justice, resilience and sustainability.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

*Restore Streets to Live In*

**PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM**

*Share Bread with the Hungry*

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE**

*Loose the Bonds of Injustice*



*Please give what you can.*

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

- 9:00 am Quarterly Deacons Meeting  
 9:30 am **Worship - Onsite and Online**  
 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

## Tuesday, March 26

- Pastor Carla out of the office  
 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due  
 6:30 pm Session Meeting (virtual)  
 7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

## Wednesday, March 27

- 9:00 am Prayer Group this week  
 7:30 pm CPC Choir

## Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 pm **Lenten Meal**  
 6:30 pm **Maundy Thursday Worship**

## Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday

- 9:30 am **Worship - Onsite and Online**  
 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal  
 Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
 especially daughter Jenny  
 Connie Holst  
 Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa  
 Shannon Cisewski  
 Ron Murray  
 Dick Massaro and family  
 Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline  
 Roland Ronningen and his parents  
 Bill Marshall's dad, Russ

### Building Partners

Children's Place Preschool  
 Labranza de Dios

*To be added to the prayer list, please contact the pastor: [pastor@cpcrochester.org](mailto:pastor@cpcrochester.org) or the office: 507-280-9291 or via email: [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org). Emergency Pastoral Support: Pastor Carla Nelson: 507-254-1254*

### Church Staff

Bridge Pastor	Rev. Carla Nelson
Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

### Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist	Dave Copeland
Special Music	Mark Neville
IT Support	Louis Bouchard