

John Knox Presbyterian Church
March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday
The good news is... inspiring us to act.



*"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"* *Matthew 21:9*

Palm Sunday | A Tale of Two Processions

Two processions entered Jerusalem on a spring day in the year 30 ... One was a peasant procession, the other an imperial procession.

From the east, Jesus rode a donkey down the Mount of Olives, cheered by his followers. Jesus was from the peasant village of Nazareth, his message was about the kingdom of God, and his followers came from the peasant class...

On the opposite side of the city, from the west, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Idumea, Judea and Samaria, entered Jerusalem at the head of a column of imperial cavalry and soldiers. Jesus' procession proclaimed the power of love and peace; Pilate's procession proclaimed the power of empire ... The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus's crucifixion....

Two processions entered Jerusalem on that day. The same question, the same alternative, faces those who would be faithful to Jesus today. Which procession are we in? Which procession do we want to be in?

The Last Week © Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, 2006

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Poem

"For the Sake of Tiny Resurrections"

Rev. Sarah Speed

Words of Welcome

The Peace of Christ be with you ... and also with you.

*** Call to Worship**

Will you follow?

Will you lay down your coat?

Will you lay down something important?

Will you shout "Hosanna"?

** = Standing as able Italics = Leader **Bold** = People*

Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.’”

They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some people standing around said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. Those in front of him and those following were shouting, “*Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!*”

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

#197

Time with our Young and Growing

Gospel Reading (continued)

Mark 11: 11-19

CEB

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

The next day, after leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. From far away, he noticed a fig tree in leaf, so he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing except leaves, since it wasn’t the season for figs. So he said to it, “No one will ever again eat your fruit!” His disciples heard this.

They came into Jerusalem. After entering the temple, he threw out those who were selling and buying there. He pushed over the tables used for currency exchange and the chairs of those who sold doves. He didn’t allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He taught them, “Hasn’t it been written, *My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?* But you’ve turned it into *a hideout for crooks.*” The chief priests and legal experts heard this and tried to find a way to destroy him. They regarded him as dangerous because the whole crowd was enthralled at his teaching. When it was evening, Jesus and his disciples went outside the city.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** Affirmation of Faith**

by Ann Siddall

**Though we have known hardship and pain,
though life has not always turned out as we had hoped,
we will stand here and say:**

God’s steadfast love endures for ever!

**Though life becomes more complex,
the deepest questions remain unanswered,
and the mystery of faith deepens, we will say:**

God’s steadfast love endures for ever!

**And though the pain of the world
often seems more than we can bear or address,
we will stand firm in our faith and say:**

God’s steadfast love endures for ever!

* Hymn

“O Young and Fearless Prophet”
See projection or music handout

tune #756

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Church and Community Life

Minute for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call for the Offering

Offertory “Two Processions: A Palm Sunday hymn” Anna Robinson

Music and text © 2020 by Amanda Udis-Kessler, inspired by the book "The Last Week"

by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Sung Response

“Praise God ”

tune #606

With palms we come to praise our King,
“Hosanna” is the song we sing,
All praise the One who rides this day,
And brings us hope in ev’ry way. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Response: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.

The Lord’s Prayer

SENDING GOD’S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* Sending Song

“Be Rooted in Hope”

Paul Vasile

see music handout or projection

* Charge and Blessing

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

Postlude

Liturgist: Doug Anderson
Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pianist: Adam Robinson
Music Director: Anna Robinson

Church and Community Life



Please plan to come a bit early next Sunday and bring flowers for the flowered cross. If you want to help attach the flowers to the cross, see Dixie or just come early and help!



Centered in the prophet Micah’s call to do justice, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has been helping neighbors in need around the world for over 75 years. The annual Offering gives the PC(USA) a tangible way to share God’s love by joining together to help eliminate the root causes of the world’s injustices. Thank you for generously supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, the single

largest way Presbyterians come together to make a difference in the world. We will receive this special offering this week and next week. *When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2, at 6:00 pm, you are invited to join us in a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by worship with Communion. Please let us know if you need a ride and we'll see what we can do. Maundy Thursday remembers the new commandment (mandatum) that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

EASTER SUNDAY join us for special refreshments and visiting during fellowship time.

PRAYERS for Shirley's continued recovery are appreciated, and she also appreciates cards and visitors. She is in Room 202, Salem Transitional Care of Cascadia, located at 3445 Boone Rd SE, Salem, OR 97317. This facility is a separate building from Bonaventure South, but located in the same complex. Shirley has her cell phone, and her number is in the directory.

OUR NEW PIANIST BEGINS APRIL 12 Session has approved the hiring of Melissa Terrall as our new pianist. Melissa is an award-winning classical pianist currently based in the Willamette Valley/Salem. A 2023 Fulbright grant recipient, she spent a year researching Mexican piano repertoire in Mexico City. Melissa holds degrees from the University of Kansas and Portland State University. She has worked as interim piano professor at Linfield University and Clark College while also maintaining a private piano studio. She has played piano for many different faith traditions, most recently at two Lutheran churches in Salem. We look forward to welcoming Melissa to John Knox on April 12. If you would like to learn more or hear some of Melissa's performances, visit her website at <https://www.melissaterrallpiano.com/> or her YouTube.

Looking Ahead

TODAY	4:00	Requiem for the Voiceless Westminster Chancel Choir & String Orchestra, Westminster Pres, Salem (3737 Liberty St. S.)
April 2	6:00	Maundy Thursday simple meal and table Worship with Communion @ JKPC
April 3		Good Friday
	5:30	First Presbyterian Good Friday service
	7:00	Westminster Pres Good Friday service
April 5	10:30	RESURRECTION OF THE LORD-Easter <i>Please bring flowers/greenery for the cross!</i> Procession of the flowered cross Enhanced fellowship time
April 12	10:30	Worship - Second Sunday of Easter Holy Communion
April 13	7:00	Administration Committee - Zoom
April 15	7:00	Session meeting on Zoom

Celebrations

March Birthdays			
2	Sally H	9	Bronwyn C.
8	Adam R.	31	CJ H.
March Anniversary			
6	CJ and Carrie H.		
April Birthdays			
1	Mike L.	17	Caleb R.
6	Carrie H.	18	Mark McK.
6	Pat McK.	21	Eileen S.
9	Melissa T.	26	Ezra R.
11	Judi L.	30	Andrea B.

Looking Far Ahead -- Salem Community Chorus Concerts --
Decades of Broadway

Monday, May 11 – 6:30 pm @ St. Mark Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 16 – 3:30 pm @ Oak Park Church of God

Monday, May 18 – 6:30 pm @ St. Mark Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday in the Gospels

Maren C. Tirabassi [Gifts in Open Hands](#) March 24, 2026

I like the ways they tell the same story
about Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Mark has the loudest Hosanna
and, on my way to Luke I wear
my second-best coat,
because with no palms
I'll have to put it on the ground ...

But mostly I love Matthew,
because I want to pet the extra little donkey,
the one who's been braying to his mom
all week long,
that he wants to go, too.

That's me, I just want to go
and protest-confess this terrible war,
waving whatever hosanna-save-us there is,
even if I'm too old or too young,
confused by the hurt of
blue and red in one family,
but broken by the
stunned grieving in Iran and Lebanon
that throws in so many graves
the three handfuls of earth.

Luke remembers that God is a hen,
longing to gather us like chickens,
but Matthew is the one who recognizes
the hopeful, frightened
little donkey in us all
trying to be part of carrying Love
into the world.



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We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks. Copyrighted music is projected and recorded under One License #A-735693, CCL#3162413, or by permission of the author or publisher. Liturgy and poetry by Rev. Sarah Speed, © A Sanctified Art. sanctifiedart.org/ All rights reserved.

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.