

**Peace United Church of Christ  
March 29, 2026  
Palm & Passion Sunday  
10:30am**



Detail from *Entry into the City*, John August Swanson

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

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Prelude                      *Sonata in g minor for violin, "Le Trille Du Diable,"* Giuseppe Tartini

Lian Ojakangas, violin

Ringling of the Bells

\*Welcome & Call to Worship

The journey is long:

**We walk it together.**

Christ before us, behind us, below us, beside us, above us, within us:

**Christ, Immanuel, God-with-Us every step of the way.**

Clear in Christ's presence, filled with the Spirit, we cry out:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

**Let us worship God!**

\*Palm Procession                      *Pave the Way with Branches,* Bret Hesla

***Jesus is coming.***

***Pave the way with branches.***

***Jesus is coming. Hosannah!***

***Refrain:***

***Hosannah! Jesus is coming, Hosannah to the Prince of Peace!***

***Hope for the downtrodden***

***Pave the way with branches.***

***Jesus is coming. Hosannah!***

***Refrain:***

***Land for the landless.***

***Pave the way with branches.***

***Jesus is coming. Hosannah!***

***Refrain:***

***Debts are forgiven.***

***Pave the way with branches.***

***Jesus is coming. Hosannah!***

***Refrain:***

***Release for the captives.***

***Pave the way with branches.***

***Jesus is coming. Hosannah!***

***Refrain:***

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,***

***Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!***

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

\*Prayer of Invocation

**God, our Refiner, we march across holy ground. We hold gently our hurting neighbors and your burning planet. Grant us your Spirit: your knowledge, creativity, grace, and strength. Turn our terror to courage. Build us up. Strengthen our bonds. Embolden us to speak your truth. Lead us into liberation, steadfast in love as we build the Beloved Community together. Amen.**

\*Song

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

#216, *New Century Hymnal*

***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.***

**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!**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Kelli Halsten-Erickson, reader

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

*Even When God is Silent*, Kim Arnesen

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

*You Walk along Our Shoreline*

#504, *New Century Hymnal*

***You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.  
We hear your voice of power, "Now come and follow me.  
And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal,  
Then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul."***

***You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth.  
We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.  
We spread your net of gospel across the water's face,  
Our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.***

***We cast our net, O Jesus; we seek your promised reign;  
We work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.  
You call on us to gather God's daughters and God's sons,  
To let your judgment heal us so that all may be one.***

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung Amen

Announcements & Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Tambourin Chinois, Op. 3*, Fritz Kreisler

Scripture Reading

Selections from Matthew 26 and 27

When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve disciples, and while they were eating he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Invitation to Holy Week

Closing Song

*Journey to Gethsemane*

#219, *New Century Hymnal*

***Journey to Gethsemane, go and feel the tempter's power;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch the anguish of this hour;  
Do not hide or turn away: learn from Jesus how to pray.***

***Follow then to Pilate's hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
Crowned with thorns and mocked by all, faithfully this pain sustained;  
Greater still than shame or loss, Jesus now must face the cross.***

***Calvary's mournful mountain climb, see the Savior lifted high,  
Mark the miracle of time, God's own Child is sacrificed;  
"It is finished!" Jesus cries: learn from Jesus how to die.***

***Early hasten to the tomb, hear the cry of great surprise;  
Then the silence in the room, Jesus there no longer lies:  
Christ is risen! Realize that with Christ we, too, may rise.***

Benediction

Postlude

*Romance in D flat major*, Clara Schumann

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cindy Macaulay, Greeter

Guy & Nadine Hubert and Laurie Berner, Ushers

Kate Dean and Siggy Hunter, Nursery Attendants