



## **St. John's United Church of Christ**

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God  
Sharing with the World**

**April 13, 2025**

**Palm Sunday**

**Meditation**

What would be a good next step to take today towards a more meaningful spiritual life?

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*Hosanna*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**✝ Opening Hymn #267**    *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang:  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;  
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

**Lifting up our Joys**

**Passing of the Peace**

## ✠ **Call to Worship** (Congregation reads **bold** print)

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Hosanna! Rejoice for the Lord is in our midst.**

He comes with joy and hope.

**He comes to set us free from fear.**

Hosanna!

**Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest Heaven.**

## ✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

## ✠ **Prayer of Confession**

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

**You are the Potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

*- Words taken from a hymn written by Eddie Espinosa.*

*Silent pause for reflection Amen.*

## ✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness** (read responsively)

When we open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit and when we ask for forgiveness, we are, indeed, changed and forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

## **Introit & Children's Procession**

*Hosanna Processional - Mark Keller*

*Chancel Choir and Bell Choir*

## **Blessing of the Palms**

*(Distribution of the palms by the children)*

## ✠ **Hymn**

*The Palms – Faure-Felton*

**O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay,  
are strewn this day in festal preparation.**

Where Jesus came to wipe our tears away,  
e'en now the throng to welcome him prepare.

Chorus

*Join all and sing, his name declare!  
Let every voice resound with acclamation!  
Hosanna! Praise ye the Lord!  
Bless Him that cometh to bring us salvation.*

Sing and rejoice, O blessed Jerusalem.  
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation!  
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem  
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.

Chorus

*Join all and sing, his name declare!  
Let every voice resound with acclamation!  
Hosanna! Praise ye the Lord!  
Bless Him that cometh to bring us salvation.*

**Children's Time**

*"Awesome God"  
"The Meaning of Easter"*

**Scripture Readings** *Psalms 118:1-2,19-29; Luke 19:28-40*      Steph Pacovsky

**Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!  
Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."  
Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give  
thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.  
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the  
house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with  
branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.  
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

### **Luke 19:28-40**

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of  
Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and  
as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and  
bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord  
needs it.’”

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were  
untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said,  
“The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks  
on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now  
approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the  
disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power  
that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to  
stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

## **Choir Anthem**

**Pastor’s Message**

*“If the Stones Cried Out”*

Pastor Jeff

## **✠The Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in  
Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and**

was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(From the UCC Book of Worship)*

## Giving our Gifts to God

**Offertory**                      *Abide Dearest Jesus - Karg-Elert*

## ✠Doxology

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

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

✠Closing Hymn #265            *All Glory, Laud and Honor* (Verses 1,3,4)

All Glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed One!

All Glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

All Glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise:

All Glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

### ✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

### ✠ Three-fold Amen

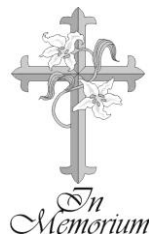
### ✠ Chimes/Meditation

### Postlude

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*



*The Palm Plants decorating the  
sanctuary are given to the Glory of  
God and in loving memory of  
Squire Skelding,  
Presented by Barb Skelding.*







***The Altar flowers are given to the  
Glory of God, in Honor of all the  
Sunday School Children. Presented  
by Lori & Jim Moore.***