

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21: 1-11 (Common English Version)

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musical Meditation

INVITATION *to* GENEROSITY

Passing of the Plate

DOXOLOGY (Use whatever words are comfortable for you)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Amen.

PRAYER *of* THANKSGIVING *and* DEDICATION

With our offerings we say, "thank you" and practice a new economy. With our practices we say, "yes, God," and resist the Empire's hold. With our resistance we say, "Hosanna," and bless all the ones, who journey in the ways of courage and grace. Amen.

*SONG "Thank You, Lord"

#531

BENEDICTION

SUNG "Amen" (*feel free to clap along!*)

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Bold- Words in bold are said in unison.

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

Cut Branches: Service Prayers for Palm Sunday Year A was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

*For all joys and concerns mentioned in the Pastor's Tuesday email.
Remember in your prayers our special members: June and Edie K.*

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The United Church of Clinton



March 29, 2026

Pastor, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader, Bob Lidstone

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Palm Sunday

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING of the BELL/TIME of CENTER

*CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Into the belly of the beast, on the back of a beast of burden...This is no parade of the powerful, no extravaganza for the empire.

Assembly: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Resistance. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Leader: Into occupied streets, on stolen land...This is no marvel of military might, no crusade of cruelty.

Assembly: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Refuge. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Leader: Into histories of harm, surrounded by lineages of liberation...This is no acquiescence in advance, no complicity through conformity.

Assembly: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Solidarity. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Leader: May our worship this day prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, cut branches for the King of Compassion, line the path for the Lord of Liberation, soften the road for the Sovereign of Solidarity.

Assembly: May our worship this day prepare us for where this way will lead.

*SONG of PRAISE and SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

#192

*PRAYER of the DAY

Magnificent God, here are words that speak to us this day: Lay it down, here, now, whatever covers your vulnerability cloaks your openness. Let it become part of the way of courage. Lay it down, here, now, whatever shades your brilliance branches over your belovedness. Let it become part of the way of grace. Spread the cloaks. Cut the branches. Line this road, this journey, this way with your cries from freedom until all our hearts and voices move toward, "Hosanna." Amen.

***AFFIRMING and CONNECTING (Passing of the Peace) We sing: "Peace be with You"**

Twice.

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen. *(Be seated)*

Moment for All God's Children

Lord's Prayer

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 and ever. Amen.

*SONG "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

#190

SCRIPTURE Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 (Common English Version)

PRAYER of TRANSFORMATION and NEW LIFE

When Jesus set the stage for his entrance into Jerusalem, he knew he would be competing with outward and visible displays of the dominating power of the Roman Empire. But he also knew that the Empire didn't just live in parades of the powerful and shows of force. Empire also lives in our bodies, minds, spirits, relationships, and communities. So he set out with a donkey and a colt and a band of outcasts and freedom-fighters to help them and us imagine a different kind of power—the power of love and justice. So on this day palms and hosanna, let us open ourselves to the transformation that comes from naming the ways the Empire lives within us, and shapes the world around us with a story of dominance, division, and violence.

(Time of silent reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

Leader: For the ways Empire has taught us to fear difference and believe that strength and safety require dominance and violence,

Assembly: God, have mercy.

Leader: For the ways Empire makes hierarchy the air we breathe and shapes who and what has worth and dignity,

Assembly: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For the ways Empire separates us and convinces us that we don't belong to the land or each other.

Assembly: God have mercy.

Leader: Open us to notice the tension, longing, and dissonance in our bodies revealing where Empire has tangled itself around us.

Assembly: Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.

