

Balzac United Church
March 29, 2026, 10:00am
Guest Minister: Rev. Ruth McArther
Music Ministry: Lee Dowan, Dr. Alex Shawn

Prelude *I Will Enter His Gates* arr. M. Hayes

Introit *Sing Hosanna!*

Welcome

Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lighting of Christ Candle (*Psalm 118:1-4*)

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, for God is good.

ALL: God's love lasts forever.

ONE: Let all the people proclaim it aloud:

ALL: God's love lasts forever.

ONE: Come, let us worship God.

Call cont'd (responsively)

L: We can sense a powerful presence among us.

Though death threatens to come soon, in this hour of worship, let us focus on what is alive!

ALL: The colours of the cloaks laid in the path of the man riding a donkey and the loud Hosanna's fill the path – the world is humming in activity.

L: Have you heard? Jesus of Nazareth is coming to town!

RIGHT: WHAT? The man who has been doing all the amazing things we have heard about?

LEFT: Come, people are gathering from all over the place and throughout time to see this Jesus.

L: Some are calling him the Messiah!

RIGHT: Some are calling him a king!

LEFT: Wouldn't it be wonderful to see the Messiah – a savior for us! Wouldn't it be amazing to live with a different king; one who ruled with love and compassion.

L: Perhaps this is the one!

ALL: Perhaps this is the one! Hosanna! Come Lord Jesus, Light of the world. Help Us! Let's join the parade!

Hymn *He Came Riding on a Donkey* VU124

CANDLES OF JOY, CONCERN AND SORROW

Prayer for Palm Sunday

L: Today and every day, we are called to be Holy... as we...
Pray together... VU125

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Matthew 21:1–11 (based on) **Coming into Jerusalem**

Anthem *Of Palms and Praise* Patti Drennan

Psalm 118 (Part 3, Part 4 responsively) VU pg.837

Reflection *A Time of Contradiction*

LITURGY OF PASSION

The Passover

Matthew 26:14-30

Hymn *An Upper Room did Our Lord Prepare* VU130

Reflection *Stay with Me*

PRAYERS

Offering Invitation *Lamb of God* arr. M Hayes

Prayer Of Dedication

Gracious God, even on a day such as this, when more than any other we contemplate how we have failed to uphold your word and your work, still we offer you these gifts of our hands and our hearts, and pray that you will receive them and use them, that together we might continue to tell the world of your love. Amen.

Prayers of the people

ONE: Compassionate God,
we lift our palms of praise
with those who first sang out,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
Like them, each hand that holds a palm
has a heart that holds a story –
a story of pain, of disappointment, of sorrow.
We share those stories with you now. *(Pause.)*
We pray to you, O God,

ALL: save us, Holy One.

ONE: Prince of Peace,
you came in humble obedience
and walked the path of enduring love
even in the face of violent rejection.
We confess that it is difficult to follow
your path of peace.
and the violent road of abuse and war
is all too familiar to us.
We long for your peace, O God. *(Pause.)*
We pray to you, O God,

ALL: save us, Holy One.

ONE: Saving God,
we trust in your goodness
and believe your desire
is for all of creation
to be held in your redeeming love.
Send us out in your name
to bring comfort to those who mourn,
healing love to those who are sick,
and justice to those who are oppressed.
We wait now for your Spirit. *(Pause.)*
We pray to you, O God,

ALL: save us, Holy One. Amen.

The Prayer Of Jesus

GOING FORTH

Hymn *We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection* VU 586

Blessing

We leave today in limbo, not sure how to feel.

We leave today knowing that the story is not finished.

We leave today knowing we have betrayed and denied and yet...

We leave today knowing that God will never let our stories end in death. **Amen.**

Commissioning

Postlude *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* arr. M. Hayes

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