

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Traditional Worship Service

March 29, 2026

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Les Rameaux (The Palms) Jean-Baptiste Faure

Madison Zahorsky, soprano

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Will you follow?
Will you lay down your coat?
Will you lay down something important?
Will you shout "Hosanna"?
Will you join the parade?
Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?
Will you cut down a palm branch?
Will you wave it in the air?
Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?
Will you let this good news inspire you to act?
We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.
We will worship. We will follow.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #89

Hosanna Loud Hosanna ELLACOMBE

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth, we know that you spent your days teaching and healing. You marched through the streets and walked on water. You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables. Your good news was not confined to conversation. It was not confined to the Temple. Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world. Holy God, we long for a faith like that. Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon. Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act. With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch, whether or not you live out your faith, whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions, God will never stop loving you. Jesus will never stop marching for you. The Spirit will never stop listening to you.
We are claimed, loved, and held in grace. What good, good news. Amen!

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE — Bob Hunsicker and Anna Hunsicker
Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON — Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Invited to Join the Parade"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

How might you be invited to bring your imperfections to bear as gifts for sharing faith and building connection? How might you feel affirmed to love and serve authentically in moments of uncertainty?

*SERMON HYMN

Take Us As We Are, O God (from *Glory to God* – see insert) — ENDLESS FEAST

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Sing to the Lord a New Song — Robert Lau

Chancel Choir

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor — VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN

*BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen.

POSTLUDE Fanfare in D — David N. Johnson

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Take Us As We Are, O God 312

