



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."

Sunday, March 29th, 2026 - 10:30 AM Service

Palm Sunday



We welcome you, trusting that this time of worship will open our hearts to experience the Spirit's movement among us. Together, we seek peace, health, and wholeness as we gather in God's presence.

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**Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

Gathering Music

"Takin' it to the Streets"
by Michael McDonald

Molly MacMillan, piano

Scripture

Mark 11: 1-10 (CEB)

Jennifer Morrill

Centering Music

"The Palms"

Chancel Choir

Greeting & Welcome

***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. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"Filled with Excitement"

UMH # 279

***Passing the Peace**

PROCLAIMING

A Message for All God's Children

Pastor Alicia Wood

Call to Confession

Pastor Alicia Wood

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.

Word 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!

Hymn	“Oh Young & Fearless Prophet”	UMH #444
Message	“The Good News Is...Inspiring Us to Act”	<i>Pastor Alicia Wood</i>
*Hymn of Response	“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”	UMH #280
Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer		UMH #895 <i>Joellyn Tuttle</i>

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory	“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” By Frederick A. Challinor/William H. Parker	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano</i>
*Doxology	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”	UMH #94
*Prayer of Dedication		<i>Pastor Alicia Wood</i>

Holy One, if we’ve heard this story before, the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, then help us to hear it again.
And if we’ve never heard this story before, if we’ve never heard the story of Palm Sunday or the cries of "Hosanna," then give us the wisdom to follow along.
Give us the wisdom to hear these words.
Give us the wisdom to take them into our hearts.
Give us the wisdom to act on their truth.
We are listening. We are hoping. We are giving our all. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith	<i>Pastor Alicia Wood</i>
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.**

GOING FORTH

Announcements

*Closing Hymn	“Who Is He?”	<i>Insert</i>
*Dismissal with Blessing		
Postlude	“Gigue from the First Partita” by J. S. Bach	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano</i>

-----PRAYERS-----

For **Prayer Chain** Requests, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

Prayer Requests: We thank God for the healing in the lives of people we’ve been praying for. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain or the Prayer List, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

St. Paul’s Ministries ~ Week of March 29th, 2026

Sunday, March 29th – Palm Sunday

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary
 10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm. 115, Main Floor
 11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

7:00pm – Lenten Bible Study “The Last Supper” – ZOOM

Tuesday, March 31st

10:00am – Staff Meeting - ZOOM

Monday, March 30th

Thursday, April 2nd – Maundy Thursday

11:00am – Crafters Group – Durham Room

7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Service - Sanctuary

Friday, April 3rd – Good Friday

7:00pm – Good Friday Service - Sanctuary

Sunday, April 5th – Easter Sunday

7:30am – Sunrise Easter Service – Tenney’s home

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary

11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

Children and Worship – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep small hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. ***Children ages 4 through 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship.***

Easter Lillies!

Please fill out the insert and place it in the offering plate **today** or in the office by tomorrow, March 30th! Thank you! Our sanctuary will look lovely!

Holy Week

Thursday, April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

Friday, April 3rd: Good Friday Service 7pm

Easter Sunday

7:30am - Sunrise Service - Tenney's (bring a dish to pass)

10:30am – Easter Sunday Service w/Communion

A Note about the Sunrise Easter Service

If you plan on attending the Sunrise Service on Easter morning, please bring a dish-to-pass. Sign up outside the Sanctuary and/or reach out to Jami.

Postal Stamp Collection

Please bring in U. S. Postage Stamps for immigrants in detention. We learned from Laurie from Immigrant Solidarity that many immigrants in detention are working within the immigration system to receive working visa or another immigration status. Any value of U.S. Stamps will be welcome. A box has been placed outside the sanctuary for this collection.

Pastor Alicia's Ordination

Pastor Alicia's ordination will be held **Friday, May 29th at 7pm** in Syracuse. Watch this space for further details.

Quarterly Newsletter Now Digital

An era at St Paul's has ended: our quarterly seasonal newsletter will now be solely digital.

Pastor Alicia will be on **vacation** from April 9-21. Jami Breedlove Crouch will be preaching and caring for the everyday needs of the congregation. Rev. Pam Carey will be providing emergency pastoral care.

Donations Needed for Code Blue Breakfast Program

Donations like breakfast bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, cereal, and instant oatmeal ensure that participants start their day with a nutritious meal. Items can be placed in the Code Blue bin outside the Sanctuary. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

O Young and Fearless Prophet UMH 444

1. O young and fearless Prophet
of ancient Galilee,
thy life is still a summons
to serve humanity;
to make our thoughts and actions
less prone to please the crowd,
to stand with humble courage
for truth with hearts uncowed.

2. We marvel at the purpose
that held thee to thy course
while ever on the hilltop
before thee loomed the cross;
thy steadfast face set forward
where love and duty shone,
while we betray so quickly
and leave thee there alone.

3. O help us stand unswerving
against war's bloody way,
where hate and lust and falsehood
hold back Christ's holy sway;
forbid false love of country
that blinds us to his call,
who lifts above the nations
the unity of all.

4. Stir up in us a protest
against our greed for wealth,
while others starve and hunger
and plead for work and health;
where homes with little children

cry out for lack of bread,
who live their years sore burdened
beneath a gloomy dread.

5. O young and fearless Prophet,
we need thy presence here,
amid our pride and glory
to see thy face appear;
once more to hear thy challenge
above our noisy day,
again to lead us forward
along God's holy way.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or, to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

Fine

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da-vid's roy - al Son,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais-ing thee on high,
3. The peo - ple of the He - brews with psalms be-fore thee went;
4. To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

D.C.

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our prayer and praise and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.