

Countryside Community Church

WORSHIP



Palm Sunday Was a Protest, Nicolette Faison

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

† Indicates those places where those who are able are invited to stand.
Text in **bold** indicates places where the congregation is invited to join in response.

Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP & PROCESSION OF PALMS (9:55)

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Look! Down the road, a procession is coming – not the march of armies, not the parade of power, but a king riding humbly on a colt. Do you see him?

Many: We see him. Lord, we recognize you.

One: The crowds have laid down their cloaks and cut branches from the fields. They are making a road for the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Will you join them?

Many: We will join them. We come with open hands and willing hearts.

One: This king does not come for the powerful. He comes for the hungry, the afraid, the forgotten. He comes putting our lives before his own. How will the good news move you?

Many: It will move us from our seats and into the street. It will move us from belief into action, from hearing into doing.

One: Then let us worship the one who rides toward the cross for love of us. Let us wave our branches, lay down our burdens, and follow where he leads.

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

PROCESSIONAL SONG

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (v. 1-3)

OPENING PRAYER

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Peace I leave with you:

My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. ~ John 14:27

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #192 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Heather Moran

Children are invited to join Heather for a lesson at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes. Nursery is available for children birth-pre-k.

SUNG RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace (x 2)

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 118: 25-29

Reader: Vicki Roy

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 God 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 the Lord is good, for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Lift The Palms
Countryside Choir

Anna Laura Page

SECOND LESSON: Mark 11:1-11

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! inspi

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

MESSAGE

The Good News is...inspiring us to act

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Adam Witte

Please find the QR code within the bulletin or at the Spotlight table in the narthex for more information about how to support our community partners this month through The Box and Fingerprints and also to contribute to Countryside's annual mission spending plan (budget). Countryside is 100 percent dependent on member giving to support the mission and ministries of our church. We are grateful for all the ways you give to sustain our vibrant and welcoming community!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Hosanna, O God—save us and make us instruments of your peace. As we offer these gifts, may they be like branches laid before you—signs of hope, justice, and love. Use them to lift up the lowly, to welcome the stranger, and to bring your reign of peace ever closer. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #218 *Thine is the Glory*

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tell Me Something Good

Stevie Wonder

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director - Matt Wallace, sax
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Deb Hickman
in memory of Curt Hickman and John Thurston her husband and older brother.

Joys & Concerns

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list every week on Thursdays at 9 am in the Sanctuary. If you have someone who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list, and /or be included on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact the church office at 402.391.0350 or email office@countrysideucc.org.

Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:

March is a transitional month blending spiritual introspection with natural renewal, heavily featuring the Lenten season. Lent calls for renouncing the pursuit of power, focusing instead on faithfulness and trust in God's, rather than seeking control. It is a time for quiet reflection, removing personal "logs" (faults) before addressing others' issues.

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

Prayers of comfort for the family of **Jody Hobson** - mother of **Chris Gruttemeyer** and grandmother of **Tyler Gruttemeyer** - who died on her 98th birthday, March 16. Her funeral was held here on March 27.

Prayers for **Marcy (Joel) Patton**, who has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Margie and Glenn Phillips ask for prayers for their 8-year-old granddaughter, Divina, who has neurofibromatosis. Tumors are growing at the top of her cervical spine, and she is currently undergoing testing. Her parents will soon meet with a surgeon to schedule a spinal fusion.

Prayers for **Derek (Sarah) Miller** as he continues chemotherapy for testicular cancer.

Countryside Giving

Give a little, help a lot! Scan the QR code to support Countryside's mission, Easter Offering, The Box and Fingerprints. Your generosity keeps our community warm, welcoming and full of life!



Palm Sunday

the good news is... *inspiring us to act*



Palm Sunday Was a Protest

Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Mark 11:1-11

12"x24" Acrylic, marker, paper collage on canvas

Palm Sunday Was a Protest is a sister piece to *LL Cool J* in that the inspiration was also stained glass. Unlike *LL Cool J*, *Palm Sunday Was a Protest* contains a bit more detail emphasizing the hectic energy that is found in movements. Each segment is meant to capture the eye but the central subjects are in black and white, contrasting the brilliant color palette.

The order of colors is intentionally a rainbow as a nod to the Queer community. The piece contains a sunrise behind the iconic Palm Sunday donkey, which is an ode to the Sunrise Movement.* Accompanying the donkey are crowds of people with fists raised in the air, a common sight at any protest. The phrase, “No Justice, No Peace” sits around a “power to the people fist” symbolizing resistance. This symbol was first utilized by labor and liberation movements in the early 1900s. I personally associate the fist with the Black Power movement of the 1960s. Along the bottom of the piece, the grassroots of the image, are palms, a nod to the biblical story.

Palm Sunday Was a Protest is an ode to modern movements. This piece visually aligns how Palm Sunday is talked about with the active work happening today. Resist fascism. Resist occupation. Do justice. **Rev. Nicolette Faison**

Look

As you scan the image, notice the contrast between vibrant colors and black and white. What does this contrast convey to you?

*The Sunrise Movement received increased attention at the end of the 2010s into the 2020s as a movement for young people committed to stopping climate change. sunrisemovement.org