

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ & The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Prelude

“The Holy City”
“Prepare Ye”

Don Cameron & Cheryl Strecker
CUC Ensemble

Palm Sunday Proclamation

John 12:12-15

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, *“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!”*

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

*Processional Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #267

Hosanna, loud Hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang:
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” The ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

***Invocation**

One: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the LORD! Today we remember the road into Jerusalem, where palms were lifted and hopes ran high. We welcome Jesus, the humble King, who comes not with force, but with peace.

All: Hosanna! He enters the city riding on a donkey, fulfilling the promise spoken long ago. Hosanna in the highest! Open our eyes to see your kingdom, different from what we expect, yet full of grace.

One: As the crowds shouted praise, spreading cloaks and branches before him, we bring our voices and our lives, laying before you all that we are.

All: As we begin this holy journey, from joy to sorrow, from praise to the cross – walk with us, Lord Jesus. Shape our hearts, and reign among us today. Amen!

***Sign of Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Lenten Time of Confession

One: Christ Jesus, as we walk with you towards your cross, we see that your face did not turn from your dedicated mission to pour out the love of God. We are not often so bold, nor so courageous.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

One: Christ Jesus, you have told us that you identify with the least among us and with all who walk in love and faith. And yet, too often, the church—throughout the generations—has not opened her doors of welcome to all.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

One: Gracious God, knowing that we each have a foot in the kingdom of heaven and a foot in the brokenness of this world, in the silence of our hearts, we now confess our sins to you...*(hold silence for one another)*..Speak to us, O God; fill our silences. Comfort us with your love so that we may find your peaceful understanding.

All: Trust us to find your answers when we finally tire from our own. Save us with your steadfast and restorative love. Amen!

Lenten Meditation & Candles

Song of Reflection

“Jesus Remember Me” #285

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

(Sing Three Times)

Responsorial

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever!

All: Let the people of God say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

All: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you for answering me and for being my salvation.

One: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.* This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

All: The LORD is God, and the Holy One has given us light.

One: 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.

All: O Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for God’s steadfast love endures forever! Amen!

*Lenten Acclamation

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” #250 V. 1

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
We turn to walk the inward way,
Where meeting Christ, our guide and light,
We live in hope till Easter Day.

*Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

*‘Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!’*

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: Come, Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children’s Message

Song of Preparation “O How He Loves You and Me” #270

O how he loves you and me,
O how he loves you and me;
He gave his life—what more could he give?
O how he loves you,
O how he loves me,
O how he loves you and me!
(Repeat)

Message

Which Jesus do we Welcome?

Pastor Joy

Song of Response

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” #268, Vv. 1,3,5

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue your road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The host of angels in the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, come to the table with open hands and love in your hearts, for this is *Christ's* table—a place where *every person* is valued, treated with kindness, and embraced in fairness and love.

All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. We come to the table as a people who are learning the way of Christ. We confess that we are not always right. But we share this faith: that those who trust in Christ Jesus will grow in the assurance of God's eternal love.

Pastor: And so, here at this table we take the bread and we take the cup and we ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us: communion with Christ, who gave his life as the bread of heaven and as the cup of eternal life.

All: Here at this table, we remember that Christ gave his entire life as an outpouring of God's love—a love that will, one day, renew all things. Amen.

Pastor: Remembering that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. People of God, come to the table!

Communion Music

“Gabriel's Oboe”

Dan Bainbridge & Cheryl Strecker



Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")

One: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And also with you.***

One: People of God, let us center our hearts and extend the spiritual power within us. *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows...*[prayer requests are presented]*...We also pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list *[see last page of the bulletin]*. Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For all that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we come to you in the confidence of quiet, O God, and lift our petitions privately to you. *(Silent prayer)*...Almighty God, Sovereign of Heaven, shower your blessings upon all people! Move the mountains in our lives, or help to move us so that we might be fully at peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

All: **"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, the Power, and the Glory forever." Amen.**



Offering

God is inviting us to serve in response to God's great love for us, so that the whole world may know the fullness of God's peace.

If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at: www.communityunited.church

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Offertory

"Beautiful City"

Bob Martin & James Wallace

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Lenten Congregational Response #576

***Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak!
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant!
Make me a servant!
Make me a servant today!***

*Departing Prayer

One: Sovereign and Holy God, you have established your rule over the human heart, not by force, but by the servant example of Jesus Christ.

All: Move us by your Spirit to join the joyful procession of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues and praise him with their lives. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn "All Glory, Laud and Honor" #265

Chorus:

*All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed One!

(Chorus)

The company of angels are praising you on high,
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply:

(Chorus)

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present: *(Chorus)*

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of
praise; To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise:

(Chorus)

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
For you delight in goodness, O Good and Gracious King!

(Chorus)



**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning
at Community United Church!**



Coming Up: Holy Week:

April 2: Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 PM
April 3: Good Friday Candlelight Vigil at 8:00 PM

Sunday, April 5th

EASTER SUNDAY

Theme:

The Resurrection of Christ

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect with
a small group or church ministry?***

1011 West 38th Street - Erie, PA 16508

(814) - 864 - 4429

www.communityunited.church



Community United Church

***The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Kathy Koziol and Lorre Rapp
In loving memory of their sisters, Remle and Erma, upon their birthdays:
March 13th and March 14th, respectively***

Next Sunday: Easter Sunday Worship!

Holy Week Worship:

April 2 Maundy Thursday/Holy Thursday: Commemoration of the Last Supper (6:30 PM)
April 3: Good Friday: Candlelight Commemoration of Christ's Death (8:00 PM)
April 5: Easter Celebration: The Resurrection of Christ (11:00 AM)

Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jackson Feiock (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army),
Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army),
Jaden O'Hara (Army), Toby Charlton (Marines),
Cole Posnett (Army), Hunter Miaczynski (Army), Mathew Anderson (Army),
Zachary Oliver (PA Army National Guard), & Aran Maloney (Air National Guard)

PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Ethel Davis, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck, Linda Foll Johnson, Shirley Carrier, The Kuzma Family, Debra Jackman, Zoey Cathie Witmire, Laura Will, Paul Dietz, the family of Kim Normandy, Mike Pruzinsky (Sr), Joan Schultz, Mary Mong, Esmerelda Oliver

Your 2026 CUC Council:

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Davis, Treasurer,
Michele Vahey, Secretary (Interim), Justin Graff, Angel Conrad, Chuck Becker, Don Cameron

CUC IS LOOKING FOR A COUNCIL SECRETARY

We currently have an open position on the CUC Council and are looking for someone who can provide valuable support as Secretary, primarily taking meeting minutes, and serving as a voting member. If you are interested, please speak with any Council member or contact the Church office. Thank you!

You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters or use email:
communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com

Community United Church is committed to ethical and legal compliance in our music and
livestreaming: CCLI Church Copyright License: 11405428 Streaming License: 20856761