



Rockville United Church  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ  
Palm Sunday  
March 29, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship



## PRELUDE

### CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

#### GATHERING MUSIC

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Spiritual

#### \*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.***

#### \*HYMN

***All Glory, Laud, and Honor***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 192

(verses 1, 2 & 3)

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are a child of Israel, Great David's greater son;  
you ride in lowly triumph, Messiah, blessed one!

The company of angels are praising you on high,  
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

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

As you received their praises, now hear us as we pray.  
Since you delight in goodness, rule in our hearts today.

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

***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. Amen.***

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*You are invited to greet your neighbors with these or similar words.*

**The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Jesus, Remember Me*

Taize

## SCRIPTURE

**Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29** interpretation by Nan C. Merrill

We give thanks to you, O Beloved, for you are kind; your steadfast love endures forever! Let every nation proclaim, “Your steadfast love endures forever.” Yes, you opened to me the gates of truth and justice that I might enter through them. Praise be to you, O Merciful One! This is the door to life; those who know love shall enter through it. I give thanks to you, O Beloved, who answer our prayers and invite us to new life. The stone which the builders rejected has become the foundation of our lives. This, O Eternal Listener, is your work; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which you have made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Remain ever by our side, O Friend! We welcome you into our hearts as Loving Companion Presence! Blessed are all who enter through your gates! Blessed are all who dwell in the house of love! For you lead the way, you forgive our misguided ways, and you bring light into darkness. Come, all you who will, partake of the great banquet! You are my beloved, and I will give thanks to you; you are my beloved, greatly will I praise you! We give thanks to you, O Blessed One, for you are kind; your steadfast love endures for ever!

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

## WORD FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Jennifer

Following the “Word for Children,” we invite children (ages 3 years—5th grade) to attend a Sunday School class, dismissing to the classroom on the lower level through the front side door of the sanctuary. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany your child(ren) if you choose; please pickup children in their classroom following the worship service. Visitors are welcome.

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available in the nursery on the lower level.

Our nursery caregiver is Caitlin Vredenburg. Our nursery helper is Cindy Livingston.

## ANTHEM

*Give Me Oil In My Lamp*

Trad.

**SCRIPTURE****Mark 11:1-11**

NRSV

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! 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.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

**CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** *Sending You Light*

Demore

**\*HYMN*****Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 191

Ride on, ride on in majesty! As all the crowds hosanna cry;  
through waving branches slowly ride, O Savior, to be crucified.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, your triumph now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Your last and fiercest foe defy;  
bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, your power and reign.

**SERMON****“Before The Parade Passes By”**

Rev. Guy S. Johnson

**MORNING PRAYER**

## PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

**Refrain:** One: Holy One, in your mercy,

**All:** *Receive our prayers.*

## THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)

*Our Loving God 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 sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

**Offertory**

*Carol of the Lamb*

von Kampen

**Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

*We place these gifts before you, O God, as palms were placed before Jesus long ago.  
We lay them on your altar in praise and thanksgiving. We offer them that they may  
become a greater blessing through your grace, to bring healing and wholeness to the  
world. Amen.*

**\*HYMN**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Chalice Hymnal, No. 200

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that Christ should come in bliss  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the heavy cross, for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing!

To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM,"  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!

**\*BENEDICTION**

The one who rode humbly and bravely into Jerusalem, even in the face of pain and suffering, journeys with us still, giving us courage to confront enduring injustices.

***The one who was betrayed, derided, and persecuted, even to the point of death, sends us forth to bring justice and healing to our broken hearts and hurting world.***

The one whose Spirit lives among us, even now and forever, fills us with hope in the power of love to overcome evil.

***Go into the world in peace, trusting the love of God, even in times of deep despair.***

Go into the world in faith trusting the promise of new life yet to be revealed.

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

**Thanks to our worship helpers today!**

Liturgist: Sylvia George

Digital Host: Carlotta Watkins

Welcome Table: Beth Frentrup

Greeter: Stephanie Wright

Cover photo by Alex Perri on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com).



Please Scan Me To Give To RUC.

## **Welcome to Rockville United Church!**

*We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We trust that you will find RUC to be a welcoming and engaging place to explore the life of faith within a community that honors each person's spiritual journey. We encourage you to ask questions, visit our website, and share your contact information at the welcome table near the front doors. I hope to greet you personally following worship, and invite you to contact me.*

*Blessings,  
Rev. Jennifer Knutsen  
[jennifer@rockvilleunitedchurch.org](mailto:jennifer@rockvilleunitedchurch.org)*

Our complimentary Wi-Fi network is **RUC Mesh**. The password is **heavenly**.

### **RUC Staff**

*Rev. Jennifer R. Knutsen, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Guy S. Johnson, Associate Pastor  
Jim Levy, Director of Music  
Dalia Marciano, Administrative Coordinator  
Lynne Brady, Communications Coordinator  
Caitlin Vrendenburg, Nursery Coordinator  
Juan Mendez, Sexton*



### **Rockville United Church**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ  
355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851  
301-424-6733 ~ [www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org](http://www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org)  
(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)  
Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light