



*Central and Algonquin United  
Methodist Churches*

*Sunday, March 29, 2026*

*With Pastor Marty Johnston*

Mission Statement:

**Connecting all people to God by building bridges  
of caring, outreach, and acceptance.**

Central United Methodist  
Pastor Marty Johnston  
March 29, 2026  
Liturgical Colors: Purple or Red  
Palm Sunday  
*CCLI License# 3999519*

Ushers/Greeters: Barb Carlisle, Kris Donarski  
Liturgist: Terri Bush

PRELUDE

BELL / ORGAN INTROIT      “Hosanna”      arr. B. Garee

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting all people to God by building bridges of  
caring, outreach, and acceptance

**\*Call to Worship:** (Inspired by Psalm 118)

**Leader:** This is the day the Lord has made.

**People:** We will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Leader:** We come with praise, with questions, with hope, and with  
need.

**People:** We come to welcome Jesus, our Savior and King.

**Leader:** Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People:** Hosanna in the highest!

**Leader:** Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter and  
give thanks to the Lord.

**People:** We come to worship with grateful hearts.

**Leader:** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**People:** His steadfast love endures forever.

\*OPENING HYMN

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

UMH 580

LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL

\*PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER \*

Lord Jesus, we come today with glad hearts and open hands.  
We praise You as the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Receive our worship, our songs, our prayers, and our praise.

As we begin this Palm Sunday service, stir our hearts with joy,  
gratitude, and wonder. Help us not only to wave the branches and  
sing “Hosanna,” but to welcome You more deeply into our lives.

Meet us here in Your mercy. Encourage the weary, steady the  
anxious, awaken the distracted, and draw all of us closer to You.

Be honored in this time of worship, for You alone are our King, our  
Savior, and our peace.

In your holy name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

There’s something powerful about a parade. There’s energy,  
excitement, and the sense that something important is happening.

But Palm Sunday carries a tension.

Jesus enters Jerusalem like a king, yet not the kind of king many expected. He comes with crowds, celebration, and shouts of “Hosanna!” But He rides in on a donkey, not a war horse.

The people are hoping for rescue, but many still do not understand what kind of King He is, or what kind of victory He has come to bring.

So as we hear Matthew 21:1–11, listen for both the joy and the tension.

What kind of King is Jesus? And are we ready to welcome Him as He truly comes?

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21: 1-11

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. <sup>3</sup> And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”

<sup>4</sup> All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’

<sup>6</sup> So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

<sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them.

<sup>8</sup> And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road.

<sup>9</sup> Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the Lord!’  
Hosanna in the highest!”

<sup>10</sup> And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup> So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

BELL/ ORGAN ANTHEM

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

D. Wagner

SERMON

Who Is This?

*Big Idea: Palm Sunday asks the most important question of all — “Who is this?” — and the answer is that Jesus is the humble King who comes not to dominate, but to save through self-giving love.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As we give our offerings this morning, we lay before Jesus not only our gifts, but our gratitude, trusting the humble King to use all that we place in His hands.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Hosanna!”

C. Courtney

## DOXOLOGY

UMH 95  
OLD HUNDREDTH

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

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord Jesus, receive these gifts and use them for Your glory and for the good of the world. Shape our hearts to reflect Your humility, generosity, and love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## HYMN

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

UMH 277  
TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

**Leader:** Lord, in your Mercy  
**All:** Hear our prayer.

### **Pastor:**

Trusting in Jesus, the humble King who comes in the name of the Lord, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

### **For the Church**

Lord Jesus, teach Your Church to follow You not only in celebration, but also in humility, mercy, and faithfulness. Keep us close to Your heart as we enter Holy Week.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For the World**

Prince of Peace, we pray for a world torn by war, violence, and fear. Bring wisdom to leaders, protection to the vulnerable, and peace where there is suffering and unrest.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For Those Who Are Oppressed**

God of justice and mercy, draw near to those who are burdened, overlooked, mistreated, or silenced. Stir Your people to see, to care, and to act with compassion on behalf of those in need.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For This Community**

Lord, bless our neighbors, our families, and this congregation. Where there is discouragement, bring hope; where there is division, bring healing; where there is need, provide grace.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For Those Who Suffer**

Compassionate Savior, we pray for those who are sick, grieving, weary, or anxious. Surround them with Your comfort, strength, and peace.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **For Our Walk with Christ**

Lord Jesus, as we wave the palm branches and sing our praise, help us also to follow You in obedience, trust, and love. Give us grace to welcome You not only as Savior, but as King.

**Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### **Pastor:**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 29, 2026**

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Northern Skies District Leadership Team voted to move forward with the sale of the *Camp Michigamme* property. ***The Northern Skies District*** will hold a ***Virtual District Conference through Zoom on Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.*** The Purpose of this specially called District Conference will be to *affirm* or *not affirm* the decision of the District Leadership Team, the Board of Church Location and Building and the Extended Cabinet. *Any Member who wishes to vote on this issue must register with an email address at our office by Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, so a Zoom link can be sent to you via your email address at the end of day on April 6<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Save the Date**

**Thur., Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm** at Algonquin UMC

**Fri., Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday Community Services at the**  
Presbyterian Church is (tentatively 1:00pm)

**Sun., Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday breakfast** will be at CUMC in the Fellowship Hall @ 9:15 AM.

**Mon., Apr., 20<sup>th</sup> – Rebecca Circle** meeting at 1:30pm

**Wed., Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> - Family Night** at CUMC Fellowship Hall @  
5:30 PM – 7 PM. Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fun activities, and a meaningful lesson for all ages. Bring the whole family—everyone is welcome!

**Missions:** is still collecting shelf stable foods plus other items for elementary schools and personal hygiene items for the **Mission/Outreach** program. The lists are located upstairs and you may drop off your items in their appointed boxes or if you wish to purchase a gift card, please pass that to either Kathy (in office), or Diane Bell....thank you.

**Join us for Bible Study, led by Raymond Bell,  
every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge  
*We are presently studying "The Chosen" - season 5***

## Central Birthday/Anniversary

**Mar., 21<sup>st</sup>** – Paul Aikens

**Mar., 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Tom Brown

**Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Megan Bunker Moran

**Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Lisa Vincent



Nursery is available for infants through age 3 during worship with Mallory Baier. The nursery is located downstairs, and ushers will be happy to assist you.

\*CLOSING HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

UMH 278

HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“ We Sang Our Gald Hosanna”

Keithahn/Horman

POSTLUDE