

*Palm Sunday Service*

*& Choir Cantata*



**March 29, 2026**

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**  
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
COMMUNITY

**WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER**  
**COLUMBIA, MARYLAND**

**UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE**

**PALM SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**& CHOIR CANTATA**

**March 29, 2026**

**IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE**

**LITURGIST: KAREN HOPKINS**

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**\* Congregation Standing**      [CC] = closed-captioned

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer

WELCOME

## CENTERING HYMN

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”      UM #328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s grace.  
    I can hear the brush of angel’s wings;  
        I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice greatly, O people of God!

**Our King comes to us—humble and riding  
on a donkey.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Let us worship the One who comes to save.

**Let us worship God!**

### \*PRAYER OF APPROACH

Gracious and sovereign God,  
You come to us not in power as the world  
understands it, but in humility, mercy, and  
love. As we wave our branches and shout our  
praises, remind us that your kingdom is not  
built on might but on sacrificial love. Draw us  
into the story of your Son so that we may  
follow him faithfully, even when the path  
leads through suffering. In Jesus’ name,  
Amen.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,**

**We admit that we praise you with our words  
but struggle to live according to your will.**

**We rejoice in your presence during happy  
moments but turn away when true  
discipleship becomes difficult. We  
prefer comfort over courage, silence over  
speaking the truth, and self-interest over  
self-sacrifice. Forgive us, we pray. Guide our  
hearts back to you so we can walk the path  
of the cross with faith and trust.**

**In Christ's name, Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” GTG #196

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
made sweet Hosannas ring*

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son  
Who in the Lord's name comest,  
the King and blessed One  
*Refrain*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went  
Our praise and prayers and  
anthems before thee we present  
*Refrain*

To thee, before thy passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise  
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise

*Refrain*

Thou didst accept their praises;  
accept the prayers we bring  
Who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King!

*Refrain*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear and believe in the  
Good News of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**Thanks be to God.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds cried out,  
“Hosanna!”—welcoming a king who came in  
humility and peace. Today, Christ comes among  
us still—not in power, but in love, not to be  
served, but to serve.

So let us share signs of that peace with one  
another—the peace that does not depend on  
circumstance, but flows from the heart of Christ.

The peace of our humble King be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

PALM SUNDAY CANTATA SJU Chancel Choir

HOMILY Pastor Hyiwot Teshome

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Filled with Excitement” (Video)  
*United Church in University Place*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of grace,  
Receive these gifts as symbols of our  
devotion. Use them to share your love, serve  
your people, and expand your kingdom in  
this world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PETITION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**The 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 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, the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” GTG #197

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang  
Through pillared court and  
temple the joyful 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!"  
That 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

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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## **Upcoming Services**

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, April 2 at 6:30 PM  
in our Sanctuary, followed by the  
7:00 Maundy Thursday service, with Communion  
and Foot Washing.

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Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm with Christ United  
Methodist Church  
at SJU, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center

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Good Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm at SJU

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Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am at SJU

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**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**

A UM/PCUSA Community

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center  
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