



SYDENHAM STREET
UNITED CHURCH

LENIEN

WORSHIP SERIES:
ANCIENT PRACTICES FOR MODERN LIFE

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2026

REV. CATHERINE ELSDON

Our congregation meets on traditional
Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory.
We are grateful to live, worship and gather on this land,
as we join together to share in the care of God's creation.

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Prelude Sleepers Awake – Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Introit For Palm Sunday Blessed is He that Cometh – FRC Clarke

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Call to Worship

With palm branches and joy, we shout:

“Hosanna to Christ!”

With blessings and songs,

we gather to worship and to praise.

With humility and love,

Christ comes to meet us here.

Hymn Voices United 123 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Theme Introduction

Candle Lighting

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Confession

Matthew 21:1-11, from *A Sanctified Art*

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Teacher needs them. Then they will let them go at once.”

**God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word
and do not follow where you lead.**

We long to be the ones who boldly go into the village ahead of you.

Forgive us when we play it safe.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,

‘See, your Sovereign comes to you,

gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us.

You are drawing near,

like a rider on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Creator God, forgive us for the moments

when we choose greed over generosity,

or when we choose our self-image over our commitment to you.

Give us the strength to be unabashed in our faith.

Give us the courage to throw our coats on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
“Hosanna to the Heir of the House of David!”

“Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High!”

“Hosanna in the highest!”

Heir of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop.

Give us the wisdom to sing, “Hosanna!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked,
“Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from
Nazareth in Galilee.”

With hope in our hearts, we pray to you, Jesus,

the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, there will be days when we withhold our praise.

There will be days when we dare not follow.

There will be days when we ignore God’s call,

when we choose comfort over courage,

and ourselves over others.

But even on those days,

even on our worst days,

we belong to God.

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

We are loved, forgiven, and sent out to serve.

Hosanna! Amen.

Palm Parade Voices United 646 “We Are Marching”

We are marching in the light of God (repeat x 4)

We are marching, marching,

We are marching, marching,

We are marching in the light of God.

Connecting & Contributing

Minute for Outreach

Prayer of Dedication

Blessed are you, Christ Jesus,

as you come to us this day.

Blessed are you,

as you work through the gifts

we bring you now.

Blessed are you as you live in our lives,

helping us become faithful disciples

and stewards of your love.

Bless and strengthen our gifts,

that they may bless and strengthen others. Amen.

Choir Anthem The Legend – A. Pleshcheyev, Peter Tchaikovsky

Christ, when a child, a garden made, and many roses flourished there:

Three times a day, he water'd them, and planned to weave a wreath so fair,

So when the roses were in bloom, He called the neighbour children in; they

picked the flowers, ev'ry one, 'till in the garden there were none.

"How will you weave yourself a crown, now that the flowers all are gone?"

"You have forgotten that the thorns are left for me, " the Christ child said.

And from the thorns, they made a crown, a prickly wreath for his dear head,

and drops of blood adorn'd his brow instead of roses,

blood, not roses, blood, instead.

Lenten Series: Ancient Practices for Modern Life

Sung Response More Voices 77 “Be Still & Know” x2

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus (sung)

Our Father, our Mother,

loving God in whom is heaven,

may your name be made holy,
may your reign come.
May your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need
and forgive us our debts
as we have forgiven our debtors.
And do not put us to the test
but free us from evil,
for yours is the dominion
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words: United Church of Christ USA, 1995, adapted.

Music: Wendy Edey, 2002

Hymn Voices United 111 “As the Sun with Longer Journey”

Blessing

Choral Postlude Were You There – Doug Andrews

Sydenham Street United Church strives to
follow in the way of Jesus,
seek justice and
nurture inclusive community.



In need of prayer or support? Contact our Circles of Companionship or
Rev. Catherine at 613-546-9616 ext 203 or minister@sydenhamstreet.ca

***This worship service is a public event livestreamed on YouTube – please be advised that you may be photographed or videorecorded while in attendance**

Thank You for Talents Shared Today:

Reverend Catherine Elsdon, Minister
Howard Lopez, Music Director
Sydenham Street Choir
Juliet Huntly, Reader

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Online Sunday Services: www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet

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