

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Louis Allison, Tech Director
Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

March 29, 2026

9:45 AM

Palm Sunday

On the Way: Wandering Hearts and Shared Valleys

Wandering Heart: Songs of Loudest Praise¹

Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WORDS OF WELCOME

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

LENTEN POEM²

Courage

by Rev. Sarah Speed

WORSHIP CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM

The Whole World is Singing
by Farra, arr. Rhodes

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing songs of loudest praise!

C: Hosanna!

L: Sing songs that are unashamed.

C: Hosanna!

L: Sing songs without being afraid.

C: Hosanna!

L: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

C: Hosanna!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable as we join in song to praise our God.

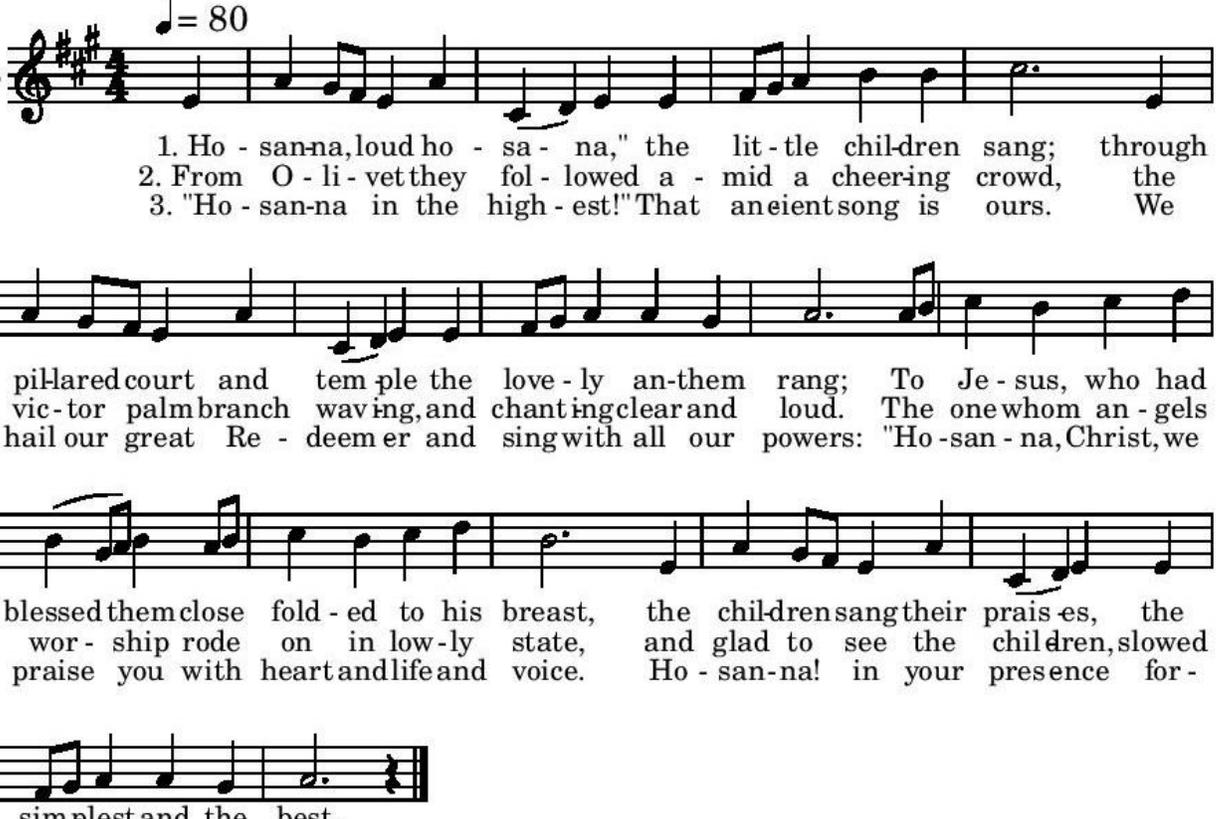
***OPENING HYMN NCH NO. 213** (black hymnal, see below)

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Jennette Threlfall, 1873

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Piano 

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. Ho - sanna, loud ho - sa - na," the lit - tle children sang; through
2. From O - li - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd, the
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That aneient song is ours. We

6
pillared court and temple the love - ly an - them rang; To Je - sus, who had
vic - tor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The one whom an - gels
hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers: "Ho - san - na, Christ, we

11
blessed them close fold - ed to his breast, the children sang their prais - es, the
wor - ship rode on in low - ly state, and glad to see the children, slowed
praise you with heart and life and voice. Ho - san - na! in your presence for -

16
simplest and the best.
down the donkey's gait.
- ev - er we'll re - joice!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence.

After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, “the disciples did not understand what was happening” (John 12:16).

A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God’s presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we’re standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing.

That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don’t want to miss our chance to sing:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

C: we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you.

You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.

So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones: We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

HYMN OF TURNING NO. 459 (black hymnal, v. 3) *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

ALL SING: O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known: Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Passport Question: *How can I show joy or thanks today?*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Before we hear God's Word for us this day, let us join in prayer to truly hear what God has to say to us this day,

L: Teaching God,

C: We want to learn your ways. We want to learn the ways of forgiveness. We want to learn the ways of grace. We want to learn your ways of love. That is part of why we return to your text week after week, because we are hungry to be more like you. So as we prepare to listen to your good Word, calm the noise in our minds. Center our spirits to focus on you so that we might learn and hear what we have missed in this story before. God, we want to learn your ways. Meet us here. Speak your truth. Help us listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 12:12-16 (CEB)

SERMON

Passport Question: *What kind of praise feels risky or courageous for me right now?*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

P: I invite you to stand as comfortable to profess our faith.

C: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise. Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

Henry H. Milman, 1827

John B. Dykes, 1862

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano 

1. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es-ty! O
 2. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es-ty! As
 3. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es-ty! Ride
 4. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es-ty! For

4



Christ, with brave hu - mil - i - ty, On low - ly colt, your
 crowds of peo - ple come to see And shout ho - san - nas,
 on in hum - ble dig - ni - ty; Be - hold the ones you
 you have set your peo - ple free And we, re - mem - bering

7



road pur - sue, as palms and cloaks are spread for you.
 lif - ting high their praise for one a - bout to die.
 came to save from sense - less life and end - less grave.
 all your pain, now meet a - gain to hail your reign.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

We Cry Hosanna Lord

by Rambo, arr. Clydesdale

TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Hosanna!

arr. Schram

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God,

C: you take our wandering hearts and teach us a new song to sing. Bless these gifts we offer today. Use them to seek the lost, to feed the hungry, to bring hope to deep waters, and to remind the world that your love never stops pursuing us. With gratitude we give and receive. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 216 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulph of Orleans

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. All glo - ry laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing, to
2. O Promised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line, the
3. As you received their praises, re - ceive our prayers to - day, whose

6



whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring! The
one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine, To
jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - ereign - ty hold sway All

10



peo - ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way; our
you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise; to
glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing, to

14



praise and prayer and anthems we of - fer you this day.
you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION**

P: Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Hosanna to the King

by Clarke

¹The Liturgy is written by and adapted from the writings of Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

²Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Thank you to the worship choir for enhancing the worship service with their talents this morning!

Welcome Team Members— Byron & Dawn Almoney

Liturgist— Connie Wolfe

Poem Reader— Jen Miller

Tech Team— Louis Allison, John Kollasch, Eloise Rhinehart

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.