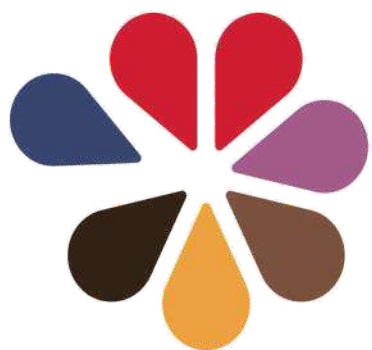
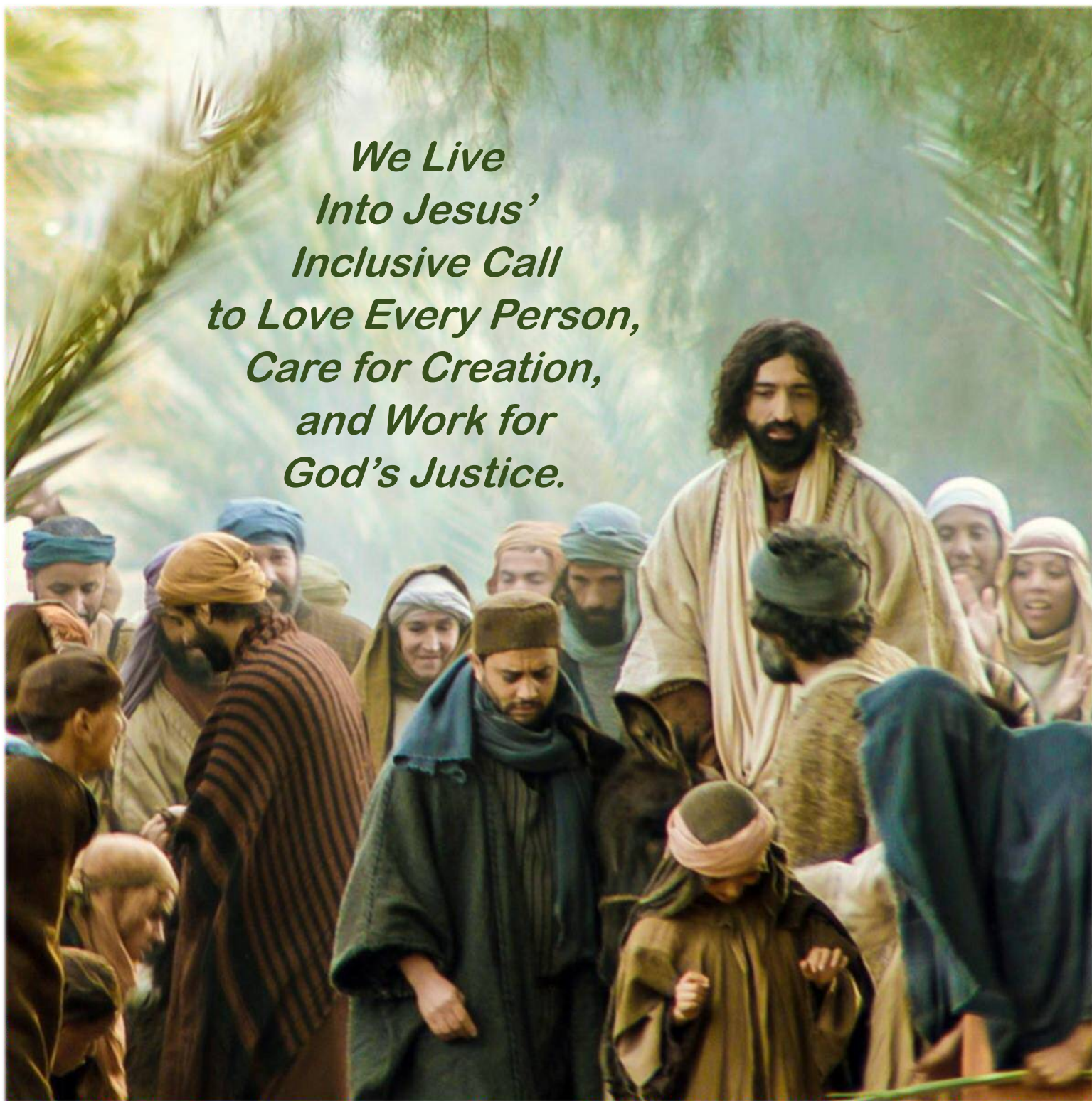




DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We Live
Into Jesus'
Inclusive Call
to Love Every Person,
Care for Creation,
and Work for
God's Justice.*



Celebration of Worship

March 29th, 2026 11:00 AM

Palm Sunday

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person or event, and additional information you'd like to share. Prayer Requests will be collected during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude Meditation on "Filled with Excitement" HOSANNA
Listen for the tune of our processional hymn, which is new to this congregation.

Words of Welcome Rev. Kristina Hansen

Announcements Susan Richane

Chime

*Call to Worship (Taught by Love, mod.)

One: Blessed are those who delight in worship!

Blessed are they who worship in God's name!

Many: We give thanks to God! God's steadfast love endures forever!

Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!

One: Hosanna! Let everyone look to Jesus who points the way!

Many: Let every tongue welcome Christ's vision! Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!

*Prayer of Invocation (Taught by Love, mod.)

This is your day, Holy God. Every day belongs to you.

We empty ourselves before you so that there will be room for your entrance into our minds and hearts. We are ready to lay down our coats and gathered

branches to prepare the way today. We will join in singing the songs of praise and will even dare to shout hosanna!

Free us, we pray, to enter fully into the joy and gladness of welcoming the One who comes in your name, whose good news we will carry into a waiting world and who taught us to prayer together...

† Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come! Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Processional Hymn

Filled with Excitement

HOSANNA

(Music may be found on page 8.)

The Choir will lead a procession down the center aisle and up the side aisles during the singing of the hymn.

The congregation is invited to follow with waving palms.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Merciful God, we know how we sang for joy when Christ came into our lives, and how we have not always followed him as he leads us on this journey. When we have hidden our faces from the pain and suffering of our world; When we have turned away from the cries of the poor, the hungry, the oppressed; and when we have been lured by promises of worldly gain instead of following your transforming Word - forgive us.

Restore us with your Spirit and guide us to a renewed purpose, Steadfast God. Help us to have the same mind as Christ, so we may know your promises; to have the same heart as Christ, so we might serve your children; to have the same Spirit as Christ, so we might go wherever you lead us.

(A moment of silence is observed for listening and personal prayer.)

One: May this season of lengthening days be a season of strengthening spirits.

Many: With lives open to transformation, we pray our earnest prayer. Amen.

All Singing:

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

Spoken responsively:

One: The Lord is my strength and my might;

Many: The Lord has become my salvation.

One: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

Many: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

One: the right hand of the Lord is exalted;

the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

Many: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

One: The Lord has punished me severely, but did not give me over to death.

**Many: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.**

One: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

(Musical Response as above.)

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Many: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

One: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Many: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Musical Response as above.)

One: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Many: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

One: The Lord is God, and God has given us light.

Many: Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

**One: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my
God, I will extol you.**

**Many: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

All Singing:

All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer King
to whom the lips of children, made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.
All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer King
to whom the lips of children, made sweet hosannas ring.

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Music for Reflection

Hosanna

David Conte

"Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest."

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,

humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,

"Who is this?" The crowds were saying,

"This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Sermon

Brave and Steadfast

Rev. Hansen

*Hymn

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

(Verses 1-3, Music may be found on page 10.)

Joys and Concerns
Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Motherless Child

American Negro Spiritual

"Sometimes! Sometimes!

Arr. Adolphus Hailstork

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I'm almos' gone, way up in the heavenly land.

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child a long way from home."

Elijah Gebers and Isa Apodaca, soloists

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Let songs rise up from earth below;

Let stars and galaxies enthrone;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd
(Verses 1-4, Music may be found on pg 9.)

CHRISTIAN LOVE

Benediction

Postlude

Fantasy

Johann Pachelbel

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to one another.



Thank you to...

Rev. Kristina Hansen
Liturgist: Susan Richane

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Cecelia Allchin*, Isa Apodaca, Nicole Knickerbocker*,
Lindsey Puc, Joan Sussman

Alto: Alyssa Koh, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,
Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier*

*on temporary leave

Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship—Rev Hansen
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments

Tuesday, March 31

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, April 1

7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, April 2

11:00AM Worship Team Mtg, Hybrid
6:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3

10:30AM Meditation Walk, Highland
Park

Sunday, April 2

Easter Sunday

10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship—Rev. Hansen
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary



1 Filled with ex-cite-ment, all the hap-py throng spread cloaks and
2 As in that en-trance to Je-ru-sa-lem, ho-san-nas

1 Man-tos y pal-mas es-par-cien-do va el pue-blo a-
2 Co-mo en la en-tra-da de Je-ru-sa-lén, to-dos can-



branch-es on the cit-y streets. There in the dis-tance they be-
we will sing to Je-sus Christ, to our Re-deem-er who still

le-gre de Je-ru-sa-lén. A-llá a lo le-jos se vis-
ta-mos a Je-sús el rey, al Cris-to vi-vo que nos



gin to see, there on a don-key comes the Sav-ior Christ.
calls to-day, asks us to fol-low with our love and faith.

lum-bra ya en un po-lli-no al Sal-va-dor Je-sús.
lla-ma hoy pa-ra se-guir-le con a-mor y fe.

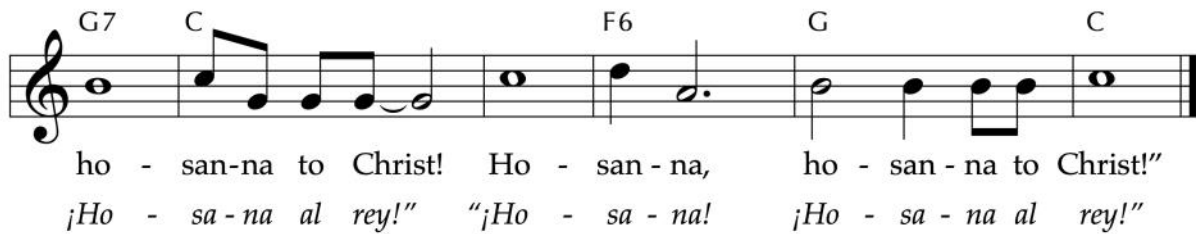
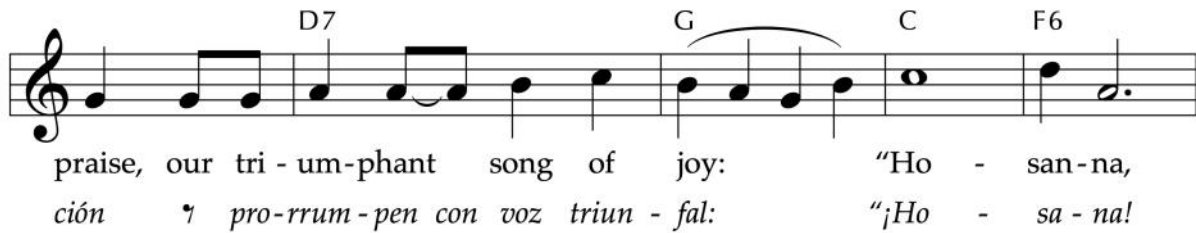
Refrain / Estribillo

From ev-ery cor-ner a thou-sand voic-es sing praise to the One who comes
Mien-tras mil vo-ces re-sue-nan por do-quier; ho-sa-na al que vie-ne en el

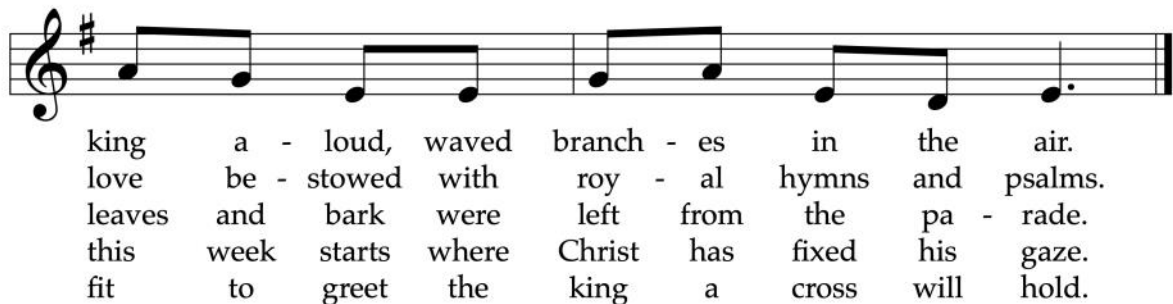
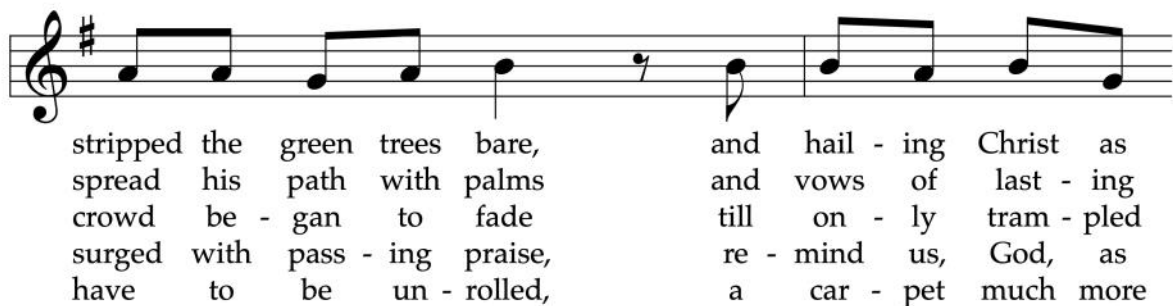
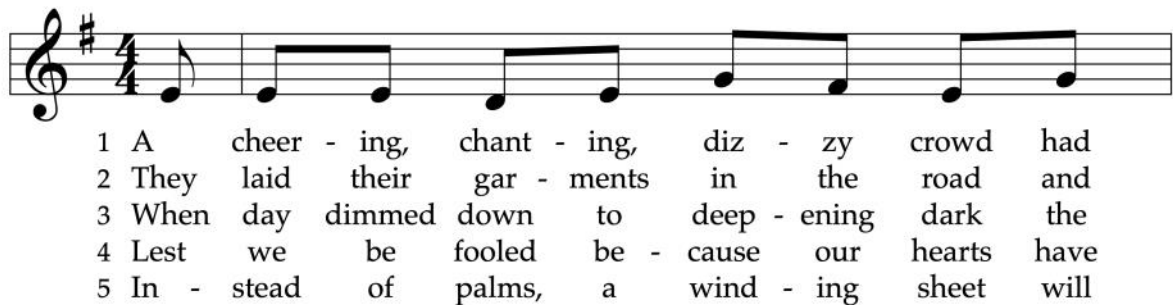


in the name of God. Our ac-cla-ma-tion breaks forth in shouts of
nom-bre de Dios. Con un a-lien-to de gran ex-cla-ma-

Though they have different perspectives, all four gospels give an account of Christ's entry to Jerusalem (Matthew 21:7-9/Mark 11:7-10/Luke 19:35-38/John 12:12-15). This Mexican hymn, appropriate for the beginning of worship on Passion/Palm Sunday, captures the crowd's enthusiasm.

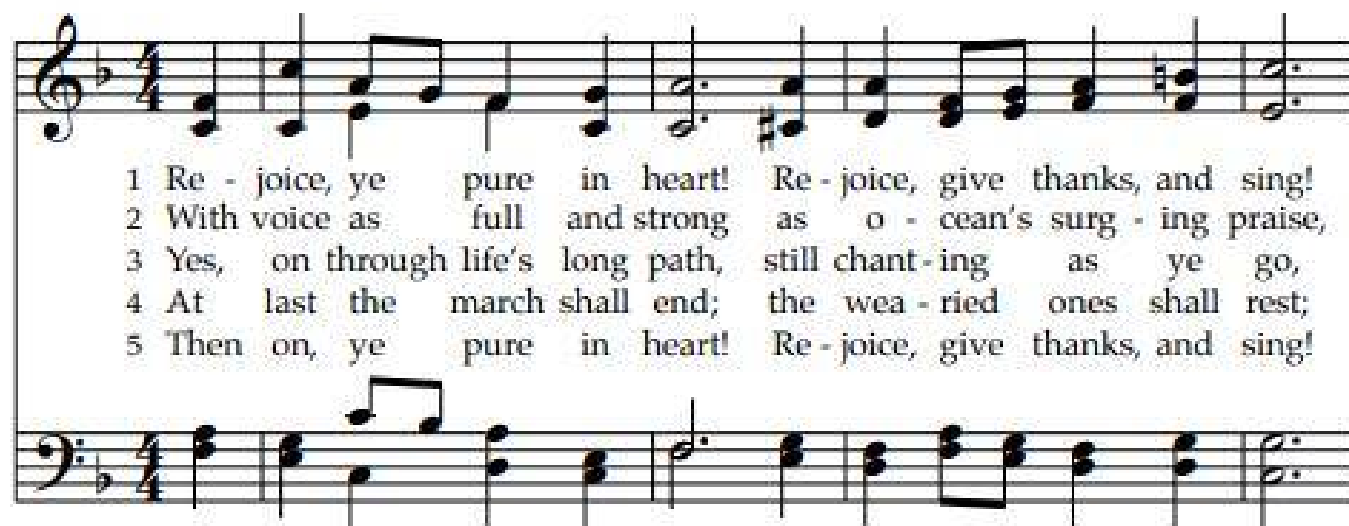


A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd 200

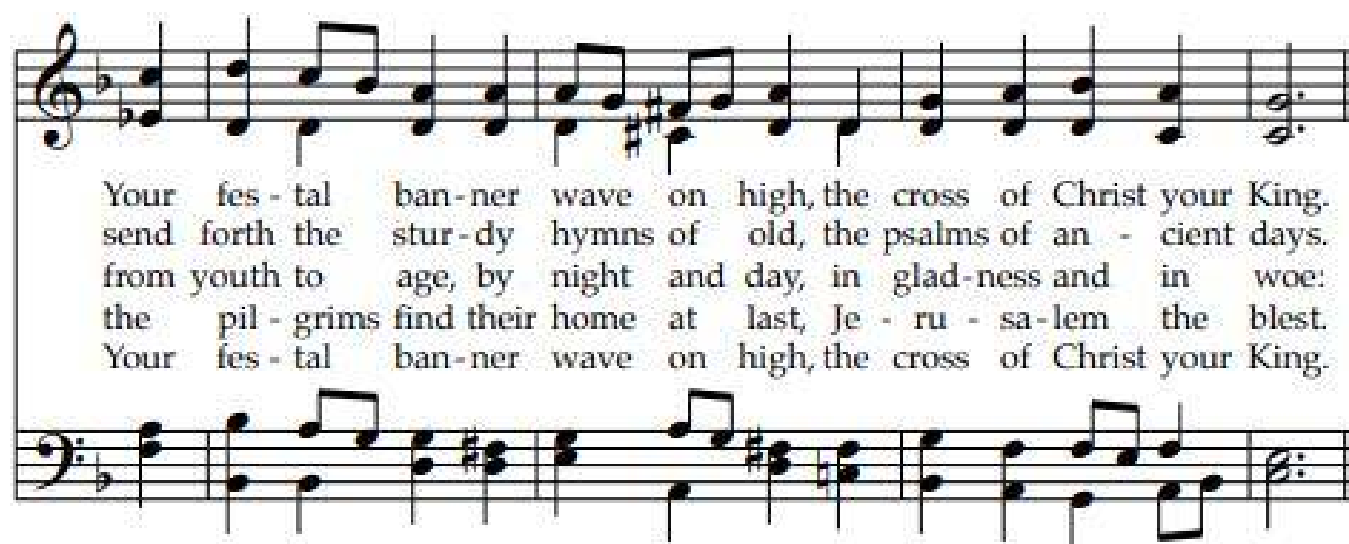


This Palm Sunday hymn recreates the contrasting sounds of Holy Week, moving from the noisy public acclaim of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the solitary silence of his body being prepared for burial. It gently reminds us that self-giving is the mark of Christ's true sovereignty.

804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

These stanzas are drawn from a much longer hymn created for the processional at an English choir festival in 1865. The original text lacked the refrain that gives the hymn so much of its energy and interest. That feature was added by the composer of this tune in 1883.

Welcome Visitors!

**We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.**

Nursery Care is available for young children beginning in the library and moving to C-23 on the second floor. Parents are welcome to come up with their children if they would like.

Sunday School - Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Our Youth" and then will follow their teacher to the Sunday School room.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online, you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

* **An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns – If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person (s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the Deacons.

If you would like to honor someone or a special event with flowers you can purchase a bouquet (\$35) for a future worship service by contacting Deacon Helen Ganotis at <helenganotis@gmail.com>.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Rev. Kristina Hansen, Senior Pastor
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Baker Mohammed, Bookkeeper
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes, Nursery Coordinator

Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator &
Sunday School Teacher
Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist
Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Jacque Hancock and Carol Samuel - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Kristina
Hansen, Moderator
Nancy Brown

Jason Cloen
John DeHority
Sally Allison

Jim Vesper
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Andrea Folan
Helen Ganotis
Jacque Hancock
Elizabeth Katz

Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Sandy Morales
Gie Oey

Becky Parks
Carol Samuel
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

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www.DowntownPresbyterian.org





Sunday Forums—April 2026

Caring for Creation: From the Grassroots

**From Last Resort Supplier to Providing a Foothold
April 12 on Fairness: Foodlink Challenges Inequity**
Presenter: Brandy Madera, Foodlink



Once distributors of surpluses, food banks across the U.S. have become community "first responders." When individuals and families lack consistent access to nutritious food, the effects extend far beyond hunger, influencing educational outcomes, work-force participation, and overall community well-being. This presentation will explore how food insecurity is intertwined with other disparities because food is foundational to building communities that are healthier, stronger, and more resilient.

**Community-Based Gardens and Farms:
April 19 Creating Local Capacity**
Presenter: Erin Turpin, RIT Program Specialist



From building community gardens at St. John's and St. Mark's Episcopal Church to introducing RIT students to Foodlink's Community Farm, Program Specialist Erin Turpin has been putting into practice her major in Sustainability and Sociology. Erin believes in nature-based learning and helping organizations understand and advance environmental justice and will share her knowledge with us.

**Repurposing Payphones for Community Benefit:
April 26 Updating Local Resources**
Presenter: Eric Kunsman, RIT Professor



Come learn about The Good Phone Project, and meet its founder, RIT Professor Eric Kunsman. What started as his photography series depicting old payphones, has evolved into a meaningful public-service effort to repurpose old payphones into free phones accessible for all. For communities in need, the Good Phones are intended to serve as a lifeline for individuals, and to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to connect with one another and social services.

Sundays, 9:45AM—The Shaw Room

There IS a Free Lunch!

A prepared, community take-away meal, including a peanut butter & jelly sandwich, chips, an apple, a juice box, and a cookie will be handed out on **Sunday, April 12**, following worship at DUPC. This free lunch will be staffed by volunteers from both **Third Presbyterian Church and DUPC**.



Would you like to help out with this joint community effort? **Volunteers** are needed, so check out the timeline below to see how you can help out!

Timeline

- April 8-10 - Shop for supplies
- April 11, 2PM - Pack lunches - Third/DUPC
- April 12, 12:30 -1:30 - Distribution at DUPC

(Perishable leftovers will be given to the Open Door Mission/Grace House. Non-perishable items will be kept for future use.)