

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD
for
PALM SUNDAY**

**MARCH 29, 2026
10:00 A.M.**

**The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ**



FOR REFLECTION AT THE START OF HOLY WEEK

There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal.

I know the world is bruised and bleeding, and though it is important not to ignore its pain, it is also critical to refuse to succumb to its malevolence. Like failure, chaos contains information that can lead to knowledge—even wisdom. Like art.

Toni Morrison, “No Place for Self-Pity, No Room for Fear,” The Nation, 23 March 2015

WE GATHER OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY

Words of Welcome and Breathing God’s Gifts

The Story of This Day (**congregation in bold**)

John 12:9-13

When the great crowd of the people learned that Jesus was at Bethany, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the religious leaders planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the people were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the ruler of our people!”

1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

WE PREPARE

Sharing our Life and Welcoming All

Breathing in God's Gifts Again and Sharing Those Gifts

Regathering

Laudate omnes gentes

Jacques Berthier/Taizé

Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum.

Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!

Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord.

Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord!

I was glad when they said to me,
 "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers!"

For the sake of my relatives and friends
 I will say, "Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
 I will seek your good.

*Hymn 216 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (1-2) Theodulph of Orleans, 9th c.
 (Children are invited to Kids United to learn about Holy Week with Dana Bender, Director of Family Ministries, and Children's Ministry Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz. They return to their parents during the final hymn.)

*Prayer for Palm Sunday (unison)

**Eternal God, whose whisper silences the shouts of the mighty, quiet within us every voice but your own.
 Speak to us now through the passion and death of Jesus Christ that by the power of your Holy Spirit
 we may receive the grace to show forth Christ's love in lives committed to your service. Amen.**

*A Time of Silent Reflection

*Our Hymn of Praise *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Theodulph of Orleans, 9th c.
*As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
 whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
 All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
 To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

WE GO DEEPER INTO THE STORY

The Parade Continued John 12:12-14

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:
 "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
 Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Musical Response *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* Mark Hayes

The End of the Parade (cong. bold) John 12:16-19

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The religious leaders then said to one another, **"You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"**

Sermon *What Can We Do?*

Silence

Musical Reflection *Journey to Gethsemane* Richard Redhead

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

(After each petition, the congregation sings *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* from the Taizé community.)

***O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, when I call answer me.
 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.***

O God, the ruler of ages eternal,
 you are without beginning or end:
 Yet you chose to be born an infant in time.
O Lord, hear my prayer, . . .

O God, the invisible,
 you are the One whom nobody has seen or can see:
 Yet you assumed the face of the Child of Mary, the One of Sorrows.
 Hear our prayers that we might see you in all your children.
O Lord, hear my prayer, . . .

O God, the perfect joy,
you are the source of the happiness of heaven and earth:
Yet you chose the path of suffering and even death for the sake of this world.
Hear our prayers for those who suffer and those who live in the shadow of death.
O Lord, hear my prayer, . . .

O God, the all-powerful,
you hold the mountains in the palm of your hand:
Yet you emptied yourself of power to offer your life, your hands, and your heart for others.
O Lord, hear my prayer, . . .

O God, the infinite, heaven and earth cannot contain you:
Yet you took on human flesh and human life.
Hear our prayers that we, too, would offer our human lives in love for your world.
O Lord, hear my prayer, . . .

(A time of silent prayer)

Hear all our prayers, Gracious One, spoken and unspoken. Strengthen us to live as we pray. Lead us into this Holy Week, trusting that Christ's way of redeeming love can transform our lives and this world. In the name of the One we seek to follow, we pray with boldness, courage, and trust, saying:
(Please pray any version of the Lord's Prayer.)

Offering Our Gifts for God's World

Offertory

My Song Is Love Unknown

Rhosymedre

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Bless our tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use them for the sake of our neighbors, kindred, and all creation. Amen.

WE GO INTO THIS WEEK

- *Hymn 224 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (1-2, 4) Hamburg L.M.
- *Benediction
- *A Hymn for the Journey *Were You There?* African American Spiritual

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. Your presence enriches the experience of us all. We also invite you to join the journey of Holy Week that leads to the new life of Easter. Again, welcome!

Please stay for the special fellowship time today that includes traditional hot crossed buns! It's a great way to enjoy the morning, meet new people, and share good food!

TODAY AT UNITED

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Music Director/Pianist; Dana Bender, Family Minister; the Sanctuary Choir directed by André García-Nuthmann; Tyler Fries, Trumpet; Liturgist Karen Wilbanks; Ministers of Hospitality Louise Cavatta, Don Duncan, Pam Hyde, Rosemary Thompson, Diane Darby, and Karen Wilbanks with Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeault; and Media Coordinator Elijah Marquez with volunteers Frank Wilbanks and Sam Elkind.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and Youth through the 5th grade begin the service with the adults and then go with Family Ministry Dana Bender, volunteer Tracy Church, and Children's Aides Maria Navarette and Destiny Muñoz, to explore Holy Week. Kinders and younger go to the Nurture Center; older children to the Education Wing.

Many thanks to all who participated in yesterday's "No Kings Rally"
and to all who are holding our nation and this world in prayer.

HOLY WEEK

WEDNESDAY MID-DAY COMMUNION SERVICE: 12:15 – 12:45

Maundy Thursday – April 2 (7:00 pm)

We share Communion, followed by the account of Jesus' Passion as he prays in an olive grove, knowing that wooden cross awaits him. The service ends with "Tenebrae"—extinguishing of light—and concludes in darkness.

Good Friday – April 3

Creation Care – 9:00 to 11:30 – We get the church grounds ready for Easter!

Good Friday Worship – 12:00 Noon

As we gather to engage this hard story, we pray for ourselves and this world that God loves. We pray, too, for all God's people and God's crucified creation living under the shadow of the cross. The Sanctuary will also be open until 3:00 pm for private prayer.



EASTER 2026
Sunday, April 5

6:30 am – Outdoor Sunrise Service

9:15 am Children's Easter Egg Hunt

**10:00 am – Easter Celebration
with Children's and Adult Choirs**



Fellowship and Easter Cupcakes for everyone after worship!

Many thanks to all who've support United's "One Great Hour of Sharing," the annual ecumenical offering of the United Church of Christ, raising over \$3,500 for refugee relief, emergency disaster funds, education programs and agricultural development around the world. To donate, please memo checks "OGHS" or go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org. Thank you!

ALSO COMING UP . . .

When the U.S. Bombed New Mexico—80 Years Later

Monday, March 30 – 6:00 pm – Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Church

The "Ecumenical Conversation Towards Nuclear Disarmament" welcomes Tina Cordova of the *Tularosa Basin Downwinders Association* that advocates for southern New Mexicans (and all New Mexico) impacted by the radioactive fallout of the 1945 Trinity Test. Ms. Cordova shares their story and how we can help—and work for nuclear disarmament.

Second Sunday of Eastertide – April 12

In the 10:00 service, several of our musical youth offer selections to deepen the worship experience.

Third Sunday of Eastertide – April 19

We welcome Rabbi Martin Levy of Temple Beit Tikva as our guest in both 10:00 Worship and 11:15 Forum.

LOVE NEIGHBOR

From supporting Santa Fe's Shelters to helping our Diné/Navajo kindred to advocating for immigrants and refugees, United Church of Santa Fe offers multiple ways to love our neighbors near and far. **Go online to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to find more information and donate online (or send a check to 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe NM 87505).**

LOVE CREATION

Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children's Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills.

Love in Action Arts Camp – United Church – June 15-19 (9:00 to 3:00)

Looking for a fun and valuable day camp for elementary-age children? Sign up for United's *Love in Action Arts Camp*! **The cost is \$125 per camper for the entire week and includes lunch and snacks.** (Scholarships also available.) Children will explore kindness, belonging, and caring for the earth through biblical stories, music, art, drama, photography, cooking, and more! We have a robust and talented group of leaders for this camp. Please go to unitedchurchofsantafe.org to register! Questions? Please contact Director of Family Ministry Dana Bender (unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com).