

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

9:30 a.m.

*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.

Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

Hymnals: UMH is Red or Purple-TFWS is Black-W&S is Green

Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER

As you settle in the sanctuary, please open your phone and share the live service from your Facebook page as a way of inviting the larger community to worship.

PRELUDE

Lux eoi

Blackwell

(Triumphal March)

Please take a moment to fill out the "fellowship pads" located in the pews at the center aisle. Be sure to note the church family worshipping alongside you.

*JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Matthew 21:1-11

*LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS OUR MIDST

UMH 280, vs. 3

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

**All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews with psalms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present.
All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

*INVITATION TO CELEBRATE

Excitement is all about.

Today we tell an ancient story of a parade, palms, and possibilities.

We wave palms, wear crosses, reminding ourselves that both the ecstasy and agony, joy and disappointment are part of our living.

Today we say:

Blessed is the One who comes in God's name! Hosanna!

This One is Jesus of Nazareth — teacher, builder, Christ.

In ancient Jerusalem, people gave Jesus a wonderful welcome.

Today we celebrate the presence of the living Christ!

Mantos y Palmas: Filled with Excitement

*BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Today we come filled with excitement for the arrival of Jesus our Lord, the one who enters the holy city of Jerusalem and is proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Today, we praise you, ever-living God, and invite your blessing upon this symbol of Christ's triumphal entrance.

May these branches be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them may always acclaim Jesus, our Messiah, who walks the way of suffering and the cross; that dying and rising with him, we may renew our relationship and enter into his Holy Kin-dom. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Children Are Invited to Sunday School

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CENTERING PRAYER

**O God, we stand at the gate, hesitant and uncertain;
the procession is ever moving forward, yet we are reluctant
to answer your invitation and slow to embark on the journey.
Forgive us and remind us that we can join at any moment.
Grant us the strength we need to be your people—
the courage to join you in the procession;
the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you;
the freedom to lift our palms to your glory;
and the knowledge that by your grace we are forgiven. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Sing Hosanna! Blessed is He!

arr. Fettke & Grassi

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:38-41

Pew Bible, NT 72

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God

HYMN OF RESPONSE

TFWS 2222, vs. 1, 2, 5

The Servant Song

SERMON

Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

*Mosaic: When God Uses All the Pieces
Of Our Caring Relationships*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A TIME FOR REFLECTION *We Lay Our Broken World*

To the Tune: *A Charge to Keep I Have* UMH 413

**We bring our broken selves, confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing grace new purpose is inspired.**

Each week during Lent, we will take some time for reflection. During this time with meditative music, you are invited to come forward and choose a piece of glass from the bowl and either write a word that expresses your resources or hold it as you kneel in prayer. As you prepare to return to your seat, leave the glass on the communion rail as a sign that you are leaving it with God.

INVITATION TO PRAYER *We Lay Our Broken World*

To the Tune: *A Charge to Keep I Have* UMH 413

**O Spirit, on us breathe, with life and strength anew;
find in us love, and hope, and trust, and lift us up to you.**

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

During this time, you are invited to name your prayers for the congregation.

After each prayer request, the congregation will respond...

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD'S BELOVED PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD...

Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.

You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS *For Your Generous Providing*

To the Tune: *Hymn To Joy* UMH 89

**For your generous providing which sustains us all our days,
for your spirit here residing, we proclaim our heartfelt
praise, through the depths of joy and sorrow,
though the road be smooth or rough, fearless,
we can face tomorrow for your grace will be enough.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for your faithful love for us. Lord, today we offer these gifts as a gesture of gratitude for all you are doing in our lives. Thank you for your patience in reworking our rebellion and restlessness: for reshaping our regrets and rejections; for helping us repurpose our responsibilities and resources; and for recentering us that we may renew our relationships. May these gifts be used to renew the lives of others who may also find themselves in times of brokenness. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

TFWS 2109

Hosanna! Hosanna!

*SENDING FORTH

Today we joined the great crowds of people who eagerly awaited the coming of Jesus.

Fulfilling prophecy, Jesus humbly entered the Holy city by riding on the back of a donkey.

The crowds were filled with joy, excitement, and anticipation. Yet within a week they scattered, disillusioned and frightened, unwilling to commit themselves beyond a superficial level.

We, too, long to join the triumphal procession only to find ourselves burdened by the past, fearful of the future, and reluctant to accept the way of the cross.

May these palm branches be a reminder of the welcome offered Jesus as he traveled toward the cross.

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US TO THE CROSS

Something Beautiful

UMH 394

**Something beautiful, something good;
all my confusion he understood;
all I had to offer him was brokenness and strife,
but he made something beautiful of my life.**

*POSTLUDE

Postlude for Palm Sunday

Forsdick

*Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.
Adult Sunday School will meet in Wesley Hall at 11:00 a.m.
All Are Welcome!*

+++++

***Our Service Of Worship Has Ended
Our Worship Through Service Begins***

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by Bonnie McNamara in loving memory of her mother,
Mary E. Goodwin's birthday.
Given in loving memory of Viola Miller by Dave & Janice Hiers.

PALM STRIPS:

Given by Barbara & Len Gruezke in loving memory of Rev.
Raymond & Ethel Gruezke.

Words of Welcome

*Welcome to this service of worship. We pray this service offered
an opportunity to engage with the Divine. If we can be of service
to you in any way, please let us know. If you are looking for a
church to call home, please consider joining together with us,
where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.*

For Your Information

- There are **hearing devices**, to assist you to experience the service more clearly with our streaming team, in the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.
- A **rocking chair** is available, for the comfort of parent and baby, in the rear of the sanctuary, behind the pews.
- To access the **restrooms**, please exit the side door to the right of the lectern/chancel area. In the hall, make a left into Fellowship Hall and follow the signs.
- There are **infant changing tables** available in the restrooms.

Our Lenten Series is based on *Mosaic: When God Uses All The Pieces* by Shane Stanford.
The words to our hymn of dedication were written by Jane Parker Huber.
Music from Upper Room WorshipBook by: Elise S. Eslinger, ed.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

April 13th 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 17th 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 18th 7:00 p.m.

Easter Service

April 20th 6:00 a.m. **Prayer Garden**
9:30 a.m. **Sanctuary**

First UMC, 103 Monmouth Rd. Oakhurst



The First United Methodist Church

103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755

732-531-1150

FUMCoahurst@outlook.com

Oakhurst.umcchurches.org

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOakhurst>

Follow us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchofOakhurst>

CCLI #1588788

Our Leadership Team Serving Us This Morning

ACOLYTE: Faye Snorton

COUNTERS: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

USHER: Scott Danielson

GREETER: Jack Coleman

LAY READER: Ron Danielson

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Bonnie McNamara

+++++

Pastor: Jill Hubbard-Smith

Secretary: Joy More

Director of Music: Denise Furda

Sexton: Lisa Costello

Streaming Team: Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci

Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington

Music Director Emeritus: Gary Farquhar