



Matthew 21:1-17 • [illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com)

***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
March 29, 2026***

## **PALM SUNDAY: SACRED PROTEST**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

### **GATHERING SONG**

*"This is the Day"*

### **UNISON WELCOME**

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING SONG**

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

Michael W. Smith

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from The Work of Imagination*

Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

**By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God's saving grace, you who shout, "Hosanna," you who pray, "save us," you who wave branches to welcome Christ.

**In Christ, we gather in celebration.**

Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

### **\*HYMN #175**

*"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*

### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

*from The Work of Imagination*

**God of palms and passion, you accompany us as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem and toward the cross. Preserve us in our rejoicing, forgive us in our betrayals, and empower us to name injustice. Grant us a vision of the cross that reveals to us Christ's unfailing commitment to the work and wonder of love. May our hearts overflow with such love and justice, and may our "hosannas" be our most fervent prayers for the salvation you promise us, through Christ our hope. Amen.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

As we walk through the wild wilderness of Lent, we imagine a world where all creation is at peace. We imagine a world without war, where creation flourishes and children are safe. Let these dreams of peace begin here as we share the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*from The Work of Imagination*

**God who breathes meaning and inspiration into our sacred scriptures, who crafts stories of redemption, liberation, and love, may these words help us imagine the world you intended. May we receive the challenge to join you in this holy work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow Jesus in love and justice. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Galatians 6:1-16

**RESPONSIVE READING**

*"Palm Sunday" by Malcolm Guite*

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem, The seething holy city of my heart, The Saviour comes.  
But will I welcome him?

**Oh, crowds of easy feelings make a start; They raise their hands, get caught  
up in the singing, And think the battle won.**

Too soon they'll find The challenge, the reversal he is bringing Changes their tune.

**I know what lies behind The surface flourish that so quickly fades; self-  
interest and fearful guardedness, the hardness of the heart, its barricades,**

And at the core, the dreadful emptiness Of a perverted temple.

**Jesus, come Break my resistance and make me your home.**

**ANTHEM**

*"Crown the King with Praise"*

by Douglas Nolan

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Roxanne Davenport

*Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 21:1-17

**SERMON**

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)**

**INVITATION TO GIVING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" v. 4*

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*from The Work of Imagination*

**Generous God, we bring our gifts before you and your church like tiny seeds from a  
dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth,  
bearing fruit, and nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. May  
each gift of every size bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*"Jesus Rode into the City" (insert)*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*adapted from The Work of Imagination*

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination. **We believe  
disruptions can be good. We believe that without justice, there is no peace. We**

**believe Jesus disrupted the temple because he was bringing chaotic good into a situation of unjust order. We believe Jesus rode into Jerusalem to stir up good trouble - to confront the evil that kept people in bondage. We believe God calls us to have courage. We believe the strong must defend the weak. We believe truth must be spoken. We believe that protest is one language of oppressed people, and such voices should be amplified and protected. Amen.**

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

*from The Work of Imagination*

**POSTLUDE (seated)**

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available.

**Birthdays this week:** 03/30 Neath Ham; 03/31 Carolyn (Cookie)Miller; 04/01 Rosemary Elder; 04/03 Jayla Wheeler and 04/04 Mabel Perry.

<b>Worship Participants:</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Worship Team	Neath Ham, Courtney Robertson, Swann Kongkeattikul, Diana Kongkeattikul, Roxanne Davenport, and Chris Willman-Bunge
Deacon in Charge	Mary Lee Yaukey
Lector	Henry Hopper
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Jerusalem Resident" © 2026 Illustrated Ministry

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given to the Glory of God.

**St. John's Mission**

To grow in love of God and neighbor

**Worship Resources:**

*"The Work of Imagination" Lenten liturgy & commentary © 2026 Illustrated Ministry*

*"Palm Sunday" by Malcolm Guite, included in The Word in the Wilderness: A Poem a Day for Lent and Easter by Malcolm Guite*

## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to Thee, Re - deem - er, King,  
 2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing Thee on high;  
 3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.  
 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 to Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.

Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore Thee went;  
 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es, ac - cept the praise we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One!  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore Thee we pre - sent.  
 who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King!

WORDS: Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, alt.  
 (Matt. 21:8-9; Mark 11:8-10; Luke 19:36-38)

MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615

ST. THEODULPH  
 7.6.7.6 D

Higher key, No. 225

# Jesus Rode into the City

In honor of Gloria Crum's many years of service at St. John's United Church of Christ in Chambersburg, PA

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2023

Beecher

John Zundel, 1870

1. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty, know-ing all that was to come:  
2. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty, know-ing all that was in store.  
3. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty, know-ing con-flict would in - crease,  
4. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty where he cared for those in need.  
5. Je - sus, at this ce - le - bra-tion, we re - call your sa - cri - fice,

He was faith-ful, prayer-ful, stea - dy, when he reached Je - ru - sa - lem.  
Ru - lers of - ten came with ar-mies; Christ rode in, our hum - ble Lord.  
Peo - ple want-ed some-one migh-ty— not the hum-ble Prince of Peace.  
He took is - sue with the migh-ty and he chal-lenged hu - mangreed.  
You were faith-ful to your mis-sion; for the world, you gave your life.

Crowds were cheer-ing, shout-ing, sing - ing, for they'd seen what he could do:  
Those who con-quer-ed sought to fright - en, rid - ing hor - ses to im - press;  
At a time when much was chang - ing, Je - sus kept his fo - cus strong;  
There he gave us all in - struc - tion—how to be a lov - ing church.  
Now you call your church to fol - low— serv-ing, lov-ing, eyes on you.

He came bring-ing hope and heal-ing and the gift of life made new.  
Je - sus rode a beast of bur-den— low - ly beast of gen - tle - ness.  
Je - sus kept on lov - ing, serv-ing, show-ing mer - cy, press - ing on.  
There he taught us to give wel - come, to seek jus - tice, here on earth.  
Now you lead your peo - ple on - ward; in these times, there's work to do.

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New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com) | Email: [carolynshymns@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshymns@gmail.com)

## **NEWS IN THE PEWS March 29, 2026**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto:manager@sjucc1811.org) (717) 263-8593 (office)  
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist  
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth  
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

**TODAY:** Boy Scouts – Klondike Derby – Outside on Church Grounds  
St. John's Artistic Showcase & Silent Auction continues until March 29 in the lobby.  
Bible Study on the Book of Esther, Chapter 6, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

#### **Monday, March 30**

1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – Conference Room 111 (Chapter 6)  
6:00 pm Craft Night – Room 202  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

#### **Tuesday, March 31**

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202  
6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study– Zoom  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts Raingutter Regatta – Fellowship Hall

#### **Wednesday, April 1**

6:30 pm Council Retreat – Conference Room 111/Zoom

#### **Thursday, April 2**

7:00 am Men's Breakfast – Texas Lunch  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117  
6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service – Fellowship Hall  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

#### **Friday, April 3**

12:00 pm UCCA Community Good Friday Service – Central Presbyterian Church

#### **Saturday, April 4**

9:00 am – 11:00 am Pancake Breakfast –Fellowship Hall  
10:00 am – Easter Egg Hunt – Outside on Church Grounds

#### **Sunday, April 5**

8:45 am Sunday Morning Caffeine Church School Class – Parlor Room 104  
8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119  
8:45 am SPARK! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115  
8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Room 206  
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116  
8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class – Conference Room 111  
10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary (Easter Egg hunt starts at 9:15)

**Monday Afternoon Book Study** We will read chapter 6 of Norman Wirzba's book "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" for our discussion on Monday, March 30, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

**Bible and a Beer** is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be April 20th.

**Blueberry Bliss Spring Tea Tickets** will be held on Saturday, April 25, 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. VIP Tickets are currently on sale. Tickets are \$35, cash or check.

**CVAS Collection** The Youth are once again helping St. John's Nursery School in their collection of items for the CVAS by creating wonderful animal displays and signs for the collection sites in the church. We will embark on a delivery of these items on April 11.

**Laser Tag** By popular request, we are scheduling laser tag fun at Cluggy's on April 11. Cost is \$15 for unlimited time; meet at church at 1:00 pm or Cluggy's at 1:15 pm. We'll plan to return to the church by 4:30 pm. Service hours are applicable and there is no age requirement. Arcade games, mini golf, etc. are at your own cost. See Roxanne for more information.

**Photo Directory and Contact Information** Just a reminder we are in the final steps for completing our church directory. **All Photos must be submitted by March 31 in order to be included in the updated directory.** Drop off photos to the church office or email photos: assistant@sjucc1811.org or manager@sjucc1811.org

**Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt** will be Saturday, April 4 from 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall (the Egg Hunt is at 10 am). \$8 for adults, \$2 for children under 12. The egg hunt is free. A portion of the proceeds will go to support SCCAP.

**Holy Week at St. John's** Our Maundy Thursday worship will be held on Thursday, April 2, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to attend the UCCA Community Good Friday Service on Friday April 3, 12 pm at Central Presbyterian Church. Our Easter Sunday worship is Sunday, April 5, at 10:00 am. An egg hunt planned by Children and Youth will begin at 9:15 am. Join us for these special services as we remember Christ's death and celebrate his resurrection!

**2025 SJUCC Year End Financial Report** is available upon request from the Church Office. This report is similar to what was shared at past mid-year Congregational Meetings.

**March/April Upper Room** devotionals are currently available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

**March First Fruits** will support organizations designated as part of the Lenten Projects. This year's recipients are African Mission Healthcare, the Peru School Project, and the United Church of Christ Disaster Emergency Fund. Via these offerings, we will support medical care in Africa, education in Peru, and support where individuals have been affected by natural disasters.