

## Into Jerusalem (4/13/2025)

**Luke 19: 28-40**

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, where the passion of our Lord will play out before us, ending in his death on the Good Friday cross. But for now, we gather with that ancient crowd, waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (which means “save us!”).

On this day, we praise Christ our King who gave new meaning to that title “king.” For Jesus wasn’t like King Saul who towered in physical strength nor was he like King Solomon who was surrounded by wealth and great wisdom. Jesus was a king who chose the way of servanthood and who rode a humble animal rather than a warhorse. And yet the streets still overflowed with people wanting to welcome this man who had stirred the countryside with his radical message of God’s all-encompassing love.

Before riding into Jerusalem, Jesus asked his disciples to get a donkey and a colt. The disciples questioned Jesus if the animals’ owner would give them freely. Jesus replied, “Just say the Lord needs them.” Sure enough, the disciples didn’t run into any hesitation and were able to secure the animals for their friend.

We rarely linger on this detail in the story of Jesus’ passion, preferring to focus on the palm-waving fanfare. But let’s leave that cheering crowd for a moment and linger, asking ourselves what it is that the Lord needs of us.

Perhaps not a donkey, but a trusting heart? Perhaps not a colt, but our time to help others no matter how stretched our time seems to be?

Can we give drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry and clothing to the naked? Can we give Jesus our commitment to stay by his side when others fall by the wayside? Can we wait in patient faith for resurrection promises amid our dark nights of the soul?

My friends, the truth is that the Lord needs much more than a humble animal to ride on. He needs our hearts.

Come, let us rejoin that Palm Sunday crowd knowing that all too soon those hosannas will fade. Hold on to your palm branch tightly, though. Hold on and listen for all the Jesus is asking of you.

*Redeeming God, we are quick to sing Your praises when things go our way, but when life’s cheers turn to jeers, we quickly doubt and run from the grace of Your Son Jesus. Help us to be present now and always to our Savior, giving whatever it is He asks of us this day. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*



# St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008

Sunday Christian Education 9am      Worship 10:30  
Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 9am-Noon      stjohms401.org  
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Choir Director:      Jeanne Anderson      815-985-2652

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Thank you for coming! Please sign a pew card to place in the offering plate.

**WORSHIP:** When reading this bulletin Leader Speaks Plain Font, Everyone Speak Bold Font

**Nursery:** Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. The nursery provides an alternative space so kids and parents can both get what they need from worship. Children are encouraged to check in with their adult before going downstairs with the nursery attendant.

### *You Are Not Alone*

The following support groups meet regularly at St. John's

- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at 7pm. Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm
- T.O.P.S. Mondays 11am



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

## Announcements

✚ Holy Week Schedule

***Maundy Thursday,***  
***Thursday, April 17th at 7pm***

***Easter Sunday, April 20th***

9am Breakfast - 9:45 Egg Hunt

10:30am Service

3pm Heritage Woods Service

- ✚ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6p!
- ✚ **Blessing Box** No canned foods or anything that may contain water, in this cold weather. Containers can freeze and explode or worse freeze and thaw without anyone knowing and go bad. These can make people sick. **Cans will be thrown away.** Let's work together to make sure only safe food goes to our neighbors. If you want to make canned donations, you can bring things **INSIDE** the church and we will get them to Food pantries or people in need.
- ✚ **Paper Angel Closet** needs toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, toothpaste, bleach, shampoo, and dish soap.
- ✚ **Menards Ministry:** If you have unused Menards rebates, or even receipts. We use these rebates for projects around the church.
- ✚ **Open Door Fundraiser:** We are still collecting money to upgrade our parking lot doors. Our goal is to collect enough money to automate the doors and make it a double entry to hold the temperature in the office area.
- ✚ Our **Spring Rummage Sale** will be Friday, May 2nd from 9am-3pm and Saturday, May 3rd from 9am-12pm. Volunteers are needed the week of the sale for set-up, and for clean-up on Saturday. Contact (815) 544-2977 to sign up.

# The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"  
Luke 19:38 (NIV)



S P R E A D O D E A E E Q R X  
 Y K I D D Y E R S S Y D K C S  
 H U M W Y S K E I H V V T G M  
 L N O U S T L A L D I O H A V  
 X R Z E F P R N O E L I M X F  
 C E L T I P M X R D L C U U Y  
 C B L C N P P R D N A E B R C  
 H O S L X A V E L V G S O P L  
 C I O U Z F M R A P E L F E O  
 D U G R O A D E N C G W I O A  
 S X I H H E A V E N E H E P K  
 B S Y D E J E S U S M H U L S  
 X U D Z C S C Y V A H N I E V  
 B F A V Y J T K C R O Z H L P  
 N Y B M I R A C L E S T C K L

BLESSED	MIRACLES	HIGHEST	HEAVEN	CROWD
SPREAD	GLORY	PRAISE	VILLAGE	PEOPLE
DISCIPLES	CLOAKS	VOICES	LORD	PEACE
NAME	ROAD	JESUS	HILL	COLT

## Processional Hymn #213 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

### Responsive Welcome Statement

At St. John's United Church of Christ, we are Living Outwardly & Valuing Everyone!

**We live and work amid God's love!**

In that spirit, we extend love to all who come into our midst, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities, age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all aspects of church.

**Our ministry is to bring the Good News of Christ's love to all.**

We work in God's name to tear down walls and build community,

**to walk with each other through all of life's circumstances,**

to provide for those in need,

**to offer comfort to the hurting and the sick,**  
and to uplift the brokenhearted.

**Where we fail, we ask for God's forgiveness.**

May the Holy Spirit and our siblings continue to challenge us to do better.

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

### Announcements

#### Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 118)

Give thanks to God, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

This is the day that God has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

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

**God has given us light.**

Give thanks to God, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**



**Invocation**

**Gracious God, let us trust in your presence with us in all times, the sad and scary times as well as the joyous celebrations. Open us to receive you anew today. Amen.**

**Hymn #216 "All Glory, Laud and Honor"**

**United Church of Christ Statement of Faith #885**

**Children's Time "In Our Palms"**

**Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Gracious God, as we enter this Holy Week, we may be tempted to skip parts of the story that begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, There are challenging chapters ahead of us in this week. We may want to turn away from the betrayals and hardships and suffering in the Passion Story, just as we too often turn away from the hardships and suffering of people in our own time. Forgive us when our focus slips. Bring us back to the path you set before us. Renew our strength and increase our faithfulness. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**

**Receive this good news: God reaches out to us to draw us close. in the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven.**

**Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**Scripture Luke 19:28-40**

**Sermon "Holy Rebellion"**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Mission Moment Boone County Habitat for Humanity**

**Musical Offering**

**Doxology**

**Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, use our offerings and our lives to bring wholeness to this world. Amen.**

**Hymn #195 "The Old Rugged Cross"**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**



[General Giving](#)

**Sent: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday in Lent Year C** was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a transitional pastor in the Heartland Conference, a certified facilitator of Sacred Conversations to End Racism, and a certified InterPlay leader.