

“Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Barre Congregational Church seeks to be a welcoming and caring congregation that supports each other and serves the wider world.”

The Barre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Entry Into Jerusalem by Robert O. Hodgell, 1960

Sunday, March 29th, 2026
Palm Sunday

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell
Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Pastor: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

People: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Pastor: Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

People: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Pastor: Therefore, God has exalted him and given him the name above every name.

People: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Pastor: Let us worship God in the name of Jesus Christ, our Servant Lord.

People: Blessed be the name of Jesus the Messiah!

* Opening Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Insert

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

God of mystery and mercy, your mercy and forgiveness are a mystery to us.

We fail to show mercy to others when they fall short of our expectations.

We keep silent rather than speak up when others are in trouble. We prefer what is easy to what is right, even though your Spirit draws our attention.

We seek your forgiveness, O God, and ask that you make us more forgiving.

Inspire us with the costly choices Jesus made as he moved toward the Cross, and give us the courage to follow him. Amen.

Assurances of Grace

Kyrie Eleison

Insert

Reading from the Psalms and Epistles

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19 - 29

Philippians 2: 5 - 11

Gospel Reading

Mathew 21: 1 - 11

Responding to the Word

One: The word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Give Up Popularity

Anthem

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns

After each prayer shared, we respond, “O Lord, hear our prayer.”

Pastoral Prayer (*Prayer Response*)

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn

“Ride on, Ride On in Majesty”

#191

Call to the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures high and low.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgy of the Passion

Mathew 26: 14 - 27: 66

Lamb of God (*Responsive*)

Pastor: Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,

People: Spare us, O Lord.

Pastor: Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

People: Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

People: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Pastor: Christ, hear us;

People: Christ, graciously hear us.

Pastor: We adore you, O Christ and we bless you.

People: For by your holy cross and empty tomb you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

*Closing Hymn “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended” #214

Benediction

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

**Please sit quietly for the postlude.



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Announcement:

Volunteers Needed on Sunday Mornings!

We need your help to make Sunday morning worship an inspiring and welcoming experience for members and friends alike. Please consider signing up as a lector (reading Scripture during the service), usher, or greeter. The blue sign up book is available at the table in the back of the sanctuary. You can also sign up by reaching out to deacons Cathy James (lectors), Bev Thomas (greeters), or Rev. James at revjames.bccucc@gmail.com.

Welcome Guests!

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today! The Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! We are blessed by your presence with us. Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary and downstairs. We heartily invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We welcome the seekers.

We welcome those who question.

We welcome those who believe without question.

It is not for us to turn anyone away.

Arms wide open.

Welcome home.

Upcoming events and meetings:

Tuesday, March 31: Deacons Meeting

Thursday, April 2: Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service at Hedding United Methodist Church, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 3: Ecumenical Good Friday Cross Walk and Service at Church of the Good Shepherd, Noon

Sunday, April 5: Community Sunrise Service at City Park, 7:00 am

Easter Worship Service, 9:30 am

Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

Nancy O'Leary, Lector

Susie and Bill Herrick, Greeter

Peter Anthony, Ushers

Pastoral Relations, Coffee Hour

LindaRodriguez, Welcome

Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for
 hun-gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam-i-ly; for
 wa-ter and the word; that you

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

The Kyrie is the only Greek left in the Western Liturgy. At the time of the Reformation, the entire liturgy was said in Latin except for the Kyrie. The Kyrie, which means Lord, is when we ask God to have mercy (eleison) on certain areas of our life and world. While we wish for God to have mercy on all of life, we single out only a few for corporate worship that we can all pray for as a congregation. In your daily prayer life, ask God to have mercy on those areas that deeply trouble you which are not included in the Kyrie.

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil-dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.