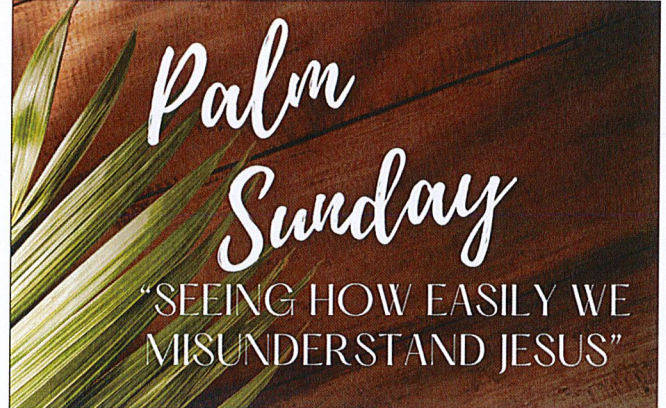


Grace Devotion

Week of March 29, 2026

The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1–11)

“When Jesus and his disciples came near Jerusalem, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead, saying, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.’ ... The disciples brought them, put their cloaks on the animals, and Jesus sat on them. ... The crowds went ahead of him and those following shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’”



The Passion Narrative (selected from Matthew 26:14–27:66)

- **Betrayal (26:14–16):** “Then one of the twelve, Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What will you give me if I betray him to you?’ ...”
- **The Last Supper / The Table (26:26–28):** “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ ... He took the cup and said, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”
- **The Garden (26:36–46):** “Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane and said, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ ... He prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will.’”
- **The Cross (27:27–54):** “They led him away to crucify him. ... And when Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.”
- **The Burial / Empty Space (27:57–66):** “When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ... He laid Jesus in his own new tomb, and rolled a large stone in front of the entrance.”

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Greetings,

This week we enter Palm Sunday, the day when people waved palms, shouted *Hosanna!*, and celebrated Jesus as their hoped-for Savior. Yet, just a few days later, many of those same voices would misunderstand him, turn away, or even call for his death. Palm Sunday reminds us that following Jesus is rarely simple—and that our vision is often clouded by our hopes, our expectations, or our fears.

At Grace, we are exploring this story through **five stations**, each one reflecting a moment when people misunderstood Jesus. I invite you to join in spirit. Picture each station, imagine the symbols, and let the questions guide your prayers.

**Station 1: Palms** – *What kind of Savior are you hoping Jesus will be?*

Take a moment to name your hopes. Are you hoping for comfort, success, peace, or something else? How might God's vision of you and the world be different from your own?

**Station 2: The Table** – *Where do you resist a love that costs something?*

Think about the ways God invites you into love that stretches or challenges you. How might you lean into that love, even when it's hard or uncomfortable?

**Station 3: The Garden** – *Where do you want God to act—but God is silent?*

Picture holding a small stone in your hand, carrying the places where you long for God's presence. Bring them gently before God and release them, trusting in God's timing.

**Station 4: The Cross** – *What do you struggle to understand about the cross?*

Sit with the mystery of Jesus' suffering and love. Let your questions, your doubts, and even your grief be honest prayers before God.

**Station 5: The Empty Space** – *What does it mean to stay with Jesus, even when we don't understand?*

Sit quietly. Breathe. Imagine being present with Jesus in every moment, even when the story doesn't make sense, even when your heart feels heavy.

Palm Sunday calls us to see clearly: to notice where we misunderstand, to pay attention to what we long for, and to learn what it truly means to follow Jesus. Even in confusion, even in waiting, God calls us to stay close, to watch, to pray, and to trust.

**Prayer:**

God of Love, open our eyes this Palm Sunday to see You more clearly, even when we misunderstand. Help us notice the people, places, and moments that stretch us to follow. Teach us to stay with You in love, to sit with our questions, and to trust Your presence in all things. Let our hearts wave Hosanna, not only in celebration, but in faithful, patient hope. Amen.

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

March 29, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday

Fifth Sundays are Special

*If you prefer to stay in the pews as we move around the church to the different stations, feel free to contemplate the questions in this bulletin at each station.*

Welcome/Announcements

\*\*+“Here I Am to Worship”

#7

Westminster Chimes and Prelude “There is a Balm in Gilead”  
~ Maren Carter

Scripture Reading:

**Matthew 21:1-11**

**Station #1:** “*What kind of Savior are you hoping Jesus will be?*”

\*\* Call to Worship

Lector: Come, people of God, and lift your hearts.

**Congregation: We come to see clearly and be transformed.**

Lector: Open our eyes to see Jesus, even when we misunderstand Him.

**Congregation: God calls us to honesty, mercy and love in all we see.**

Lector: Let us follow Christ, learning to see ourselves, our neighbors, and God more clearly.

**Congregation: We worship today, with our eyes and hearts open to God.**

**Station #2:** “*Where do you resist a love that costs something?*”

\*\* Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

**Gracious and loving God, As we enter this holy day of palms and praise, and continue our journey through Lent, open our eyes to see—to see ourselves honestly, to see our neighbors with compassion, and to see You more clearly. Lent is a time for our reflections and for examining our lives. Let us recognize our own limits and trust in Your sustaining presence. Transform our hearts and help us follow Christ with courage and love. Amen**

\*\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

**Station #3:** “*Where do you want God to act—but God is silent?*”

**Special Music: “The Holy City” ~ Maren Carter**

Joys and Concerns  
Praying for Others  
Lord’s Prayer

**Special Music: “In Christ Alone” ~ Deb Rickrode**

Celebration of Our Gifts

\*\* Offertory Response: “Spirit of the Living God” #247

\*\* Prayer of Dedication

◦ Hymn: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #173

**Station #4:** “*What do you struggle to understand about the cross?*”

Scripture Reading:

**Matthew 26:14-27:66**

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: "Trusting More than Quick Fixes- Following Jesus  
Beyond Our Expectations"

**Station #5:** "What does it mean to stay with Jesus, even when  
we don't understand?"

\*\*+ "Build Your Kingdom Here" #45

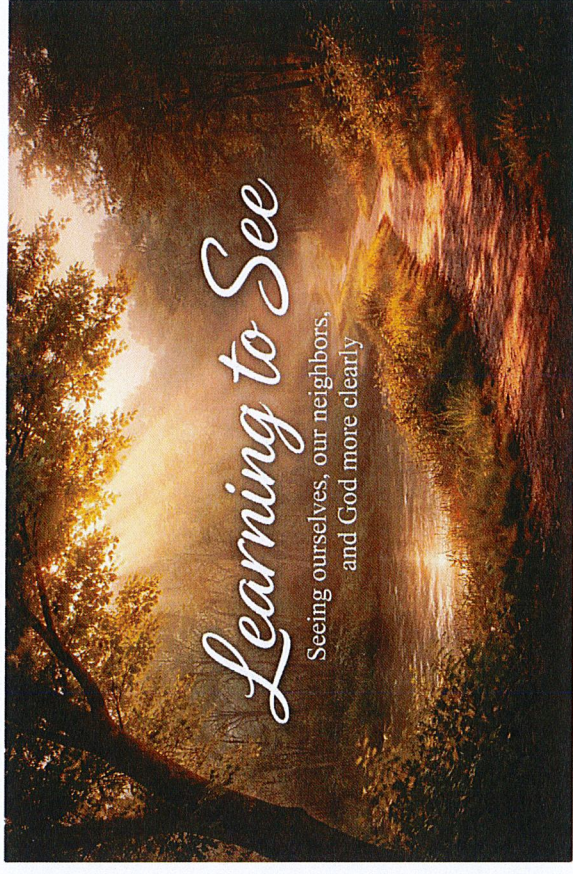
\*\* Final Blessing

\*\* "A Choral Benediction"

Postlude

\*\* Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

**Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:**

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector - Chris O'Donnell

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Vickie Arnold & Becky Boyer

## Matthew 21

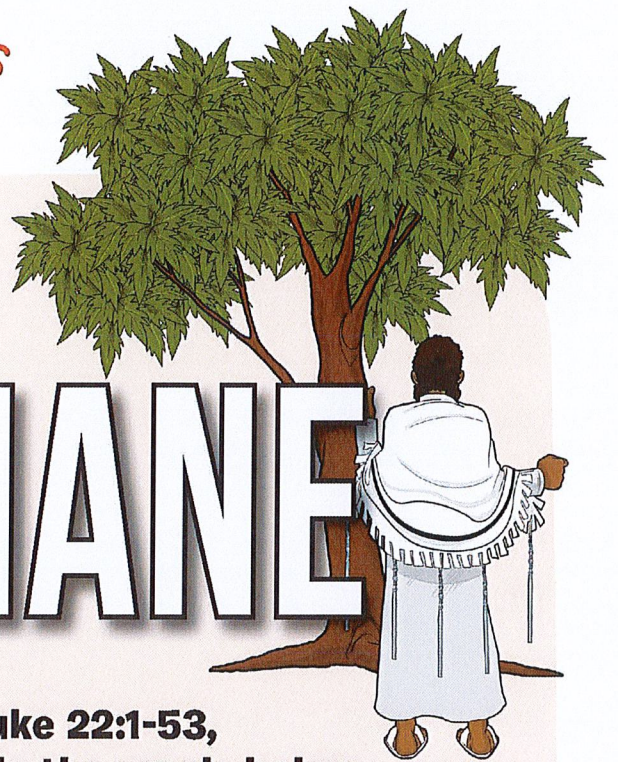
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PERFECTED

WENT  
RETURNED  
TREE  
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ALSO  
BELIEVING  
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ANSWERED  
THEN  
HOLD  
CANNOT  
VINEYARD  
REPENTED  
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UNTO

WHEN  
ABOUT  
HUSBANDMEN  
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THEREOF  
THIS  
THEY  
FEARED

# Garden of GETHSEMANE



Read Matthew 26:1-56, Luke 22:1-53,  
and John 13:1-18:24. Find and circle the words below.

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

PETER

GUARDS

PRAY

OLIVE TREES

SLEEP

ARRESTED

GARDEN

JERUSALEM

GETHSEMANE

DISCIPLES

YESHUA

ANGEL