

# *Palm Sunday*

*Holmdel Community, UCC – March 29, 2026*



**“The Good News is  
...inspiring us to act.”**

HOLMDEL COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
40 W. Main Street, Holmdel, NJ 07733

*Our mission is to deepen our relationship with God,  
follow Jesus in service to our community,  
and work for justice and peace.*

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

**bold** type denotes collective response

❖ means please rise in body or in spirit.

*Large print bibles, bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.*

*Hearing enhancement devices are also available.*

*Please remember to turn off your cell phones.*

**Words for Meditation**

“Revolutionary and subversive acts do not have to be grandiose or immediately altering. They can be small, seen but immediately unseen, loud and expected but bewilderingly unconventional. In that way, the powers that be cannot control, stop, or even anticipate the next revolutionary act. . . So for [today], please try this revolutionary act. Disrupt the indifference, distract the oppressive. Perhaps someone out there is waiting for your invitation. Perhaps someone in your church is waiting for the church to become a source of positive change in the world.”

Prof. Dong Hyeon Jeong,  
N.T. Scholar

**PRELUDE**

*Three Variations on  
“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

arr. Paul Manz

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

*With Greetings for neighbors and virtual congregation*

- ❖ **PROCESSIONAL WITH PALMS** – *please join in the processional by center aisle. Adult choir and Joyful Noisemakers to follow...*

**INTROIT**

*Hosanna to the King*  
Adult Choir and Joyful Noisemakers

Craig Courtney

- ❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*people bold*)

Howard Kradjel

Will you follow? Will you lay down your coat?

Will you lay down what's important?

**We will shout "Hosanna!"**

Will you join the parade?

Will you sing, and shout even when your throat is hoarse?

**We will cut down palm branches, and wave them in the air.**

Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?

Will you let this good news of a savior, inspire you to act?

**We will! We will sing. We will worship.**

**We will follow Jesus.**

Hosanna in the highest!

**Hosanna in the highest!**

- ❖ **OPENING HYMN**

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*  
*waving your palms is encouraged!*

*Screen*  
*Back of Bulletin*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

Jesus of Nazareth,

we know you spent your days teaching and healing.

**You marched through the streets and walked on water.**

**You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at dinner tables.**

*Singing*

*“Come, O Lord, and set us free...”*

*(by John Bell)*

9  
Come, O Lord, and set us free; give your peo - ple peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
Come, O Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Je - sus, come. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus, your good news was not confined to conversations.

Nor was it confined to the Temple.

**Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.**

*Come, O Lord, and set us free...*

Holy God, we long for a faith like that.

**Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith**

**to something we think about, rather than something we act upon.**

*Come, O Lord, and set us free...*

*Silent prayers*

Inspire us to love as you loved.

Inspire us to act, to get up and serve and march and proclaim.

**With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

Church family and friends,  
whether or not you wave your palm branch;  
whether or not you live out your faith;  
whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,  
God will never stop loving you.  
Jesus will never stop marching with you.  
The Spirit will never stop listening for you.  
**We are claimed, loved and held in grace.**  
**What good, *good* news. Amen!**

## ❖ GLORIA

to the tune of No. 35

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end, Amen. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amanda Spagnolia

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Let Your Glad Hosannas Ring*

Lloyd Larson

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Malachi 3:1, 5-10

Howard Kradjel

Mark 11:1-11

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

*Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free*

J. Bell

## SERMON

**“Marching for Change”**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

## HYMN

*Traveling the Road to Freedom*

J. Bell

*Screen & Back of Bulletin*

## OFFERINGS

Call to Generosity

Howard Kradjel

Musical Offering *Behold We Go Up to Jerusalem* Clifford McCormick

❖ **Doxology (Old Hundredth)**

**No. 48**

*Words by Mary Luti*

**Praise God whose love will never cease,  
whose justice raises up the least  
and sits all creatures at the feast –  
God’s mercy is our hope and peace!**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer concluding with 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 our sins as  
we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into  
temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

❖ **CLOSING HYMN** *My Song Is Love Unknown*

*Screen,*

To the tune “LOVE UNKNOWN” by J. Ireland

*words below*

My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they threw down palms and sweetest praises sang.  
Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang.  
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath, for blood and death they thirst and cry.

I sing my plain belief, one song my heart outpours;  
Never was pain nor grief, never was love like yours.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      *The Royal Banners Forward Go*                      Wilbur Held  
(incorporating “Vexilla Regis” Sarum plainsong and “Ah, Holy Jesus”)

*After the Postlude, you are invited to join us next door.  
This is a wonderful opportunity for us  
to connect with one another; coffee and refreshments served!*

**Liturgical Resources** Front Cover art “*Palm Sunday Was a Protest*” by  
Nicolette Faison -  
Sanctified Art series, *Tell Me Something Good* and portions of liturgy  
adapted from prayers  
by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.  
L.A. Unger setting of Rumi lyric, permission granted for worship use.  
Musical Response “*Come, O Lord...*” from *We Walk His Way* Songbook  
collection,  
Iona Community, Wild Goose Worship Group, 1996.

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**Land Acknowledgement: Our buildings stand on the ancestral land of the Munsee Lenape, Lenape Haki-nk (Lenni-Lenape). We acknowledge these Indigenous Peoples and decry the unjust taking of their land, the unfulfilled promises of U.S. treaties granting land access, and the still unresolved traumas of forced migration, genocide, and theft. We acknowledge and affirm Native American values and Indigenous cultures while holding space for atonement and healing.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you for visiting with us today! It is a pleasure to have you here. Feel free to get information about our church from the table by the church entrance. Please sign our guest book by the door, so that we can send you our monthly newsletter and other information (make sure to include an email address!).

Thanks to today's **Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers, Minister; Howard Kradjel, Liturgist;  
Susan F. Davies, Minister of Music;  
Amanda Spagnolia, Children's Minister; Michelle Ucciferri, Slide  
Changer;  
Stephen Polly, Sound Board Operator; Pru Frechette Greeter/Usher

**Pastor**.....Rev. Nada B. Sellers  
**Ministers**.....Members of the Church  
**Minister of Music**.....Susan F. Davies  
**Children’s Minister**.....Amanda Spagnolia  
**Office Manager**.....Lynn C. Hudzik

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30am – 2:30pm  
Pastor’s Office Hours: **Tuesday**, 10am – 3pm and **Thursday**, 10am – 1pm  
*and as arranged*

Phone (732) 946-8821; Email: [administrator@holmdelucc.org](mailto:administrator@holmdelucc.org)  
[www.holmdelucc.org](http://www.holmdelucc.org)



The Calico Cat Food Pantry helps support local families in need by supplementing their pantry shelves at home. Holmdel Community UCC is part of a cooperative of churches that support the Food Pantry. During the month of March, the Church School is collecting **canned vegetables**. Donations for Calico Cat will be offered up **April 26th** on Food Dedication Sunday.

Let’s not forget, **Easter is April 5<sup>th</sup>!**  
**Bring Your Own Blooms** to decorate our sanctuary, and bring some fresh-cut flowers to help decorate our beautiful cross.





# the good news is...

## inspiring us to act

### *Seeking the Way of Welcome*

**Beginning April 10, our HCUCC member, Howard Kradjel, will begin a seven-day bicycle pilgrimage along the Camino Sanabrés in Spain.**

Each day on the road he'll carry one simple practice of welcome:



Day 1 – Slow Down  
Make space to notice people and places.

Day 2 – Listen First  
Give others the gift of full attention.

Day 3 – Learn and Use Names  
Recognize the dignity of each person.

Day 4 – Accept Help  
Allow yourself to receive hospitality.

Day 5 – Practice Curiosity  
Meet difference with openness rather than assumption.

Day 6 – Honor Dignity  
See every person as worthy of respect.

Day 7 – Offer Gratitude  
Acknowledge the many gifts received along the way.



Follow along Howard's journey:  
<https://www.facebook.com/howardkradjel>

Join Howard in supporting the work of Mennonite Central Committee, who through partnerships with local communities, MCC helps provide food, shelter, education, and peacebuilding in places where welcome is urgently needed.  
<https://mcc.org/get-involved/giving/community-fundraisers/seeking-way-welcome>





The palm you receive today will be an eco-palm grown in Mexico and Guatemala. The palms are sustainably grown and are harvested with care so that the forest is not destroyed. The trees are left to provide shade which the palms need for growth. The money raised by the sale of the palms goes directly to the local villages where the palms are harvested & sorted for shipping



**Maunder Thursday**

Fellowship Hall

**6pm**

A simple meal followed by washing of feet & hands (optional participation)



**Good Friday**

Ecumenical Pilgrimage

**1:30pm**

HCUCC Parking Lot  
12:15pm  
(back by 6pm)



**Good Friday**

Sanctuary

**7:30pm**

Tenebrae Service with Choir & Readers



**Easter Sunday**

2 services

**7am Sunrise Service,**

by the Bell followed by delights in Fellowship Hall;

**10am Service,** Sanctuary

Please RSVP to

[administrator@holmdelucc.org](mailto:administrator@holmdelucc.org)

For Maunday Thursday

**P.S. – Look at the bottom to see who’s helping to sponsor this event. Recognize our logo?**

# Good Friday Pilgrimage to Delaney Hall Friday April 3

Join us on an ecumenical Good Friday journey from Montclair to Delaney Hall, the ICE Detention Center in Newark. Together we will pray with our feet, show solidarity with our immigrant neighbors, and bear witness to the cruelty towards and crucifixion of immigrants today.



Join us starting at 8am for the full 10 mile walk, or you may join in the first or last section, or the culminating prayer service at 3pm at Delaney Hall.

**8am Gather at First Congregational Church, Montclair (40 S. Fullerton)**

- Option: Join us for the first mile from FCC, Montclair to Christ Episcopal Church in Bloomfield/Glen Ridge

**1:30pm Gather at St. Stephan’s Grace Community – ELCA, Ironbound (7 Wilson Avenue Newark NJ)**

- Option: Join us for the 2 mile final leg of the journey from St. Stephan’s to Delaney Hall

**3pm Prayer Service at Delaney Hall , 451 Doremus Avenue, Newark**

RSVP and  
Accessibility  
info here:

SCAN ME



[bit.ly/DelaneyHallPilgrimage](http://bit.ly/DelaneyHallPilgrimage)

**Carpool? Meet in the HCUCC parking lot at 12:15pm to join for the last 2 miles of the pilgrimage. Contact Liz at [lizmueller11@gmail.com](mailto:lizmueller11@gmail.com).**



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Holmdel Community  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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St. Stephan's Grace Community – ELCA  
UNION CONGREGATION  
CHURCH  
United Church of Christ



Glen Ridge Congregational Church



Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation  
at Montclair





HOLMDEL'S AMERICA 250TH COMMITTEE

# SCAVENGER HUNT

APRIL 1-30, 2026

VISIT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT HOLMDEL

Get Ready to learn about  
Holmdel's history and its role  
in the Revolutionary War

Scan the QR  
code to join  
on the  
Goosechase  
App



- PRIZES FOR TOP TEAMS
- FUN CHALLENGES FOR ALL AGES
- FREE TO JOIN
- FORM A TEAM WITH YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY OR NEIGHBORS

Don't miss  
out on the  
adventure of  
the season  
— spots are  
limited!

**FREE!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE  
RECREATION OFFICE AT 732-946-2820 EXT. 1225



# PALM SUNDAY WITNESS

In Solidarity With our neighbors

March 29<sup>th</sup> 2026

2:00PM  
Nonviolence Training

3:00PM  
March to sites where people have been abducted by ICE

4:00PM  
Interfaith prayer rally at Franklin park



Begins at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church  
1746 S. Clinton Ave, Trenton NJ 08610



Voices for Justice and Friends Present

OUR NEIGHBORS  
BELONG  
TIME OF PRAYER  
AT  
TRINITY UMC

Join us as we  
pray and show  
our solidarity  
and support for  
our immigrant  
neighbors.

What to Expect:

*"The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." - Leviticus 19:34*

- A time of prayer in the Trinity UMC sanctuary
- Refreshments and fellowship to follow at First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown

Sunday, March 29 at 1:00PM

More Info: Chet Penza at [cliftonchet@yahoo.com](mailto:cliftonchet@yahoo.com)

## Open and Affirming since 2009

We rejoice in the good news that in Jesus Christ we find that we are all God's children through faith without distinction.

*“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26-28*

God calls all faithful people together to be a community of justice and peace. We lament that throughout history, and even in our own time, churches have silently allowed or actively called for hatred, hostility, and exclusion, and have failed to live up to God's call to inclusion and sanctuary.

Therefore we, the members of Holmdel Community United Church of Christ, covenant together to welcome and embrace all people into the life and ministry of our congregation regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, mental and physical condition, race, ethnicity, nationality, or economic status. With God's help, we promise to be a church of open arms and open doors, and to celebrate the diversity that reflects the glory of God's creation. We seek to live as a compassionate community united by faith and diverse in its expression.

## "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

213

Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15

1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,  
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;  
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.  
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,  
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,  
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.  
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection *Sunshine and Shadow*.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen  
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

# Travelling the road to freedom

Tune: TRAVELLING (JLB)

*Steadily*

1. Trav - elling the road to free - dom, who wants to  
 2. Trav - elling the road to free - dom, who wants to  
 3. Trav - elling the road to free - dom, who wants to  
 4. Trav - elling the road to free - dom, I am the

trav - el the road with me?  
 trav - el the road with me?  
 trav - el the road with me?  
 Way, I'll take you there.

Fêt - ed by noise and branch - es and ban - ners  
 Part - nered by staunch sup - port - ers who, come the  
 Tip - ping the scales of jus - tice, set - ting both  
 Choose to come on the jour - ney, or choose to

Oh

hang - ing from ev - ery tree; cheered on by  
 dark, will turn and flee; nour - ished by  
 minds and cap - tives free; suf - fering and  
 crit - i - cize and stare. Earth's mes - mer -

fren - zied peo - ple, puz - zled by what they  
 faith and pa - tience, nei - ther of which is  
 yet for - giv - ing, ev'n when my friends most  
 iz - ing e - vil on - ly a trav - eller

hear and see: trav - elling the road to free - dom,  
 plain to see: trav - elling the road to free - dom,  
 dis - a - gree: trav - elling the road to free - dom,  
 can re - pair. Trav - elling the road to free - dom,

who wants to trav - el the road with me?  
 who wants to trav - el the road with me?  
 who wants to trav - el the road with me?  
 I am the Way, I'll take you there.

The engagement of people in celebrating the season of Lent is often spoken of in terms of a journey. And this is perfectly appropriate, because the intention of Jesus was never to sit still like a guru in a retreat house and have people come and bow at his feet. Rather, he summoned people to follow behind him, and in Lent we are challenged to review how closely we are following, and how far we have moved in our discipleship.

This is a very simple AABA tune which can be sung in unison, but is more effective when harmonised. It may be used as a recessional during Lent and has evident associations with Holy Week.

Where a choir has insufficient altos for the two lines, *either* sing one alto line, beginning on the F in bars 1, 9, 25, moving to the Eb in the subsequent bars and singing the lower part thereafter; or have a light tenor sing the lower part throughout.

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