

The Service of Worship

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Chimes

Prelude

Lord of the Dance
Marsha Davis and Darla Korrey Gertner

arr. Joel Raney

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

Hosanna!
Children's Choir

Frank Hernandez

***Call to Worship .**

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

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

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

This is the day the Lord has made.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Let us rejoice and be glad.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#197

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (responsive)

We want to choose the right procession.

We want to walk with those who praise Jesus,

who follow Jesus,

who live in faith and humility.

We want to reject violence and resist oppression.

But, the display of power is alluring;

it makes us feel secure, it seems safe.

Or, we are intimidated and unsure
of how exactly we are meant to live out our faith
in today's world.

Or, we have lost faith, we have lost hope,
and we feel too helpless, too overwhelmed,
too cynical,
too afraid,
and so we stay inside, watching both processions,
joining neither.

Lord, forgive us.

Forgive us for being silent when we should shout.

Forgive us for shouting when we should listen.

Forgive us for getting caught up in current events.

**Forgive us for turning away, our eyes and our hearts,
from suffering and injustice.**

Forgive us, and free us.

Free us to find our voice.

Free us to choose your way.

Free us to seek justice and pursue peace.

**Free us to raise our palm branches,
and cry, Hosanna!**

We pray in the name of Christ, our King.

Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness** (responsive)

Jesus arrives in humility,
meets us in our fragility,
and overcomes sin and death
to give us freedom and hope.

Do not fear, says the Lord,
for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name;
you are mine.

God is doing a new thing;
now it springs forth!

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ:

You are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Response**

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. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination (responsive)

Eternal God,
whose word silences the shouts of the mighty
and gives voice to our deepest hope and praise.

Quiet within us every voice but your own.

Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ
that by the power of your Holy Spirit
we may receive grace to proclaim Christ's love
in lives given to your service.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

A Hosanna for Our Time
Chancel Choir
Lindsey Jackson, violin

Karen Marroli

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Unbound: Freed by Fragility

Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon

***Prayer of Response** (responsive)

We praise you, O God,
for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ,
who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph
and was proclaimed Messiah and king
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

**Let these branches be signs of his victory,
and grant that we who carry them
may follow him in the way of the cross,
that, dying and rising with him,
we may enter into your kingdom;**

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings – A Moment for Grateful Reflection

Lord of the Dance

arr. Joel Raney

Marsha Davis and Darla Korrey Gertner

*The Doxology

**Praise God, from 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 (responsive)

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who came in your name
and turned the lonely way of rejection and death
into triumph.

**Receive and bless the gifts we offer
to support and spread your reign on earth.**

Grant us the steadfast faith
to enter the gates of righteousness,
that we may receive grace to become worthy citizens
of your holy realm.

Amen.

*Sending Hymn

Ride On! Ride on in Majesty! (vv. 1 & 4)

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*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Hosanna

Carl Tuttle

Chancel Choir and Congregation

***Chimes**

Postlude

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Marsha Davis

Jim Lucas

**Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

Worship Notes – Sources Used in Today’s Liturgy

Prayer for Illumination; Prayer of Response: adapted from *Book of Common Worship*.

Prayer of Dedication: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers © 2002 Augsburg Fortress

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Prayer Concerns March 29, 2026

Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Alliance, First Presbyterian Church
Those with Special Needs or Concerns

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)	Delinda Korrey McDowell
David Balabanis Family	Jim Leh
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)	Rose Neblett
Jackie Barton	Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)	Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)	Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
Clark Bernhardt	David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Norm Blackburn	Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
Brenda Boeff	Cadie, Hailey, and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Randy Brigham	Leslie Rudolph (sister of Mike Tyson)
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Rounph)	Betty Scharf
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)	Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
Cooperating Ministry	John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)	Darrell Smith and family
Dylan Cranwell — Peace Corps	Montelle Smith
Jeanne Crouch & Family	Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Dave & Marsha Davis	Roseanne Thompson (friend of Nebletts)
Sarah Davis	Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)	Amy & Byron Urich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)	Under the Umbrella
Family Resource Center	Jeff Underhill
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)	Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)	Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)	Jeff Weskamp
Highlands Camp	Family and friends of Jean Williamson
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)	Michelle Wilson (friend of David Chrisp)
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)	
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)	

Prayer List Updates:

Do you have an update on anyone listed on our church prayer list? We'd love to hear the good news of recovery, healing, and answered prayer. If you have a joy to report, let us know!

Announcements—March 29, 2026

We invite you to join us in our work and worship at First Presbyterian Church.

At a Glance

March 29	10:30	Worship Service (Palm Sunday)
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee
April 1	3:00	Scholarship Meeting
	5:30	Bells
	6:30	Chancel Choir
April 2	6:00	Seder Supper
April 3		Church Office Closed (Good Friday)
	12:05	First Friday Concert
April 5	9:30	Easter Brunch/Easter Egg Hunt
	10:30	Worship Service with Communion

Church Office hours: Mon/Wed/Fri: 9:00 am—Noon; and Tues/Thurs: 1:00-4:00 pm

Food Pantry Items: Throughout the month of April we are collecting... **Variety of Seasonings & Spices and Canned Noodles.** You may bring your donations to the church and put them under the table outside the church office, or in the box in the elevator vestibule.

Tithes & Offerings: Thank you... your support makes mission & ministry possible.
Donate online at tinyurl.com/FPCPayPal or tinyurl.com/FPCSterlingGive



First Presbyterian Church

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Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon
Music Coordinator/Organist	Elsie Fetzer
Choir Director	Darla Korrey Gertner
Bell Choir Director	Lindsey Jackson
Office Administrator	Rashell Fritzler
Bookkeeper	Karlee Manuello
Property Manager	Janet Kloberdanz

Serving Today

Liturgists	Michelle D. Witherspoon, preacher Jill Vollmer, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible Bearer	Mike & Pam Werner
Ushers	Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks, Liz Chaney
AV	Dean Boeff (Sound), Pam Trimble (Slides)
Count Offering	David Chrisp
Fellowship Coffee	Women's Bible Study
Bulletin Delivery	Sue Weingardt