



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

March 29th, 2026 – Palm Sunday

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Carolyn Tanner
Greeters: Corella Courtney & Carolyn McAllister

Email: centralsecretary@bellaliant.com
VU: Voices United (red book)

Website: www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca
MV: More Voices (spiral-bound book)

We welcome and celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Here, people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter, prayer and music.

We invite you to pick up a palm branch from the back of the sanctuary and wave it today whenever something in the service resonates with you, or whenever you hear, speak or sing “Hosanna”

Prelude

Gathering Music: “*When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming*” MV #128
Vs. 1, 2, 4, 8; choir leading (*One*) with congregation responding (*All*)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Into the belly of the beast, on the back of a beast of burden...

Our journey continues,

following the One who comes in the name of Resistance.

From empty wilderness to occupied city streets...

Our journey continues,

following the One who comes in the name of Liberation.

Palm branches waving, chants of “Hosanna” on our lips,

our journey continues,

following the One who comes in the name of Solidarity.

Longing for peace, joining the throng,

our journey continues,

following the One who comes to make all things new.

Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Let us worship.

Hymn: *“And On This Path”*

MV #8

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

**Sometimes, peace looks like stillness and quiet.
Sometimes, peace looks like crowds and commotion.
Journeying Jesus, whose way of peace takes many forms,
be with us today as we join your peaceful, Palm Sunday protest
As we wave our branches and shout our Hosannas,
give us the strength to join the crowds of today,
who are still protesting injustice, inequity, empire and greed.
As we walk with you into this hard, but holy week,
help us to walk with all those who have difficult journeys ahead of
them, that we might companion them,
just as we companion you.
As we wonder whether we have what it takes to travel your way of
justice and love for all people, standing up to forces that oppress and
harm, remind us that we do not travel alone,
that our voice matters, and that we can make a difference.
Journeying Jesus, whose way of peace takes many forms,
turn us onto your path of peace today, that with courage,
we might walk it together.**

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer
Words of Assurance

A Minute for Mission and Service



Hymn:

“Hosanna”



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the King of



est! est! Lord, we lift up your name__
kings! kings!



with hearts full of praise, be ex - al - ted, O__



Lord my God! Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Scripture Reading:

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-10

Hymn:

“Hosanna” (see above)

Sermon

Hymn: *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”* (Tune: Ellacombe VU #123)

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna!
the crowd with branches came,
and welcomed One whose presence
set common hearts aflame;
for Christ came riding humbly,
with love instead of might,
to bear a deeper vision
of justice, peace, and light.

2. Hosanna, loud hosanna!
He came without display,
to walk among the hurting
and meet us on the way;
He stood with those forgotten,
with those the world denied,
and called the lost and weary
to stand in hope and pride.

3. Hosanna, loud hosanna!
may we still hear that call
to walk the road of kindness,
to love and welcome all;
and in the way of Jesus,
with open heart and hand,
make room for truth and mercy
to live across the land.

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *"From You I Receive"*

Joseph and Nathan Segel

From you I re-ceive, to you I give, to -
geth-er we share, and from this we live.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Dedication of Our Gifts:

God of every journey,
Let the gifts we offer today
become stepping stones of peace and justice.
Let them smooth the path ahead
for those whose way is rough.
Let them forge a trail of hope
through the wilderness of despair and oppression.
Let them be a waymarker of love and kindness,
for all who feel lost,
and let them be the welcome rest
at the end of every hard trek.
God of every journey, bless our gifts,
as we continue to walk in your Way.
Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer:

I Come To You

Words: Hannah Brown (2023)

Music: American Folk Song

arr. Tony Alonso (2024)



I come to you, the lost and scat-tered; I come to
I come to you, the dis - re - gard - ed; I come to
I come to you, the false and fail - ing; I come to



you, the snug and strong; I come to you, the souls un-
you, the scarred and shamed; I come to you, the bro - ken
you, the wild and worn; I come to you, the wronged and



gath-ered; now come to me, learn you be - long.
heart - ed; now come to me, and be re claimed.
rail - ing; now come to me, and be - re - born.



Leave all you've done, I am for - giv-ing; leave all you've



known to come and see; leave all you've owned, you're just be-



gin-ning; leave all you've been and fol-low me.

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer

Choir Anthem: *“I Give To You A New Commandment”*

Words, from John 13: 34–35, and Liber Usualis
Music, Peter Nardone (b. 1965)

I give to you a new commandment,
a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another, love one another,
as I have loved you, as I have loved you.

Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where charity is true, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in him.
Let us fear and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.

I give to you a new commandment,
a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another, love one another,
as I have loved you, as I have loved you. Amen.

Commissioning and Benediction

Closing Hymn: *“Ride On, Ride On In Majesty” (see over)*

Postlude

*Some of our prayers today have been inspired by materials written by Marcia
McFee or adapted for our use from resources first written by Sharon R.
Fennema. Used with gratitude and permission.*

Ride On! Ride On In Majesty

Author: Henry Hart Milman (1827)

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW



Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty!



Hark! all the tribes ho - san - na cry;
In low - ly pomp ride on to die;
The an - gel ar - mies of the sky
Thy last and fierc - est strife is nigh;
In low - ly pomp ride on to die;



thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his road with
O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be - gin o'er
look down with sad and won - dering eyes to
the Fa - ther on his sap - phire throne ex -
bow thy meek head to mor - tal pain, then



palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
pects his own a - noint - ed Son.
take, O God, thy power and reign.