

The United Church of Big Rapids  
April 13, 2025  
Palm Sunday

❖ *You are invited to stand*



Choral Introit

Welcome

Announcements

Prelude

*The Holy City, by Stephen Adams*

❖ **Call to Worship**

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good.

**People: God's steadfast love endures forever!**

Leader: This is the day that God has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

**People: God has given us light.**

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good.

**People: God's steadfast love endures forever!**

❖ **Unison Invocation**

**This is the day that you have made, life-giving God. Joining with angels and with the chorus that is rising throughout all the earth, we will rejoice and be glad this day. You take our endings, and you make your new beginnings. You surprise and astound us in places where we expected that you were absent. You challenge us to reconsider what is possible.**

**Living Lord, Savior Christ, we praise you, for you are raised by the power of God and there is a new creation, and, by your grace, we are in it! Amen**

# Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

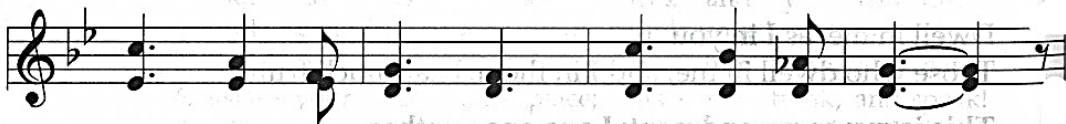
Unison (Optional S.A.)



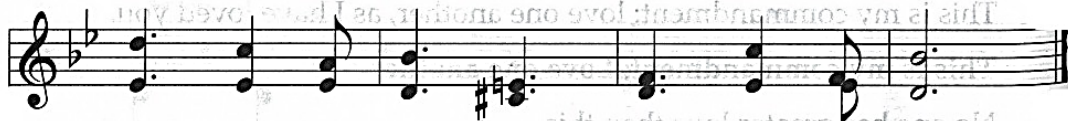
1. Tell me the sto-ries of Je - sus I love to hear;  
 2. First let me hear how the chil - dren stood round his knee,  
 3. In - to the cit - y I'd fol - low the chil-dren's band,



things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
 and I shall fan - cy his bless - ing rest - ing on me;  
 wav - ing a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;



scenes by the way - side, tales of the sea,  
 words full of kind - ness, deeds full of grace,  
 one of his her - als, yes, I would sing



sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me.  
 all in the love - light of Je - sus' face.  
 loud - est ho - san - nas, "Je - sus is King!"

## Scripture Lesson

Old Testament Lesson

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

<sup>1</sup> I thank you, YHWH for your goodness!  
 Your love is everlasting!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say it:  
 "Your love is everlasting!"

<sup>19</sup> Open the gates of justice for me,  
 let me come in and thank you, YHWH!

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of YHWH,  
 and only the upright can enter!

<sup>21</sup> Thank you for hearing me,

for saving me.

<sup>22</sup> It was the stone which the builders rejected  
that became the keystone;

<sup>23</sup> this is YHWH's doing,  
and it is wonderful to see.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day YHWH has made –  
let us celebrate with joy!

<sup>25</sup> Please, YHWH, please save us!  
Please, YHWH, give us prosperity now!

<sup>26</sup> Blessings on the one who comes in the Name of YHWH!  
We bless you from YHWH Temple!

<sup>27</sup> YHWH is God  
and God has enlightened us.  
Join the festal procession!  
With palm fronds in hand,  
go up to the horns of the altar!

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I thank you;  
You are my God, and I exalt you.  
Thank you for hearing me,  
for saving me.

<sup>29</sup> Thank you, YHWH, for your goodness!  
Your love is everlasting!

### *Gospel Reading*

*Luke 19:28-40*

Having said this, Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> Approaching Bethpage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions: <sup>30</sup> "Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back. <sup>31</sup> If anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it.'"

<sup>32</sup> They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said. <sup>33</sup> As they untied the colt, its owners said to them "Why are you doing that?"

<sup>34</sup> The explained that the Rabbi needed it. <sup>35</sup> Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount. <sup>36</sup> People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. <sup>37</sup> As they reached the descent from the mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying,

38 "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!"

Leader: This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Chancel Choir Anthem

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, by Berta Poorman & Sonja Poorman*

## Order for Baptism

### *Invitation*

### *Welcome*

Leader: ... Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

**People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."**

### *Address*

Leader: ... "yet you have come to me!"

**People: Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.**

Leader: ... coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

**People: Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."**

Leader: ... into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

### *Questions of the Candidates*

Leader: ... Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support, and care.**

### *Affirmation of Faith*

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

*Prayer for Baptism*

Leader: Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Act of Baptism*

*Act of Praise*

Leader: ...this new member of the body of Christ.

**People: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

**Reception of New Members**

*Questions for the Candidates*

Pastor: Let us, the members of The United Church express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

*Greeting of Christian Love*

**Sermon**

*A Different Kind of Parade - Rev. Devon Herrell*

**Sharing of our Joys & Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father/Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom/kin\_dom 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom/kin\_dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Choral Amen**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

*Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious!, by Tom Birchwood*

## ❖ Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

## ❖ Prayer of Dedication

**Triumphant God, as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where He came not in power, but in humility and peace. May our offerings today reflect the same willingness to serve, as we seek to share the love and hope of Christ with the world. Amen.**

## Hymn #89

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, tune: Ellacombe*

## Benediction

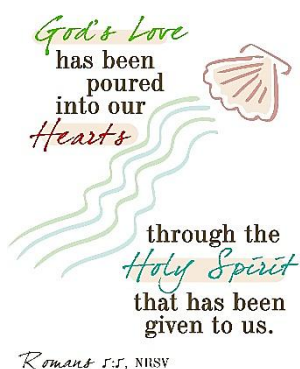
## Choral Benediction

## Postlude

*Hallelujah! Christ Arose!, by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.*



**Welcome to our visitors today!** We're glad you chose to worship with us! Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet with your name and email/address in the pew in front of you. We like to keep up with those that visit us.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Give to the Pantry!** Project Starburst continues to have a high demand for food. The Mission Commission's "Give to the Pantry" program has identified baking mixes (cookies, muffins, cakes) as the "food of the month" for April. With the demand, any non-perishable food item is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued, generous support.

**Orders for Easter lilies and spring flowers** will be taken today during Fellowship time in the Parlor. The plants will decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Plants will be \$10 each. You may also contact the office to order yours. You may choose to take your plant(s) home or deliver them to a home-bound friend.

**It's Celebration time!** We're excited to share the baptism of Wren Helsel as well as welcome our new members: Paul Challender, Mary Olszewski, Todd Elkins, John Clayton, and Liza Juliano, after worship today. You are invited to join the celebration in the Parlor after worship.

**Special Offering** – Today, we will be collecting donations for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. We divide the offering in half and send it to each of our denominations. The UCC's portion will support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Love of Neighbor. Each gift for PC-USA supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Your donation will assist many people around the world.

**Holy Week Services** – The United Church will be joining with First United Methodist Church, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, and Immanuel Lutheran in the observation of Holy Week. The Maundy Thursday service will be at First United Methodist (304 Elm St.) beginning at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner to follow. The Good Friday service will begin at noon on Friday at Immanuel Lutheran Church (726 Fuller). There will be a Community Choir singing On Good Friday. If you would like to participate, be at Immanuel at 11:00 am for rehearsal. Easter Sunday will be here at United at our 9:30 am worship time.

**Meijer "Simply Give"** – The Meijer Simply Give program has selected Project Starburst as the recipient of funds collected from now through June 28. During this time, donations are matched by Meijer one to one. A double match day is scheduled for June 14. You may purchase Simply Give cards at the local Meijer store, or find them in the narthex after March 30. You may also give your donation directly to Diane Long at Project Starburst to turn in on the double match day.

**Contacting the church office** - You may contact the office at any time via email, [secretary@unitedchurchbr.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchbr.org) or you can call **231-527-9567** between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday with questions or concerns. This phone number also accepts messages outside of regular business hours. You can also mail the office at 120 S. State Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307. You can also find information about our church on our website: [www.unitedchurchbr.org](http://www.unitedchurchbr.org) or by visiting our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/UnitedBigRapids](http://www.facebook.com/UnitedBigRapids).

**Pastor Devon's contact information** – If you need to contact Pastor Devon, you may contact her by phone for pastoral care needs at 231-629-2302. You may also reach out via email: [devonherrell@gmail.com](mailto:devonherrell@gmail.com). Pastor Devon does have another full-time job, so in-person meeting time is limited. She is generally in the office on Thursdays from 9:00 am – 11:45 am. You may contact the church office to set up an appointment.

**Financial Information** – The Governing Board and Treasurer are sharing this data monthly with you. If you have questions, contact Amy Buse, Treasurer, or a member of the Governing Board.

	Expenditures	Income
March 2025	\$ 22,438.35	\$ 35,630.37
Year-to-Date (Jan-Mar 2025)	\$ 63,152.00 *	\$ 85,664.31

\*The March income includes a \$23,000 donation from an estate.

**The choir thought you would like to read the words to their anthem today:**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Words and music by: Berta and Sonja Poorman

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Hosanna, hosanna! Joyfully we sing.  
Hosanna, hosanna! Come to see the King.  
O may we ever praise  
with heart and life and voice.  
Hosanna, hosanna! We will all rejoice.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, o come and greet your holy King.  
And let us be in one accord;  
Rejoice and sing, and praise the Lord.

"Hosanna in the highest" that ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav'n our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

Jerusalem, come to see your King!







## The United Church of Big Rapids

Our vision is to honor all children of God through following the way of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to celebrate all creation as an active presence in our community, engaging in transformational worship and nurturing families and relationships, as we cultivate Jesus' justice and love.



The United Church of Big Rapids is a union of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. It is a congregation that worships together, seeks opportunities to serve others, encourages one another to grow in intellect and spirit, strives for social justice, and fully embraces Jesus' call to love one another as God loves us.



Because we believe God's whole creation is good, blessed, and sacred, we are an open and affirming community of faith. We celebrate persons of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities, and economic circumstances.

As valued members of this congregation all persons are invited to equally participate in the full life of the church - worship, sacraments, ministry, fellowship, leadership, responsibilities, sorrows, blessings, and the continued presence of Jesus Christ.



Ministers .....	The Body of Christ
Worship Lead.....	Rev. Devon Herrell
Administrative Assistant .....	Julie Cole
Organist .....	Paul Heidemann
Chancel Choir Director .....	Linda Rinehart
Chancel Choir Assistant Director.....	Katie McInnis
Bell Choir Director.....	Judy Tressler
Custodian .....	Larry Carnes
Nursery Attendant .....	Michell Kamptner
Moderator.....	Marshall Henry
Sanctuary Sound .....	Wayne McKay
Sound Board .....	Trish McHugh
Liturgist .....	Susan H. Grant
Ushers.....	Jane Grzybowski, Don Olree, Don Stephen
Livestream Team.....	Amy Buse, Adam Jewell, Aleah Ritzema, Wayne McKay
Technical Advisors .....	Amy Buse & Paul Heidemann

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