

Dorchester United Church
Palm Sunday, Sunday March 29, 2026
Worship Leader: Jack Wharram

Prelude: "Lift High the Cross" Sydney N. Nicholson Arr. Cindy Berry

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that the land on which we are gather is traditional territory of our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters. With guidance from our Creator, we will work together for the betterment of this great nation.

Lenten Candle Liturgy:

One: Hosanna!

All: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: The One we have long awaited, the Messiah, has come.

All: Hosanna!

One: Riding into Jerusalem, not on a warhorse, but on a young donkey,

All: Hosanna!

One: The Prince of Peace has come, the one who heals our wounds.

All: Hosanna!

One: Everything that was foretold, Christ has fulfilled. This is Jesus

All: Whose name is glorified

One: This is Jesus, Hosanna!

All: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Call to Worship

One: Long ago, in the dusty streets of Jerusalem, there was an impromptu parade.

All: The people waved palms and shouted praises of great joy.

One: Today we come to reflect on that parade and the events that followed.

All: We come to shout “Hosanna”.

One: Is that all?

All: No ... We come to feel the joy of the people and the passion of Christ.

One: Come let us enter the gates with thanksgiving and approach the foot of the cross with our hearts open to receive the love of our Lord and King.

Hymn: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

VU 123

Words: Jeanette Threlfall, 1873.

Music: traditional 18th C German tune,
adapted by Xavier Ludwig Hartig, 1868.

Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Hosanna, loud hosanna the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm-branch waving, and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
content that little children should on his bidding wait.

Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence eternally rejoice!

Ω

Prayer of Approach: (In Unison)

Dear God, we thank you for the opportunity to gather here this morning to praise Your Holy Name. We ask that in our listening, we may receive your whispers to our hearts, encouraging us to live for one another. In our witnessing, may your good news be proclaimed. In our greeting, may we recognize you in the faces of those greeting us. In our praying, may we feel the touch of your grace. In our singing this morning, may your harmony ring out with joy.

Amen

Anthem: “Song of the Palm” Traditional French Carol. Text by Jon Paige, Arr. By Jon Paige

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Just Wondering: *(A time for all of God's children.)*

Hymn: He Came Riding on a Donkey

VU 124

Words & Music: Gordon Light, 1986; © 1986 Common Cup Co.

Music arrangement © Nan Thompson, 1995. OneLicense.net A620168

He came riding on a donkey, he came riding into town;
slow and easy kind of lowly he came riding with the dawn.
His disciples walked beside him, staying close, a little shy;
not too sure where he would guide them, on to live or on to die.
But all the morning sang his praises; waking birds and dancing wind;
here he is, the Son of David; riding on to take his throne.

Then the children gathered, singing shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;
in the streets their song was ringing, "Hosannas" filled the morning air.
Timid adults strained to see him, caught the Spirit, joined the song;
spread their cloaks along before him, branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises; waking streets and dancing crowd;

here he is, the Son of David; our Messiah, Son of God.

In our fasting, and our feasting, called to follow in his way;
 called to walk his road to Easter, called to live his cross today.
 Hosanna to the Son of David, hosanna in the heavens above;
 blessed is he who comes to save us, blessed is he who brings his love.
 Let us join to sing his praises; open hearts and souls to God;
 he is with us, Son of David; God's Messiah, Christ the Lord. Ω

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118: 1-4, 19-29 – Part 1 & 3 VU 837

Let Israel now say:

'God's love endures for ever.'

Let the house of Aaron say:

'God's love endures for ever.'

Let those who fear God say:

'God's love endures for ever.'

Open to me the gates of the temple,
 that I may enter and give thanks to God.

**This is the gate of God;
 through it the righteous shall enter.**

I thank you for you have answered me; you have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
 has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

**This is the day that God has made,
 let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Save us, O God, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

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

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;

with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will extol you.

Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11 NIV

May God grant us understanding of these words.

Thanks be to God**Sermon: "Peer Pressure"****Hymn: In the Garden**

I come to the garden alone
 While the dew is still on the roses
 And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
 The Son of God discloses

Refrain:

And He walks with me
 And He talks with me
 And He tells me I am His own
 And the joy we share as we tarry there
 None other has ever known

He speaks and the sound of His voice
 Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
 And the melody that He gave to me
 Within my heart is ringing

Refrain:

I'd stay in the garden with Him
 'Tho the night around me be falling
 But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
 His voice to me is calling

Refrain:

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We humbly gather here today knowing that there would have been nothing we could have done to change that final journey into Jerusalem. But we also gather here knowing that in some small way we can help to change things in our challenging and challenged world today. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn: "What Can I Do?"

MV # 191

Words and music:

Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy;

arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005

Arrangement copyright © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore.

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a pray.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)

Like palms of rejoicing,

Like cloaks on the ground,

We bring these gifts and offer them here.

We ask O God, that the giving of these gifts be as much of a blessing to us as to those who will be blessed to receive them.

Amen

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

..... May these blessings for which we ask, lead us in Christ's sacrificial and self-giving way. This we ask in the name of Emmanuel, God with Us. He, who taught us to pray as one saying;

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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Called by Earth and Sky

M V #135

Words and music: copyright © 2005 Pat Mayberry. www.patmayberry.com.
 Arrangement copyright © 2005
 by Margaret Stubington.

Precious these waters,
 endless seas,
 deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
 rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Refrain:

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
 Breath of the Spirit,
 blow through this place,
 our gathering and our grace.

Refrain:

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Precious these mountains,
 ancient sands; vast fragile land.
 Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
 Creation's faithful song.

Refrain:

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
 Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
 our faith and justice one.

Refrain:

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure
 of life sanctified, called by earth and sky. Ω

Benediction:

Sung Response: The Trees of the Field

Music by Stuart Dauermann
 Words by Steffi Geiser Rubin

**You shall go out with joy And be led forth with peace
 The mountains and the hills Will break forth before you
 There'll be shouts of joy And all the trees of the field Will clap, will clap their hands**

**And all the trees of the field Will clap their hands
 The trees of the field Will clap their hands
 The trees of the field Will clap their hands
 While you go out with joy
 Ω**

Postlude: "All Glory Laud and Honour" Melchoir Techner. Arr. Cindy Berry. Melch

Announcements:

Creation Connection How will we repent and change our ways as stewards of creation when caring for refugees who need safe harbour from the climate crisis runs up against the temptation to worship the false idol of "ownership of land"? (Gathering, Lent/Easter 2026, page 10, Used with permission.)

Living with respect in Creation for Lent? Consider participating in these Canadian initiatives.

<https://www.cpj.ca/fortheearth>

<https://easternsynod.org/call-for-climate-campaign-resources/>

<https://www.shiftaction.ca/>

Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator cont'd.

Videos will be posted on the United Church of Canada's YouTube channel
at <https://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada>

Lenten Study: As we journey toward Lent, the new Lenten devotional *Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living* invites you to a spiritual practice of reflecting on food and hunger. What do you hunger for? How do you feed others? What feeds your soul?

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, March 29,

Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms – Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11

Passion – Isaiah 50: 4-9a;

Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14-27:66 OR Matthew 27:11-54

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Exodus 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19;

1 Corinthians 11:23-26;

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 3

Isaiah 52: 13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10: 16-25 OR

Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5:7-9;

John 18: 1-19:42

Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday

(First of the season of Easter)

Acts 10: 34-43 OR Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24;

Colossians 3: 1-4

OR Acts 10: 34-43;

John 20: 1-18

OR Matthew 28: 1-10



Annual
HAM & OYSTER SUPPER
— Dorchester United Church —

Friday, April 24, 2026 • 6:00 p.m.
(Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
4100 Catherine St., Dorchester

Admission:

- Adults: \$25
- Children 6-12: \$10
- 5 & Under: Free

Delicious Menu:

- Oyster Soup
- Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
- Baked Beans
- Cabbage Salad
- Rolls & Dessert



Take Out Available!

Call for Tickets: 519-461-1136 or 519-268-3360