

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Palm Sunday *March 29, 2026*

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) - [https://tinyur](https://tinyur.com)

Palm Sunday ~ March 29, 2026

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, *Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Rest ~ by Tiffany Hobson

As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT

In Thee is Gladness ~ [UMH #169]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The way has been prepared.

P: **For the crowds it is the way of celebration.**

L: For Jesus it is the way of completion

P: **Amid shouts and waving palm branches, he comes into the Holy City.**

L: Open your hearts this day to receive the Savior.

P: **We open wide our hearts and spirits to receive Jesus the Christ. AMEN**



*HYMN

King of Kings

TFWS #2075

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

L: There is a murmur of excitement in our hearts today, O God.

P: **We are entering Holy Week, and our thoughts are upon the conquering Savior.**

L: We like the pageantry of Palm Sunday, and the idea of welcoming Christ into the life of our community.

P: **When we sing and shout "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

L: But we know that darker, more somber days lie ahead of us, and the shadowy hours of Good Friday.

P: **All life is that way, dear God—bright days and hard days.**

L: Show us how to remain steady and faithful through all of them, and to praise you with a quiet, unwavering will to follow Jesus.

P: **Let us follow him through this week, with all its reminders of betrayed love and crucifixion that we may worship you in gladness on Easter Day.**

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L: Sovereign Jesus, after the excitement of the parade has passed, grant us pause to meditate on the majesty of your gentleness and the truth of what you teach and what you are, for we would become more like you as bearers of the name Christian. **AMEN**

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

CHOIR ANTHEM

Ride on for Palm Sunday ~ Written by Chuck Knauf

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 **UMH #839**

READERS THEATER: Fifth Sunday in Lent

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT THE CROSS: Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

A meditation by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia based on Matthew 21:1-11

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 21:1-11

THE MESSAGE

Seven Days to Live

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

UMH #277

THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire ~ by George Careless,
arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen*

*THE DOXOLOGY Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow **UMH #95**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Matthew 21:1-11)

All: Humble Savior, you ride into our lives not with force, but with invitation — calling us to follow, to risk, and to trust. As we bring these gifts, we confess we don't always understand where the road leads. But like those who laid down cloaks and waved palms, we offer what we have with hope in our hearts and praise on our lips.

Use these offerings to proclaim your kingdom — where love confronts fear, and peace dares to speak in the shadow of power. Save us, Lord. Use us. **AMEN**

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

UMH #280

Please come forward during the hymn
to receive palm leaves



***THE BENEDICTION**

All: Lord, just as we have entered Jerusalem with you, be with us in all the Jerusalems we will be facing. Guide our steps.

Encourage our hearts. Give us abundant faith to follow you.

L: Beloved, as we move into the week ahead, may God bless you with the insight to know the way of Jesus, the courage to hold firm to the way of Jesus when the crowds try to lead you astray, and the strength to follow the way of Jesus – the way of God’s steadfast love that never fails. AMEN

Written in part by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

POSTLUDE

Gratitude ~ by Connie Stauffer

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Palm Sunday Rev. Thom M. Shuman © 2011		
<p>Our hearts are wounded by the nails we carry in them, yet you would heal us with your love.</p> <p>We are worn to the quick by the struggles of our lives, yet you carry us in your heart.</p> <p>Our souls are emptied by the loneliness of our lives, yet you would fill us with sisters and brothers.</p> <p>Blessed are you, who comes to live with us!</p>	<p>You could have remained in Nazareth, caring for your family, but you journeyed through our lives to bring us home.</p> <p>You could have stayed at home in glory, but you vacated God's heart, to serve us with grace.</p> <p>You could have come clutching unbearable power, but you filled your pockets with humility's wealth to share it with us.</p> <p>Blessed are you, who comes to save us!</p>	<p>When we would puff up with pride, deflate us with your gentleness.</p> <p>When we would go home, after the parade has ended, walk us to the foot of the cross.</p> <p>When we would put our "Hosannas" away for another year, teach us to sing our gratitude for new life.</p> <p>Blessed are you, who comes to help us.</p>

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from MinistryMatters.com ©2011, 2017, 2020 & 2026

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES



+ The Good Cup: Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.



+ Coffee & Jesus: will continue after Easter with a study based on *The Chosen*. Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Watch for details.

- **March Mission:** Bread for the Neighborhood Center.
- **Palm Sunday:** Today, March 29th.
- **SPPRC Meeting:** Today, March 29th, following worship.
- **Maundy Thursday Service:** April 2nd, 7pm. Worship and Silent Communion.
- **Good Friday:** April 3rd, Self Directed Meditation and Reflection; the church will be open, and Pastor Heidi will be available 12pm - 3pm..
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5th.
- **Acapella North Chorus Rehearsal:** Tuesday, April 7th, 5-9pm, Fellowship Hall.
- **Potsdam Holiday Fund Meeting:** Tuesday April 7th, 5-7pm, carpeted room downstairs.
- **Festival of Sacred Music and Text:** Sunday, April 19th, 3pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- **The Gathering Plate - Pot Luck:** April 26th following our worship service.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner		Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
Counters		Readers	
March 29:	Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll	March 29:	Collen Gondo, Anthony Steen
Greeters/Ushers		Fellowship Time Hosts	
March 29:	Nancy Matthews	April 5:	Robin Howard & Judy Haer
		May 3:	Carol Willmert