



whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,  
God will never stop loving you.  
Jesus will never stop marching for you.  
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.

**We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.  
What good, good news. Amen!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*All Glory Laud and Honor*

CH 192

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Hebrew Bible**

*Psalms 118:1-2,19-29*

Janna Pederson

Janna Pederson

*I thank you, Adonai, for your goodness!  
Your love is everlasting!  
Let [your people] say it: "Your love is everlasting!"...  
Open the gates of justice for me,  
let me come in and thank you, Lord!  
This is your gate, and only the just can enter!  
Thank you for hearing me, for saving me.  
it was the stone which the builders rejected  
that became the keystone;  
this is your doing, and it is wonderful to see.  
This is the day you have made—let us celebrate with joy!  
Please, Adonai, please save us!  
Please, Lord, give us abundance now!  
Blessings on the one who comes in your name!  
We bless you from your temple!  
You are God and you have enlightened us.  
Let us join the festal procession!  
With palm fronds in hand, go up to the horns of the altar!  
You are my God, and I thank you;  
You are my God, and I exalt you.  
Thank you for hearing me, for saving me.  
Thank you, Adonai, for your goodness!  
Your love is everlasting! Amen*

**\*Song of Praise**

*Glory to God*

Paul Vasile



Glo - ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has  
World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out  
par - doned me, and to the Spir - it whose love has set me free! As it  
end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men.  
was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

## Pastoral Meditation

"Even Though the Future be Dim"

Rev. Don Erickson

### Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

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Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

## Prayers of the People & the Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father/Mother/Creator,**  
**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/sins/trespasses,**  
**as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.**  
**And help us yield not to/Lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Generosity

### Offertory

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
offered by Erik Haeger & Laurel Thurman

J.S. Bach

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be low; Praise  
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

### \*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

**O Humble One, our Refuge, 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, Jesus. Use us. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*What Wondrous Love is This*

CH 200

### \*Poetry Prayer

*For the Sake of Tiny Resurrections*

Rev. Sarah Speed  
read by Julie Menard

*We took the kids to the beach,  
a herd of children lathered in sunscreen.  
We spent most of the day building sandcastles,  
swimming in the shallows,  
wiping sand off their eyelashes and noses.  
Things changed  
when a small fish washed up on shore.  
The children saw it first—  
a little body gasping to survive.  
They cried out—  
Quick! We have to save it!  
We grabbed our buckets.  
We sprinted to the waterline.  
We scooped up the dying fish  
and returned it to the waves.  
The kids sagged with relief as the fish jolted to life,  
a tiny resurrection in front of our very eyes.  
Full of pride, I said to them— you did something good.  
Today, you saved a life.  
A seven-year-old with sun-kissed cheeks  
took the bucket from my hands and said,  
I'd like to save some more.  
He spent the afternoon patrolling the waves,  
hoping to dole out mercy to any shore-washed fish.  
He carried his bucket around all day, because  
love inspires love.  
Love will make you want to  
patrol the shoreline,  
sing Hosanna,*

witness a resurrection,  
save some more—  
one bucket of water at a time.

### \*Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

### Postlude

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**PLEASE REMAIN IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING WORSHIP THIS MORNING FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. We will be hearing and acting upon the building painting recommendations from the AdMinistry team.**

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Our greeters this morning are Ava Little and Julie Menard.

Our cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Coffee hour is hosted by Kathy Healy and Robert Johnson.

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*Portions of this morning's liturgy were written by the Rev. Sarah A. Speed for the Lent series "Tell me something good... Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent." Permission for use has been granted by A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*

### THIS WEEK'S THEME:

 the good news is...  
inspiring us to act



This Lent and Easter season we will once again use the creative ministry resources from A Sanctified Art LLC. The overarching theme for Lent 2026 is "Tell me something good... Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent."

We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Palm Sunday** - March 29, 10:15 a.m.  
We Commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

**Maundy Thursday** - April 2, 6:30 p.m.  
Contemplative Service with Communion

**Good Friday** - April 3, 6:30 p.m.  
Were You There?: A Service of Poetry and Song

**Easter Sunday** - April 5  
We Celebrate the Resurrection  
6:26 a.m. Sunrise Service at First Baptist Church, Mansfield  
(corner of Route 195 and Spring Hill Rd)  
10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle at First Church



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### THE WEEK AHEAD...

Monday, March 30	6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal
Wednesday, April 1	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group
Thursday, April 2	9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday, April 3	6:30 p.m. Good Friday service
Sunday, April 5	6:26 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at First Baptist Church, Mansfield (corner of Route 195 and Spring Hill Rd) 10:15 a.m. Easter Worship & Worship Circle at First Church

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### New First Hour Series Coming - April 19th at 9:00 a.m.

#### “Peter & Paul and the Christian Revolution”

In this 4-week series we will view a documentary on the lives of Saints Peter and Paul as they spread the message of Jesus throughout the Roman Empire. It is part of the PBS "Empire" series that looked at people and passions that changed the world. Each week we will view a 30-minute segment of the video, followed by 30 minutes of discussion. (Video is closed-captioned.)