



First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

Palm Sunday

*³⁷ Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,
"Blessed is the king
 who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
 and glory in the highest heaven!"*

Luke 19:37–38

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

*Please be seated, silence all devices, and prepare yourself for worship.
All are welcome in this sacred space, including the wiggles and giggles!*

◆ **PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

PRELUDE

Mary Dailey

~~~ **GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE** ~~~

**Please stand and let us wave our palm branches and sing our praise!**

◆ GRAND PROCESSIONAL 196 (vs. 1-4) Congregation and Choirs  
*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP Seth . M

*O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;*

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

*Open to us the gates of righteousness,*

**That we may enter through them and give thanks.**

*Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.*

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*We gather to lay down that to which we cling.*

**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

*Into the crowded streets of our lives, we receive the one who is Savior.*

**Our hearts are filled with expectation as welcome the coming king.**

**If the children would please come forward – the rest of you may be seated**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Winslow

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Murray

◆ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*The Peace of Christ be with you!*      **And also with you!**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*In the Name of the Lord*

Chancel Choir

~~~ **LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD** ~~~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Seth . M

SCRIPTURE Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (The Message)

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we prefer palm branches to crosses. We shout “Hosanna” but resist the cost of discipleship. We cling to the coats of privilege when you call us to solidarity. We wrap ourselves in comfort while others stand exposed to injustice. We protect our reputations instead of risking love.

Forgive us. Unbutton our pride. Loosen our grip on what shields us from change. Teach us to lay down whatever keeps us from following Christ fully. In your mercy, cover us instead with compassion and courage. Amen.

HYMN 551

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Congregation

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Seth . M

...This is the Good News: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.

◆ HYMN 581

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Congregation

~~~ PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD ~~~

◆ GOSPEL READING Mark 11:1-11 (NRSVUE)

Pastor Murray

This is the Word of the Lord. God is still speaking.

MESSAGE

Coats

Sermon Series Lent in Plain Sight

HYMN 363

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Congregation

~~~ RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD ~~~

OFFERING

Pastor Murray

◆ HYMN Doxology (Words for Lent) Congregation

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit, who imparts,
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

◆ PRAYER OF DEDICATION Pastor Murray

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED

(rewritten by the Reverend Jonathan Murray for "Lent in Plain Sight: Coats")

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
who clothes the lilies of the field and wraps creation in steadfast
love.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who did not cling
to status or privilege but laid aside the garments of glory to dwell
among us in humility. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of
Mary, and wrapped in bands of cloth. He walked dusty roads and
accepted the coats laid before him by hopeful crowds. He suffered
under Pontius**

**Pilate, was stripped, mocked, and crucified. He died and was
buried. On the third day he rose again, no longer clothed in death
but in resurrection life. He ascended into heaven and reigns not
robed in domination but in mercy and justice. He will come again to
judge with righteousness and restore all things.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who unsettles our comfort, loosens the
coats of fear and pride, and clothes us with compassion and
courage. I believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the
life everlasting — where we will be clothed in glory and peace.
Amen.**

Please stand and let us wave our palm branches and sing our praise!

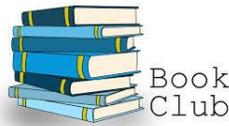
◆ HYMN 197 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* Congregation

~~~ **CARRYING GOD'S GOOD NEWS INTO GOD'S WORLD** ~~~

◆ BENEDICTION                                              Pastor Murray

POSTLUDE                      *Here He Comes!*                      TNTs & Memorial Handbells

What “coat” — comfort, assumption, privilege, fear, or possession — might God be inviting you to lay down this Lent so that others may experience dignity and hope?



FPCL Book Club meets in Ayers' Parlor or Zoom on the Second Thursday of each month at 12:30. All are welcome.

*The flowers are given by Merry S in honor of her son, Wes, who served as a Sergeant in the USMC, and died*

### **Today's Service**

|                             |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Director of Handbell Choirs | Karen A. Meersman                                                 |
| Music                       | Tintinnabulation Ringers, Memorial Handbell Choir & Chancel Choir |
| Liturgist                   | Seth . M                                                          |
| Trustee                     | Don M                                                             |
| Ushers                      | Connie S and Teagan W                                             |
| Cover Image                 | gants hill urc                                                    |



**Open Door Circle** will be meeting every 3rd Thursday, at 10:30. All women are welcome. Please call Hedy L with any questions.



The mission committee will be holding its annual food drive for the Life Center during March. The Director said they could use any food, but they are always in need of foods with protein such as Spam, beans, tuna, salmon, peanut butter or any nut butter. We will be collecting food through March 29. There will be a container at the Windermere entrance and at the Littleton Boulevard entrance to place your donations. Thank you in advance.



Tuesday Evening Shabby Sheep Women's Bible Study

@7pm now through April 7<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday Morning Shabby Sheep Women's Bible Study

New six-week study on *Acts*, starts April 8<sup>th</sup>

FPCL's Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Donations needed plastic eggs and assorted small candies (no nuts please!).

# LITTLETON HANDBELL FESTIVAL!!



## Come one, come all, to the Littleton Handbell Festival!

Who: First Pres. Memorial & TNT Handbell Choirs  
and several other local church bell choirs

What: A FREE concert (and an opportunity for community fellowship!)

Where: Littleton United Methodist Church  
5894 S. Datura St. Littleton 80120 (corner of Datura & Shepperd St.)

When: Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 3:00 p.m.

The Memorial Handbell Choir & Tintinnabulation Ringers will be joining several other Littleton churches for an all-day rehearsal and fellowship experience and perform our pieces in a massed concert with Guest Conductor Jeffrey Harms in the afternoon.

If you haven't had the opportunity to hear an ensemble of bells ringing together, it is truly an event you will never forget, and it is **SO CLOSE TO HOME** - *only 4 blocks from church!!*

Please join us and support the ringers  
(and bring friends and family along)!

SEE  
YOU  
THERE

Contact Karen with any questions at  
[Karen@fpcl.org](mailto:Karen@fpcl.org)

**WE HOPE TO SEE LOTS OF  
FAMILIAR FACES THERE!**



**Office Hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Thursday \*Appointments Encouraged**

**Office Phone Number 303-798-1389**

**Office Email [fpcl@fpcl.org](mailto:fpcl@fpcl.org)**

**Pastoral Care Emergency Line 720-662-7277**

**Staff Members**

**Pastor Jonathan Murray**, Minister of Word and Sacrament

**Pastor Blakeley Winslow**, Pastor of Christian Discipleship

**Lydia Cooper**, Office Manager  
**Mary Dailey**, Director of Worship Arts  
**Karen A. Meersman**, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music  
**Joan Lund**, Financial Secretary  
**Tracy Eidson**, Child Care

### *Worship Plans*

*Sermon Series for Lent:*

*Lent In Plain Sight*

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*April 2, Maundy Thursday at 6pm* *Towels* *John 13:1-13*  
*April 3, Good Friday at Noon* *Thorns* *John 19:1-11*  
*April 5, Easter Sunday Worship Services at 8am and 10am* *John 20:1-18*  
*\*Pancake Breakfast 9am easter Egg Hunt after 10:00 am Worship\**

Sermon Series for the Season of Easter: *New Life* (4/12-5/24)

**Next Bible Study will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Our Mission:**

**We welcome all to love, share, serve, and grow in Christ.**

 **First Presbyterian** 1609 W Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO 80120  
**Church of Littleton** [www.littletonpresbyterian.org](http://www.littletonpresbyterian.org) » [fpcl@fpcl.org](mailto:fpcl@fpcl.org)