

March 29, 2026  
Season of Lent: Dwelling in Dissonance

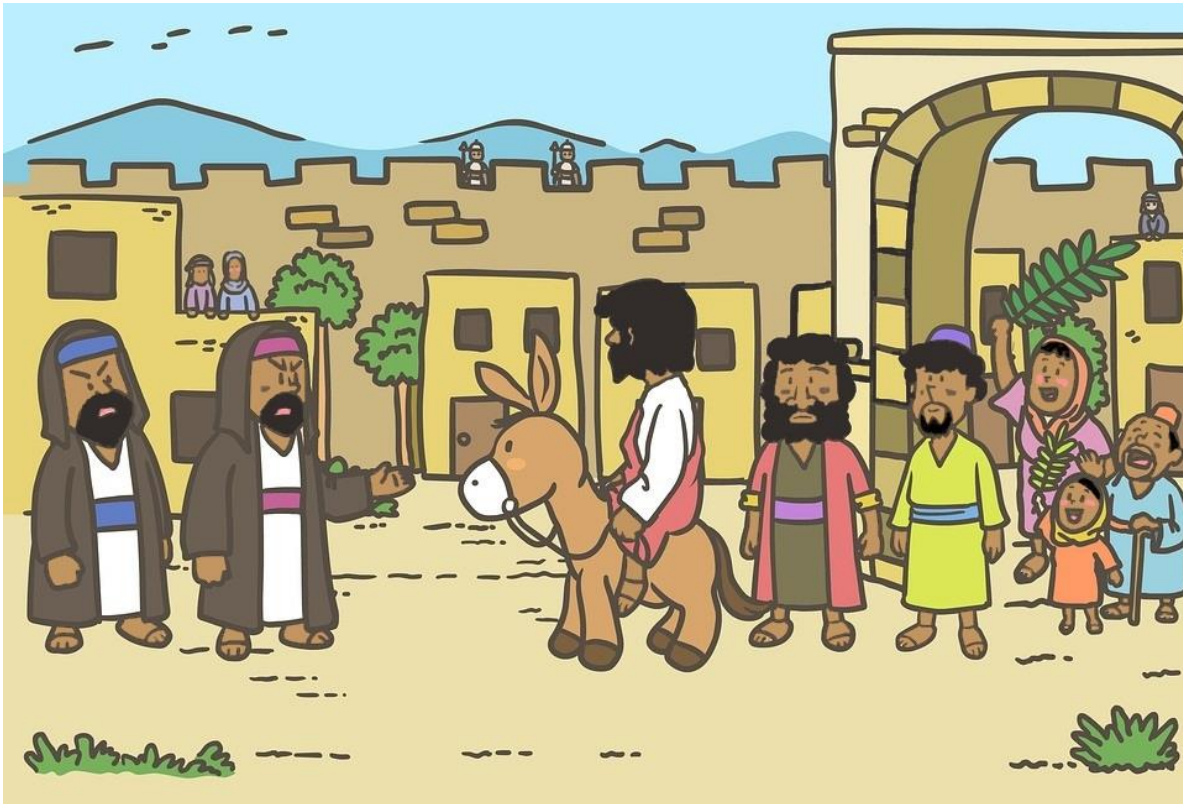
FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Office: (970) 658-2623 Cell: 970-412-7510



PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

John 12 tells of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, traditional for Palm Sunday. John 19, on the other hand, continues the story we have been following and details the crucifixion. We will consider them both side by side, emphasizing the dissonance of Jesus' triumph and death, and our recognition of Jesus' finishing work which is not yet completed.

1. GATHERING

Prelude (John)

Call to Worship

**All: We gather to worship God and to look back on where we've been;**

One: we see old hopes, plans, and dreams, remembered "Hosannas!" and all these weeks of Lent.

**All: We gather to worship God and to look at where we are now,**

Opening Prayer

One: Welcome Lent. All this mystery . . .

**All: Joy and sadness, fear, and grief.**

One: We struggle—wanting resolution.

**All: Doubts wrestle with belief.**

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

One: at Jesus re-defining triumph; and the king on the cross instead of a throne.

**All: We gather to worship God and to wonder at this mystery,**

One: of salvation that comes so strangely; of life that comes through death; of brokenness meeting grace.

One: Meet us in this sacred searching.

**All: Meet us in the loss and pain.**

One: In the tension of this dissonance,

*"Change is never easy, and it often creates discord, but when people come together for the good of humanity and the Earth, we can accomplish great things." — David Suzuki*

## Welcome and Passing of the Peace

**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** And also, with you.

**Leader:** Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

## Confession

Jesus, this story is not the one we expected. We feel for your disciples, so happy to proclaim you king as you rode into Jerusalem. We too have been eager to follow, sure about what that will mean, confident things will turn out well.

We feel for your disciples devastated at your crucifixion. When we are no longer sure about anything. When everything we thought we had and knew falls apart. "Hosanna!" we sang back then, "Save us!" "Hosanna!" we cry now, "God, please!"

And though the story has shifted, you do save. You have. You will. You are.

## 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scriptures: 12:12–15 and John 19:16b–25**

12 The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: 15 "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

So they took Jesus, 17 and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

21 Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." 25 And that is what the soldiers did.



### Sermon: "What's In a Name?"

"What is Truth?" Pilate asks earlier in the gospel of John. Knowingly or not, he writes the charge against Jesus on the cross, and it is true—"the king of the Jews." The chief priests fear how this will look: "Don't write that!" They wish to clarify that Jesus is not the Messiah but a blasphemer and a failure. Yet the truth remains, posted there on the cross for all to see.

## 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Congregational Singing (Cathy)**

**Reflections and Responses**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Offering & Music (John)**

**Sending Blessing**

As you go, may you listen for God in the discordant melodies of your life, in the glittering sadness of palm branches and the hosannas, the cry, "God save us," mixed with the coming shouts of "Crucify him."

In the tension of this dissonance, may you go with Christ's peace, to practice holy waiting and longing.

*"By union the smallest states thrive. By discord the greatest are destroyed." — Sallust*

*"Managing dissent is about recognizing the value of disagreement, discord and difference." — Noreena Hertz*