

SCRIPTURE READING

Walt Lane

Isaiah 50:4-9a (Pew Bible Pg. #657)

John 12:1-11 (Pew Bible Pg. #106)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. And we all say:

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Ride On King Jesus”

Patti Drennen

DEACON’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Helen Thompson

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON “Travel Light”

Pastor Ken

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Sharing of Joys and Concerns)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN** #223 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

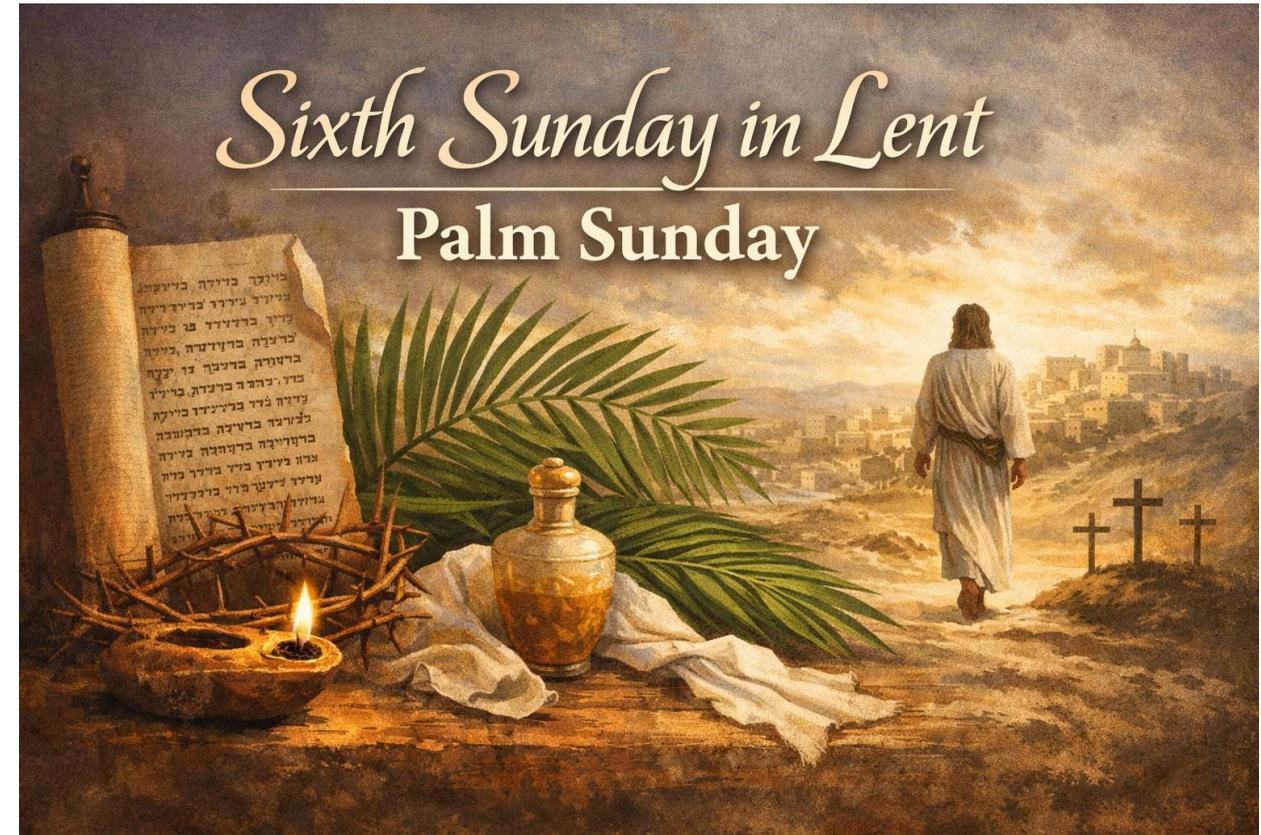
POSTLUDE “The Bells of Easter”

Franklin Ritter

Belinda Vair/Accompanist-Choir Director

Thank you to the Deacon’s for providing us with today’s
Coffee Hour/Birthday Celebration

First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, NY – YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianJohnstown>



March 29, 2026

10:30am

Welcome to worship at the First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. Whether you are here in the sanctuary or joining us online, we are glad you are with us. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here, and we give thanks for the gift of worshiping together today!

Pastor Ken

MISSION OF THE MONTH One Great Hour of Sharing

PRELUDE “Old Rugged Cross”

arr. by Mark Hayes

Belinda Vair/Accompanist-Choir Director

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (PLEASE RISE) *JOHN 12:1-11*

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: We gather on this Palm Sunday to welcome Christ with joy.

People: We come to worship the One who walks the way of humility and love.

Leader: Jesus calls us to lay down all that keeps us from following him fully.

People: We bring our burdens, our fears, and our guarded hearts before God.

Leader: Like Mary, we come offering love, devotion, and trust.

People: Like the Suffering Servant, we come ready to listen for God's voice.

Leader: God helps us; we will not be put to shame.

People: God is near, and in God's presence we find courage.

Leader: Come, then, to worship the One who comes in peace.

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

(PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT)

***OPENING HYMN #197** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

CALL TO CONFESSION

ISAIAH 50:4-9A; JOHN 12:1-11

Pastor Ken

Leader: Jesus comes to us in humility, mercy, and love, yet so often we hold back. We cling to our fear, our pride, our habits, and the things that keep us at a distance from the deep relationship God longs to have with us. Like Mary, we are called to pour out our love before Christ. Like the Servant in Isaiah, we are called to trust the One who helps us and sustains us. So let us come before God with honesty and hope, laying down all that hinders us, and confessing our sin before the One who is gracious, forgiving, and full of mercy.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ISAIAH 50:4-9A; JOHN 12:1-11

All: Merciful God, You come to us in love, yet we confess that we often hold back. We cling to fear, pride, and the things that keep us from following Jesus fully. You call us, like Mary, to lives of love and devotion, yet we remain guarded and distracted. You call us, like your servant, to trust and obedience, yet we resist the path of surrender. Forgive us, O God. Strip away all that keeps us from drawing near to Christ. Free us to love you more fully and follow Jesus more closely.

All: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Leader: Let us take a moment for our own personal confession to the God we worship.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: God does not turn away those who come with honest hearts. In Jesus Christ, we are met with mercy, grace, and love. The one who calls us also restores us, forgives us, and draws us near. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end, amen! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Gracious God, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, open our ears to listen, our hearts to receive, and our lives to respond. Strip away all that distracts us or holds us back, so that we may draw nearer to Jesus and follow him more faithfully. By your Spirit, give us understanding, courage, and grace. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**