

West Parish of Barnstable

Gathered in London 1616 - Present Meetinghouse Erected in 1717

A Church in the Congregational Tradition

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Barnstable, Massachusetts



THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

10:00 a.m.

“About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*”
(which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).”

Matthew 27:46

All are invited to stay for the full service today.
Saturday School is offered for our children and youth at our 4:30 Saturday service.

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

As a congregation which covenants to walk together in Christian love,
believes that all persons are created equal before God,
and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,
we welcome to our work and worship all people
regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation,
ability, or economic circumstance.

Adopted at Annual Meeting, June 26, 2005

GOD GATHERS US

WELCOME

Pastor Reed Baer

SCRIPTURE *Jesus Enters Jerusalem, Matthew 21:1-11 The Message*

INTROIT *"Hosanna, Blessed is He That Comes"*

C. Gregor, arr. H. Hopson

BLESSING OF THE PALMS (holding your palm branch in the air)

O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. In these events of defeat and victory, you have sealed the closeness of death and resurrection, of humiliation and exaltation.

We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come, and that Christ will come again.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

* HYMN #178 (Green) *"All Glory, Laud and Honor"*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Associate Pastor Christie Burns

One: Hosanna to the Son of David!

Many: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

PRELUDE

"The Palms"

J.B. Faure, arr. Lani Smith

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

One: Jesus taught us not to be anxious about our lives today or about tomorrow. Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated from the peace which Christ promises? Let us turn to God in prayer.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: O God, we can never simply stand and watch the events of Holy Week as though they are a story belonging to someone else in years gone by. We know with grief that we are there in your story. We are present, bringing with us all that was there long ago. We, too, betray you when things become hard or costly. For every betrayal, forgive us, Jesus Christ.

Many: Forgive us and restore our life this day.

One: We, too, turn our faces away from those suffering injustice. For our every participation in injustice, forgive us, Jesus Christ.

Many: Forgive us and restore our life this day.

One: We, too, absolve ourselves from responsibility for the well-being of others. For our every denial of responsibility, forgive us, Jesus Christ.

Many: Forgive us and restore our life this day.

One: We, too, are part of the violence and abuse suffered by the innocent. For our every silence in the face of violence to others, forgive us, Jesus Christ.

Many: Forgive us and restore our life this day.

One: Death is dealt in the name of our nations, O God, death in war, death through need and starvation, and death through tyrants of oppression. For all death that is done in our name, forgive us, Jesus Christ.

Many: Forgive us and restore our life this day. For we bow in grief before your goodness and pray that you will not do unto us that which we did to you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Even as he approaches his death, the Christ cries out unto the world that we are forgiven.

Many: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Let the People Sing Hosanna!"

V. Johnson

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

(Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.)

SCRIPTURE *Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper, Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30*

Marianne Williams

INVITATION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.

We will celebrate communion by intinction; come forward, take a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and consume it on the way back to your seat. If you would prefer to be served where you sit, raise your hand and the deacons will come to you.

For those who prefer, please take the packaged communion-to-go.

(We offer a gluten-free, wheat-free alternative – in the plastic bags – for those whose diet so requires. We serve cranberry juice out of respect for those who cannot consume alcohol.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Ruler of the universe, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance, when you enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. We thank you for the deep love of Jesus, which moved him to risk himself for the redemption of humanity; and for the grace we experience in receiving these symbols of the life he gave. Make us worthy of this great love. Amen.

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

SCRIPTURE

Jesus Prays, Matthew 26:36-44

Susan Jeghalian

CALL TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SOLO

“The Lord’s Prayer”

A. H. Malotte

INVITATION TO OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Were You There”

African American Spiritual

*SONG OF PRAISE

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOD SENDS US FORTH

SCRIPTURE *Jesus is Betrayed, Matthew 26:47-56* Jeanne Pelletier

MESSAGE “When God is Not ‘Just Pretend’” Pastor Reed

*HYMN #179 (Green) “*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*”

A LITANY OF COMMISSIONING

One: Let us recall the time Jesus was betrayed.

Many: Healing God, be with us and others when we are hurt by those we love.

One: Let us recall when the government opposed Jesus, who he was, what he proclaimed.

Many: Prince of Peace, be with us and others who work for peace with justice for all people everywhere.

One: Let us recall Jesus praying in Gethsemane, alone.

Many: Steadfast God, be with us and others in lonely times.

One: Let us remember when even Peter denied knowing Jesus.

Many: Forgiving One, be with us and others when we deny you and who you would have us be.

One: Let us remember Jesus and his death, suffering agony on the cross.

Many: Almighty One, be with us and others when agony and despair threaten to overtake us.

One: Let us remember those who cared for Jesus to the tomb.

Many: Ever-Compassionate One, who descended even to hell to save us, be with us and others as we move to places of death with those we love.

One: Let us remember the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues beyond the tomb.

All: Surprising God, who raised Jesus from the dead, be with us and others as we wait for the fulfillment of God’s promises, which live beyond human desolation. For your presence in every part of life, we give thanks to you, Amen.

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE “*Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*” Lani Smith
(It is our custom to remain in prayerful silence during the postlude.)

* All who wish, please stand.

PRAYER LIST

*May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our prayer list and with those who care for them.
The prayers of the congregation are asked for:*

Christopher Allen (Carol & David Allen's grandson)
Karolina Atsalis (friend of Rich and Lauren Abraham)
Matt Burch (son-in-law of Suzanne McMillan)
Barbara Cameron
Emy and Yessica (friends of Christie Burns)
Rudy Giannetti (friend of Paula King)
Sarah and Cody Hudspeth (Sharon Hunt's niece and her husband)
Clyde Hunt (brother of John Hunt)
Gina Jacinto (Joanna Wallace's friend)
Nelson Jenkins (Tripp Grohe's friend)
Dave & Barbara Kern (friends of Joanna Wallace)
Sue Maki (Joanna Wallace's friend)
Jason Miller (Robin and Jim Miller's son)
Greg Opp (family member of Bobbie Jordan)
Randy Parker
Carol Polidoro
Gary Toye (Bobbie Jordan's brother)
Marvin Toye (Bobbie Jordan's brother)
Roy Urbach (friend of Karen Datlowe)
Joanna Wallace

*Please notify the church office of any additions, deletions, or changes you wish to make.
Call 508-362-4445, email office@westparish.org, leave a note, or stop on by.*

The Week of March 29, 2026

Sunday	3/29/26	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	3/30/26	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	AA (J) AA (J)
Tuesday	3/31/26	11:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (J) Bell Choir Rehearsal (J) AA (J)
Wednesday	4/1/26	9:00 am 1:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science(J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Faculty (G) AA (J)
Thursday	4/2/26	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Friday	4/3/26	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Office Closed Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	4/4/26		No Saturday Service
Sunday	4/5/26	10:00 am 11:15 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Easter Egg Hunt AA (J)

Key: FS = Family School; G = Guild Room; J = Jenkins Hall; M = Meetinghouse;
MHF = Meetinghouse Foundation; Z = Zoom

- ◆ **Please join us in Jenkins Hall after worship for Coffee Hour.** Our host today is Robin Fryer.
- ◆ **The flowers gracing the Meetinghouse today** were arranged by Chris Haven.
- ◆ **The 2026 Flower Calendar** is up on the sign-up board in Jenkins Hall. Please sign up for sponsoring the flowers along with a dedication. The cost is \$32 and can be paid by cash, check, Vanco, or Venmo with "Flowers" in the memo. One of the members of the flower committee will contact you to about the arrangement.
- ◆ **The Coffee Hour Host sign up** is on the board next to the kitchen pass thru window in Jenkins Hall. If you can spare a little of your time to help at our Sunday *Coffee Hour*, it would be greatly appreciated. It's a wonderful way to socialize with old friends and to make new ones. Thank you.

Easter Flowers

Interested in sponsoring a plant or two?

Please fill out the form below and drop it off or mail it to the church office with \$12 per plant by Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Given by _____

(please circle one) in memory / honor / celebration of:

The plants will be available to take after the 10 a.m. worship service.



We ask your cooperation in protecting the 1717 Meetinghouse by not parking your vehicle in or alongside the circle closest to the Meetinghouse. Although it is not marked, it is a FIRE LANE and preserves clear access to the Meetinghouse for Emergency Vehicles.

Need to get connected? Wi-Fi: Meetinghouse Password: 1717Rooster

Venmo @WestParish or scan the QR code.



venmo

To make a donation, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera or search "@WestParish" on the Venmo app.

Be sure you select "West Parish of Barnstable" under the charity profiles.

If you would like your donation to go toward something specific such as "Deacons Fund", just note that in the description.

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher
Paula King, Music Director
Susan Moeller, Council Chair
Alycia Williams, Family School Director

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Roberta Jordan, Deacons Chair
Chris Haven, Sexton

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