

Description of the “Palm Sunday Path”
For the Lenten Preaching Series to Be Published on Working Preacher

Rooted in the Matthew 25 values of caring for sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger, pastors and congregational leaders across racial, geographic, and denominational distinctions are launching the Palm Sunday Path. Leaders from ELCA, UCC, PCUSA, UMC, Episcopal Church, DOC, Baptist, and AME congregations, as well as others, are building the Palm Sunday Path as an effort to counter white Christian nationalism, confront rising authoritarianism, and show our country a better way.

Jesus entered Jerusalem soon before the beginning of Passover in a procession that embodied the values of the Realm of God. This procession was an alternative to the injustice of the Roman Empire. Through the Palm Sunday Path, hundreds of thousands of Christians will process on Palm Sunday afternoon in 2026 in capital cities and other cities across the country. Jesus provoked and drew a contrast when he and his followers walked toward Jerusalem, and we will, too. We will process together, proclaiming God’s values in contrast to the dominant politics of hate, greed, and injustice.

As part of the organizing process, we will empower congregations across the country to engage in sustained actions protesting cuts to Medicaid and SNAP benefit and violations of civil rights and due process. There is no verse in the Bible that tells us to take from our elders, the sick, and the hungry and to give that money to the rich. We know that masked ICE agents disappearing loved ones and neighbors from our families and communities is a violation of the call to welcome the stranger.

Our actions this spring will culminate in a pilgrimage to Philadelphia on July 3, 2026, to honor the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence from a king. We will call for the protection of those who are sick and hungry, as well as the protection of the dignity and rights of all God’s children. We will call for the protection of our freedom of speech and the ability to proclaim the gospel, especially when the good news of the gospel places us in opposition to political leaders and their policies. We will be the body of Christ for the world now.

This Working Preacher Lenten preaching series being organized by Karoline Lewis and Matt Skinner (“Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent”) will equip pastors to preach the gospel in this hinge moment in our nation’s history. It will equip pastors in rural and urban churches, across denominational traditions, and across racialized categories. In other words, it will be a series that seeks to equip the church in its many settings to stand up for Christian values and claim our

voice in the public square. We think you are well poised to write commentaries that support those goals, helping pastors move their congregations toward bold public witness.

In addition to broad participation from the church, multiple faith based organizations that advocate for justice and peace are joining together to lead this effort. The organization I serve, ISALAH MN (www.isalahmn.org), is one of thirty-one organizations nationwide joining in this effort. A website will be developed by January 1, 2026, sharing resources for the Palm Sunday Path and displaying endorsing denominations and organizations.

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