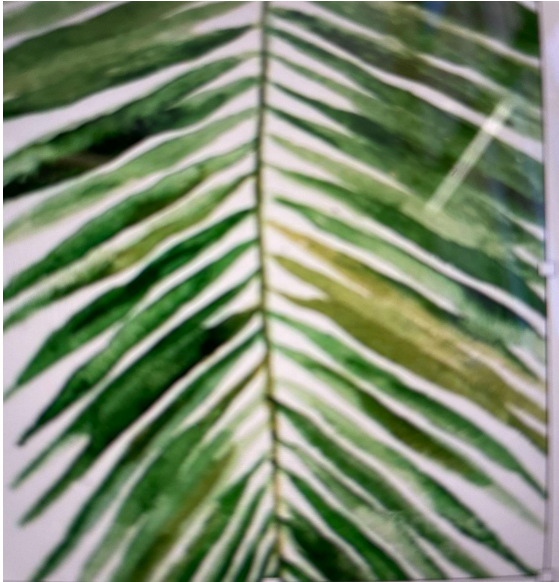


# Skyline Church of Oakland

...progressive, spiritual, open & affirming, green



## Palm Passion Sunday “Cut Branches”

March 29, 2026

<https://zoom.us/j/716026467>

Call in 669-900-9128

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<b>PASTOR</b>	Rev Laurie Manning
<b>LITURGIST</b>	Rod Repke
<b>MUSIC DIRECTOR</b>	Edward Nunoo
<b>ACCOMPANIST</b>	Rob Finucane
<b><u>ZOOM HOST</u></b>	Abby Givler
<b><u>HOSPITALITY</u></b>	Carolyn Noble
<b><u>USHERS</u></b>	Sheila Helms
<b><u>GREETER</u></b>	Carolyn Noble
<b><u>CHILDCARE</u></b>	Catherine Kessler

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**Land Acknowledgement:** We gather today on the unceded homelands of the Ohlone and the Chochoenyospeaking Ohlone peoples. Let us strive to honor all indigenous peoples by joining their efforts to pursue justice and care for this land.

**RINGING OF THE BELL:** Rod Repke

**PRELUDE:** “Morning Has Broken” - Eleanor Farjeon & Carlton R. Young

*Edward Nunoo, bass & Rob Finucane, piano*

## LITURGY OF THE PALMS

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO PRAISE

*(adapted from Psalm 118)*

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

**People:** Hosanna in the highest!

**Leader:** The stones themselves would cry out if we fell silent.

**People:** We will not be silent. We come with branches and with hope.

**All:** Hosanna! Save us now. Blessed is the coming kingdom.

### BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Holy One, bless these branches — symbols of the welcome we offer, and the welcome we long to receive. May we wave them not just as celebration but as protest: declaring that your kingdom, not empire, is the one that lasts. Amen.

### OPENING HYMN: “The King of Glory”

(Skyline Songbook #21, verses 1 & 3)

### WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE

[Visitor form.](#) [Prayer requests.](#) [Comments](#)

If you are visiting this morning, we are so glad you are here! We hope you'll join us for friendship time after worship. Tell us about yourself or sign up for our mailing list by filling out a Virtual Connect Card.

### PRAYER OF APPROACH: (UNISON)

Holy One, we come waving branches we cut this morning, and we are not sure what we are celebrating.

We know the story well enough to know where this week goes. We have heard the crowds turn. We have seen what happens to the ones who challenge the powerful and comfort the suffering. Yet we come. We shout. We spread our cloaks on the road.

Meet us in the mess of this week — in the upper room and the garden, at the trial and the cross. And when we cannot find you, remind us: you went ahead of us into every dark place first. Amen.

## HOSANNA · A READER'S THEATRE

*“Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King”*

[Mark 11:1–11](#) · (NRSV)

**ANTHEM:** “Be Still” - Mary McDonald

*Skyline Choir; Edward Nunoo, conductor;  
Rob Finucane, Piano*

**A Word from Howard Thurman:**

"I will sing a new song... I must learn the new song for the new day."

**SERMON: “CUT BRANCHES”**

**SILENCE · 60 SECONDS**

**COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

Holy God, on the night before he died, Jesus took bread — the bread of an ordinary meal — and made it the bread of a new world.

We come to this table not because we are ready, but because we are hungry.

The table is open. All are welcome. No one is turned away.

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All are welcome at this table.*

**Communion Song:**

*“What Is This Place?” (Skyline Songbook #25)*

*Edward Nunoo, bass & Rob Finucane, piano*

**Reading: “Jesus Prays in Gethsemane”**

[Mark 14:32–42](#)

*The Message, Silence*

**PRAYERS AND GRATITUDES OF THE ALL:**

[\(Tree of Life\)](#)

**PALM SUNDAY: The First Word (Forgiveness)**

**The Word:** "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

What debt or bitterness are you releasing today so that your soul may breathe?

Prayer: God, the economy of 'eye for an eye' is closed. I leave my debt here. Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All:** Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

**OFFERTORY**

**“We Give Thee but Thine Own” - William Walsham How**

*Edward Nunoo, bass & Rob Finucane, piano*

Friends may make credit card contributions through Stripe at [skylineucc.org/give](https://skylineucc.org/give) (preferred) or at [paypal.me/skylinechurch](https://paypal.me/skylinechurch) or [skyline.churchtrac.com](https://skyline.churchtrac.com). Thank-You!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** [skylineucc.org/news](https://skylineucc.org/news)

**Table to Tree — Holy Week prayers available today**

 [Holy Week study guide 3:29.docx](#)

<https://skylineucc.org/good-friday/>

<https://skylineucc.org/easter-sunday/>

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Jesus, Still Lead On” (NCH #446)**

*(verses 1 and 3)*

**BENEDICTION:**

**POSTLUDE:**

**“Jesus, Still Lead On” – instrumental**

*Rob Finucane, piano*

## Upcoming Events – Ways to Stay Connected:

### “What makes you come alive?”

*“Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” — Howard Thurman*

**Sermon Series: Becoming Human (Sundays, Feb 8 through Easter April 5)** Influenced by the wisdom of **Howard Thurman**, this series explores what it means to live a grounded life in anxious times. We'll look at attention, limits, and resilience through the lens of Gospel stories, psychology, and neuroscience. These aren't sermons about "believing harder"—they are about learning how to live more honestly and gently in the world.

### Weekly Gatherings:

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/716026467>

- Tuesdays @ 10:30 AM – **Bible Study** (Leader: Pastor Laurie ) <https://skylineucc.org/online-bible-study/>
- Fridays @ 1:00 PM – **Prayer and Care Group** (Leader: Pastor Laurie)

#### **In-Person:**

- Sundays @ 8:45 AM – **Choir Practice** – All are welcome!

### Regular Meetings:

- Twice monthly @ 1:00 PM – Staff Meeting (Next: April 3, 2026)
- Third Thursdays @ 6:00 PM – Council Meeting on Zoom

## Special Events – Mark Your Calendars

Date	Events for Holy Week & Easter	Location
Friday, April 3, 6-7 pm	<b>The Table &amp; the Tree: A Good Friday Liturgy of Shadows</b>  Words, music, prayers, silence. Pastor Laurie, Rob Finucane, Edward Nunoo and Cheryl Jones	Skyline Sanctuary
Saturday, April 4, 5-7 pm	<b>Labyrinth Walking</b> Come anytime between 5-7 pm. Walk off some feelings, walk through big questions and intentions, walk with Mary Magdalene and the other women as they head to the tomb, facing death head on.	Skyline Labyrinth (behind sanctuary)

<p><b>Sunday April 5, 10 am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Resurrection Day Celebration</b> Easter worship, great music, preaching and community! Bring some food and drink to share! You are also invited to bring a flowering plant to Church the week before Easter, April 1 - 5, to be included at our Easter Sunday Altar.</p>	<p><b>Skyline Sanctuary</b></p>
<p><b>Each Sunday in April</b></p>	<p><b><i>Skyline Reparations Fund - Special Offering</i></b> <a href="https://skylineucc.org/reparations/">https://skylineucc.org/reparations/</a> There will be a special offering each Sunday during April for Skyline's Reparations Fund. Please give generously to this important cause. <b>Beneficiaries of the funds are:</b> <a href="#">Sogorea Te Land Trust</a> and <a href="#">Black Wealth Builders Fund</a></p>	<p><b>Donations Requested during worship service</b></p>
<p><b>Fri, April 10, 6 - 9 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Film Fridays: Movie &amp; Potluck</b> <b><u>Next movie selection: "2040"</u></b> For Earth Month we'll see a documentary from Australia called <i>2040</i>. Reviewers unanimously applauded when it came out in 2019. One in San Francisco wrote: "Has a simple premise: How can today's ideas and technologies be implemented now to make a better world in 2040? The answers are amazing." <a href="#">Movie Info: click here</a></p>	<p><b>Skyline Friendship Room</b></p>

## **A THANK YOU TO OUR MARCH & APRIL VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you for your faithful service that brings our Sunday gatherings to life. Your generosity creates the space where we truly meet one another. All, please review the schedule below and consider where **your** gifts may enhance our church's services. Email [office@skylineucc.org](mailto:office@skylineucc.org) [Volunteer Schedule 2025-2026](#)

DATE	Liturgist	Zoom Host	GREETER*	USHER **	Hospitality (food & drink)	Guest preachers
3/29/2026	Rod Repkle	Abby Givler	Carolyn Noble	Sheila Helms	Carolyn Noble	
4/5/2026 <b>(Easter)</b>	Carolyn Catanzaro	Abby Givler	Carolyn Noble <b>(need 2 ppl)</b>	Sheila Helm	Jim Schubert , and Nancy Taylor	
4/12/2026	Jim Schubert	Abby Givler	Carolyn Noble	Sheila Helm	Jim Schubert	
4/17/2026	Rod Repkle	Abby Givler	Carolyn Noble	Sheila Helm	Carolyn Noble	

\*Greeter: Welcome visitors; collect contact information; invite to fellowship after service; introduce to others.

\*\*Usher: Distribute Bulletins and Hymnals/Music Booklets per the day's Bulletin; collect offerings; help with communion.

# THE TABLE AND THE TREE

A Holy Week Journey of the Inward Center  
(a guide for personal daily reflections)



## **The Inward Journey and the Outward Sign**

This week, we do not merely "think" about the cross; we move toward it.

This guide is inspired by the "material" theology of Sara Miles,  
who finds God in the grit of real life,  
and the spiritual resistance of Howard Thurman,  
specifically his seminal work,  
Jesus and the Disinherited (often also referred to as the journey of the dispossessed).

Thurman teaches us that for those with their "backs against the wall,"  
the Gospel is a survival kit—a way to maintain dignity and connection to the Divine in the  
face of a jagged world.

## **How to Use This Guide at Home:**

### **Create a Sacred Space:**

Find a quiet corner.

Have a small pile of sticky notes (Pink, Orange, and blue colors) and a pen.

### **Reflect Daily:**

Read the meditation and Thurman-inspired reflection.

### **Write Your Prayer:**

Each day, write your response on the designated color of sticky note.

### **The Gathering:**

Keep these notes in your guide or on your own wall.

**Bring all your notes with you to the sanctuary on Good Friday**

(or anytime the church is open)

to insert them onto the Skyline Prayer Cross,

**joining your breath and your burdens with the rest of the community.**

**[CLICK HERE FOR STUDY GUIDE:](#)**



## *The Table and the Tree: A Good Friday Liturgy of Shadows* 🕯️

*Friday, April 3rd, 6-7 PM,*

*Skyline Sanctuary, 12540 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA, and on zoom*



### 🌿 The Table and the Tree: A Good Friday Liturgy of Shadows 🕯️ 🌿

This Friday, we do not merely "think" about the cross; we move toward it. Join us at Skyline for a night of spiritual resistance and material hope as we find the "Inward Center" together.

In the words of Howard Thurman, we come to the place where the world's heart breaks open. This is a service for those who need to know that God is in the dirt with us—turning an instrument of state terror into a Tree of Life.

# *The Music of Easter at Skyline*

  
*Sunday, April 5, 10 am*

*Skyline Sanctuary, 12540 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA*

- ✦ **Resurrection** is a "*new song of the spirit that knows no bounds.*" This Easter, we lift our voices with might.
- ✦ **Edward Nunoo & Rob Finucane** With mastery and heart, Edward and Rob lead us through the journey from the shadows of the tree to the light of the table. Their music is the heartbeat of our spiritual resistance, providing the rhythm for our "**Resurrection Dance Party**" and the soul for our celebration.
- ✦ **The Skyline Singers** Our choir brings the "cloud of witnesses" to life, filling the sanctuary with harmonies that affirm our dignity and our connection to the Divine.
- ✦ **Our Beloved Community and Pastor.** Come for inspiring worship. Stay for community, dancing, children's activities, and the View 🏔️ Perched on the ridge with spectacular, inspiring views of the world remade, we gather to prove that the impossible is becoming possible.

 **Easter Sunday, April 5th**

- **10:00 AM: Festive Worship & Resurrection Dance Party (Sanctuary) in person & on zoom (QR code)**
- **11:30 AM: Community Potluck**

**Join us at 12540 Skyline Blvd, Oakland as we sing, dance, and feast together.**

