



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Centre for Faith, Arts & Multiculturalism

Palm/Passion Sunday

Weekly Service Bulletin – April 13, 2025

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More Info: affirmunited.ca • united-church.ca •

***Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH / INTROIT

WE GATHER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Iris Muir

“We respectfully acknowledge that St. James is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. Our St. James congregation respectfully acknowledges that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.”

Curve Lake First Nation Land Acknowledgement (adapted slightly for use)

LIGHTING OF THE JESUS CANDLE & LENTEN CANDLES

Maeve O’Neill

One: As the people of Israel walked in the desert,
they followed the pillar of cloud by day,

All: and the pillar of fire by night.

One: As we journey this Lenten path, to Jerusalem, the cross, and beyond...

All: we follow the light of Jesus!

One: May we be mindful of how God’s love shines in our times of wandering,
our times of searching, our times of growth, grief and healing.

**All: May Jesus be the light of our lives, and may his light and life guide us
along the way. (The Jesus candle and 5 Lenten Candles are lit)**

***GATHERING SONG**

He Came Riding

VU#124

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1. He came riding on a donkey, he came riding into town;
slow and easy kind of lowly he came riding with the dawn.
His disciples walked beside him, Staying close, a little shy;
not too sure where he would guide them, on to live or on to die.
But all the morning sang his praises; Waking birds and dancing wind;
here he is, the Son of David; riding on to take his throne.

2. Then the children gathered, singing shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;
in the streets their song was ringing, "Hosannas" filled the morning air.
Timid adults strained to see him, Caught the Spirit, joined the son;
spread their cloaks along before him, branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises; waking streets and dancing crowd;
here he is, the Son of David; our Messiah, Son of God
3. In our fasting, and our feasting, called to follow in his way;
called to walk his road to Easter, called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David, Hosanna in the heavens above;
blessed is he who comes to save us, blessed is he who brings his love.
let us join to sing his praises; open hearts and souls to God;
He is with us, Son of David; God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.

CALL TO CELEBRATION *(responsive)*

One: Everyone loves a parade!

All: Everyone loves a parade!

One: The crowds!

All: The excitement!

One: The celebration!

All: The donkey!

One: The donkey?

**All: The one that carried Jesus into the city, who helped him go through
the middle of the crowd. The one who reminded the people what kind
of king Jesus was.**

One: The donkey!

Today, we are the ones who carry Jesus to the world – and beyond.

Let us worship God.

All: Let us worship God! Hosanna! Hallelujah!

Richard Bott, Gathering – Lent-Easter, 2024

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

One: God of donkeys and children, God of palm branches and parades,
we gather to celebrate your presence in our lives and in our church community.

All: We celebrate the courage and wisdom of your son, Jesus.

One: We open ourselves to the grace of your Spirit.

**All: May it move us, inspire us,
and enliven our faith this day - and always.**

One: In Jesus' name we pray the prayer that Jesus shared with
his disciples and his friends.

Cathy Gradante, Gathering - Lent 2018

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken in unison)*

VU#921

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen

***HYMN**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

VU#123

Words: Jennette Threlfall 1873. Music: traditional 18th-century German tune. Adapted by Xavier Ludwig Hartig.

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving, and singling clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
content that little children should on his bidding wait.
3. "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his humble presence eternally rejoice!

THEME CONVERSATION *Humphrey's First Palm Sunday*

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development 2020

Loving God, help us to work together, to share what we have,
So that everyone has what they need.
Help us to build a better world,
Where each of us becomes the best person we can be. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WE REFLECT

ANTHEM

GOSPEL READING

Mark 11:1-11

Joyce Hodson

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 15:6-15

Joyce Hodson

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honour

VU#122

Words: Theodulph of Orleans ca. 820. Translated by John Mason Neale 1851. Music: Melchior Teschner 1615. Descant: © 1978 Choristers Guild, 2834 W. Kingsley Rd., Garland, TX 74051, USA. . Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain

**All glory, laud, and honour to you, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

1. You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed one. **R**
2. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. **R**
3. To you, before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. **R**
4. Their praises you accepted; Accept the prayers we bring,
Great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king. **R**

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

***SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *What Can I Do?*

MV#191

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What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (*Responsive*)

One: We offer you our wounds and our worries.

All: We offer you our brokenness and our struggles.

We offer you these gifts and our very selves.

One: Bless us and what we offer, O God, bringing transformation and equality for all people. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE GO FORTH

HYMN

The Love That Clothes Itself in Light

VU#137

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1. The Love that clothes itself in light, stands naked now, despised, betrayed, receiving blows to face and head from hands that Love itself has made.
2. The Love that lifts the stars and sun, collapses, spent, beneath the cross; the Love that fills the universe, goes on to death and total loss.
3. Love, helpless, comes to Calvary, rejected, scorned and crucified; Love hangs in shame, and dies alone; but Love abased, is glorified.
4. Extinguished with the sun at noon, love's light transcends all history; Love, wrapped in linen, Love entombed, still wraps all heaven in mystery.
5. Though Love is lost, Love finds us here; though Love is absent, Love remains; where Love is finished, Love begins; where Love is dead, Love lives and reigns!

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

In the Bulb

VU#703

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1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see

POSTLUDE