



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Weekly Service Bulletin – March 29th, 2026

Palm/Passion Sunday

221 Romaine St, Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3 • 705-742-2222 • stjamesunitedchurch.ca

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

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately

**Please rise in body or spirit*

PRELUDE / LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH / WELCOME / 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)

CALL TO ACTION

Cora Muir

*A Land Acknowledgement is a single act of reconciliation. As an Affirming Ministry that is part of the United Church of Canada, we commit to learning from, listening to and supporting Indigenous people. One way we can do this is through the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.***

Call to Action #30

We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

LENTEN CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Maeve O’Neill

One: Lent is a time when we are invited to reflect on our faith and our lives.

We follow the example of Jesus, who went off to the wilderness, the mountain and the boat to pray and prepare himself for his death.

All: This week, as we extinguish the final Lenten candle, we will revisit the last week of Jesus' life - known to Christians around the world as *Holy Week.*

One: We will use words and symbols, as we travel through Holy Week together. The first event is Palm Sunday - when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

All: Our symbol is a palm branch.

One: The next day Jesus was gathered with his disciples and as an act of hospitality, he washed their dusty and dirty feet after a long day of travel.

All: Our symbol is a basin and a towel.

One: One of Jesus' disciples – Judas, betrayed Jesus by telling the people who wanted to kill Jesus, where they could find him. For doing this, Judas was given thirty pieces of silver.

All: Our symbol is a moneybag.

One: On the night before Jesus died, he shared a meal with his disciples and friends. During the meal, he used bread and wine as symbols to be remembered by.

All: Our symbols are bread and wine.

One: After dinner, and after Jesus spent time praying, he was arrested by the chief priests, police and elders. His disciples and friends were terrified! When someone asked Peter if he knew Jesus, he was too afraid to say he did. At the same time, a rooster crowed three times.

All: Our symbol is a rooster.

One: Then Jesus was given a crown of thorns as a pretend crown because he was known as the King of the Jews. The people who gave him the crown were making fun of him.

All: Our symbol is a crown of thorns.

One: After this, Jesus died on a cross. It was very sad for his friends and family.

All: Our symbol is a cross.

One: We extinguish this week's candle giving thanks for Jesus - his life, his love, his many examples to us of how to be God's people.

***GATHERING SONG** *Here in This Place (sung X3)*

Then Let Us Sing #150

Words and music: Maria Case, 2008. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161.

Here in this place, the breath of God,
My soul finds repose;
Holy space, the heartbeat of God,
My soul finds a home

CALL TO CELEBRATION *(A Palm Sunday Rap)*

Maeve O'Neill & Iris Muir

Refrain:

Ho	Ho	Sanna (X3)	
(stomp)	(stomp)	(clap)	
Jesus	comin'	to	town
(pause)	(stomp)	(stomp)	(clap)

One: Jesus was a-comin' to Je-rusa-lem,
riding on a donkey they had found for him.
The donkey was a-clompin' with his big old feet,
and someone started clappin' and it made this beat. **R (keep beat going to end)**

One: Someone started whistling their favourite tune,
another had some words and they began to croon.
Pretty soon the crowd started rappin' on down,
singing: Ho Ho Sanna, Jesus comin' to town!

Refrain:

Ho Ho Sanna (X3)
(stomp) (stomp) (clap)

Jesus comin' to town
(pause) (stomp) (stomp) (clap)

One: The rap started building and the crowd did too,
waving palm branches to the beat of this tune.
Some took off their jackets and laid them on down,
singing: Ho Ho Sanna, Jesus comin' to town! **R**

One: As they entered into town they were rappin' up a storm!
"Tell them all to stop," the Pharisees warned,
but the stones would-a-shouted if they had-a-stopped now,
singing: Ho Ho Sanna, Jesus comin' to town! **R**

Bill Lamont, *Gathering Lent*

OPENING PRAYER

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)*

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.

THEME CONVERSATION *Palm Sunday Video*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rdrcHLIs5c>

(Skit Guys - Palm Sunday, February 2012)

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.

VU#921

HYMNHosanna, 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 singing 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!

WE REFLECT**ANTHEM****GOSPEL READING***Mark 11:1-11***Marilyn Perrin**

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***Marilyn Perrin**

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. Words, Music, Translation: Public Domain. Descant: © 1978 Choristers Guild. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723161.

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

Words and music copyright © 2005 Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy.

Arrangement. copyright © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore. Reprinted under LicenSing Online #623941.

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**

Stay with Us Through the Night

VU#182

Words: © 1986 Walter Farquharson. Music: © 1986 Ron Klusmeier. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723161. All rights reserved.

1. Stay with us through the night
Stay with us through the pain.
Stay with us, blessed stranger
till the morning breaks again.

2. Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the grief.
Stay with us, blessed stranger
till the morning brings relief.
3. Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the dread.
Stay with us, blessed stranger
till the morning breaks new bread.

***BLESSING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

In the Bulb

VU#703

Words, Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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