

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
April 10, 2022 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, April 10.

Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: VU 123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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

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!

Inviting Holy Light

We prepare for worship, embrace this moment. The quiet of this moment, the compassion we take in, breathe out, Patience, not rushing in. Breathe in. Breathe out. Ground ourselves in the gift of this moment. Filling... emptying... filling again. Holy Dawn after the quiet of Dark Night, in gratitude. We welcome you Creator, Redeemer, Spirit. *[Dave lights candle]*

Hymn: VU 376 Spirit of the Living God, vs. 2

2. Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Nurturing Safe Space

All are welcome in this space. Young or old. Whatever your ability, mobility, life experience, identity. You are welcome here.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We as people of faith inherit a legacy, a history of hurt, but also journey into new chapters of healing and reconciliation. Today, here we are worshipping on the ancestral land the Wahnapiatae First Nation and of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, this land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, and never honoured by Canada. We live, work, play, and pray on the Treaty lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us and be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

Welcome and Announcements

Hello there. Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church. Thank you to our music leaders this morning, Graham Laporte on piano and organ and his partner in life Debby Laporte. I want to also thank you both for your wonderful mid-week worship services that have blessed us through Lent. We can find those on the YouTube channel among the Sunday worship recordings, as well as on the website. Thank you also to our readers this morning, Marilyn Hurst and Alison Warner-Smith.

Our Journey has taken us on quite a path this Lent – 5 Sundays, and now we journey through Palms and, accompanied by God's grace and love, we get closer to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Palm today

Just a reminder that next week Joanne Ross will be here with delicious Zatoun Olive Oil, made from Olive trees in Palestine. It is organic and fair trade, it supports the work for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine too.

Those at home, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our website or Facebook page, or email our office manager so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter called the NEWS. We also have a Social Hour every Sunday night on Zoom, tonight at 7:00. As always, you can get your Zoom link to join that time of connecting by sending an email to Diane. That email address will be part of the credits after this worship.

Call to Worship

Steadfast God, Lent has been a long journey. Now the long shadow of the cross and the footsteps of Jesus have led us here, waiting at the gates into Jerusalem.

We have arrived. Yet it seems the journey is still not complete;

We begin what will be a deeper journey. This Lenten wandering in wilderness is just a beginning. The greatest story is still to be told. Come let us all gather at the gates of the city; the crowds are preparing to enter;

carrying heavy loads, travelling light; walking in fear, living in faith.

We wait, Holy One, and welcome others.

Opening Prayer

May we be your disciples today, Jesus, where we ponder carefully the significance of this moment. We will cry out from the depths of our hearts, hosanna – save us! – but help us to live that out beyond the parade. May we be your supporters today, Jesus, where we know the your liberating power. May follow you from gate, into the garden. May we be your voice today, Christ among us, where we cry out against the protests, where we stake our faith and lives on what you begin here today.

The Prayer Jesus Taught

Let us say together again the fresh version of the ancient prayer that Jesus taught:

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One.

Time Up Front/Palm Parade

Dave has a packsack in his hand.

Quite a journey we have made. We have collected all these gifts from the wilderness, surprising joy in the midst of grief and struggle. Life is like that, surprising at times.

Well, our journey has taken us to today. Today, our storyteller Marilyn will talk about a special welcome Jesus got into Jerusalem. People needed some good news, times were really tough then. The cruel Romans controlled and hurt and even killed people. But Jesus, they had heard about this Jesus fella, who was talking about change, about the Living God bringing a new world. That sounded good. So now to the story...

Scripture Reading

Luke 19:28-40 (Common English Bible) (Marilyn Hurst)

Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem by cheering crowds.

Jesus... continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As Jesus came to Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he gave two disciples a task. He said, "Go into the village over there. When you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying it?' just say, 'Its master needs it.'" Those who had been sent found it exactly as he had said.

As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "Its master needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their clothes on the colt, and lifted Jesus onto it. As Jesus rode along, they spread their clothes on the road.

As Jesus approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing. They praised God with a loud voice because of all the mighty things they had seen. They said, "Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens."

Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, scold your disciples! Tell them to stop!"

He answered, "I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout."

(Dave) We are going to join with that crowd, celebrating the coming of the one who brings God's saving message of love, not fear. Peace, not paranoia. I invite you all to come and parade with me around the sanctuary, as if Jesus were here.

Hymn (during Palm Parade): VU 128 Sanna, Sannanina

Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.

Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.

Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina,
sanna, sanna, sanna.

Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina,
sanna, sanna, sanna.

Scripture Reading

John 12:27-36 (Alison Warner-Smith)

According to the Gospel of John, Jesus pondered deeply about the difficult journey that lay ahead for him.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Let us pray: There are cries of anguish, trust, thanks, and hope in these passages. God, we know that you hear them all! The cheers have died down, but conflict simmers as we journey into Holy Week. Christ, you humbly ride in, fill our mouths with loud hosannas and give us tongues proclaim our commitment to follow you and your way of peace. Amen.

Message: “What kind of king is this??”

Message will be posted on the website once it is available.

Questions for Reflection

- Hearing the hosannas and palm parade celebration, if you were among those crowds what emotions would experience?
- The second Reading hints at the betrayal and death to come. What is the significance of the crucifixion story for you, your faith and life?

Hymn: VU 702 *When a Poor One, vv. 1, 4*

1. When a poor one who has nothing shares with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

Minute for Right Relations – Indigenous Canada – MOOC (*Marilyn Hurst*)

When you only know part of the story, you don't know the whole story. When you learn new parts of the story, your understanding grows deeper. When it comes to understanding Indigenous histories and cultures, there is lots to learn. And as settlers, we have a lot of work to do and a lot of learning to do. So many of us are asking, “Why didn't I learn this in school?” and “I'm an educated person, but I don't know enough any of this.” Maybe you wish you understood things a little more: First Nations cultures and ceremonies, treaties, the Indian Act, residential schools. We all have a lot to learn!

Maybe if we all knew a bit more, we'd make some more progress on our journey of truth and reconciliation. Justice Murray Sinclair, speaking about residential schools, observed that it was education that got us here, and he is convinced that education will help us find a way forward toward reconciliation.

There are many ways to learn more about the history and the issues. One of those ways is to register in an open-access course called “Indigenous Canada,” hosted by the University of Alberta. The course is free. It's called a “MOOC” – a massive open online course – and so far, almost half a million people have registered. Maybe you've heard about it? You can start any time. It's completely free. You can work at your own pace. And you are sure to learn lots of things you didn't already know. Go ahead, google it: MOOC at University of Alberta.

Do you wonder what it might be like to take that course? If you'd like to hear about one person's experience as a learner, check out the Canadian Shield Regional Council Right Relations Team webpage. There's a new video to watch! Two members of the RRT (both of them settler allies) – Sylvia Carscadden, of St. Andrew's United Church, and Linda Ambrose, from St. Peter's United Church, chat about Sylvia's experience as a student in this course. Sylvia is learning about treaties, about the Indian Act, and about Indigenous art. She's really enjoying the course. Sylvia finds it really easy to access, and she's learning so much! Maybe this is a course for you too?

Offering Moment

Helping locally, St. Andrew's partners with people who help the most vulnerable downtown. Giving to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service allows us collectively to reach out to

Ukraine and other places needing love and community. Thank you for all you do, and perhaps those of you who are giving here for the first time. Thank you.

Dedication Hymn: MV 191 *What Can I Do?*

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.

Dedication Prayer

Save us from injustice, from hunger, from conflict, from indifference. Call us to works of justice, feeding the hungry, peacemaking in conflict, and seeking the lost. And we will go with you, beside you, because of you, now. Amen.

Prayers of Community

Among the crowds, so busy with the moment can we spot the woman shouting hosanna as she tries to forget the lack of food for her table?

We pray for the hungry.

In the chaos of the people laying coats on the road, busy with the moment do we notice the one who remains silent lonely, even in a crowd?

We pray for the lonely.

In the moving hordes crying for salvation, busy with the moment, can we see the person who isn't out for the day but whose home is that street?

We pray for the homeless.

In the sway of the masses eager to see, busy with the moment, will we spot the one looking among the crowd for someone long gone?

We pray for those grieving.

In the movement of the pack caught up in hysteria, busy with the moment, can we recognize the one with wounds and hurt from a different violence?

We pray for those in conflict.

In the baying of the mob cheering without knowing why, busy with the moment, we stop to quietly, in our hearts, hold lovingly in silent prayer those of concern to us today... [silence]

Be with us, Creator, as we notice the change from hosanna, to crucify. We pray for all who suffer, we pray too for ourselves as we ponder why we are here, among the crowds. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 148 *Jesus Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
(repeat verse several times while the sanctuary is being stripped)

Blessing

Now let us set aside our palm branches,
to go and serve at God's side in a broken and fearful world.

Now we pick up our cloaks from the dirt, and follow Jesus where he leads,
to learn from those the world ignores, to be touched by the grace within them.

Now we sing songs of wonder,
as we work alongside the Spirit, sustaining the weary with peace and hope. Amen.

Blessing Hymn: MV 85 *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me. (*repeat verse*)

Postlude

All prayers except for Blessing from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Lent/Easter © 2022 Wood Lake Books.

The Prayer Jesus Taught by Parker J. Palmer, found in *Peace Prayers*, eds. Carrie Leadingham, Joann E. Moschella, and Hilary M. Vartanian.

Luke 19:28-40 from Common English Bible (CEB). © 2011.

Minute for Right Relations submitted by Linda Ambrose on behalf of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Right Relations Resource Team.

Blessing by Thom M. Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com, © 2019.

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