

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey



Sunday, April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

On this Palm Sunday, may we, who are sometimes swayed by the crowd's approval and who often avoid conflict for fear of its cost to us, hold fast to the gospel of peace and justice and follow faithfully in your way of compassion and solidarity with those who are poor and excluded, wherever it may lead us.

(Kathy Galloway, Eggs and Ashes, Iona Community.)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Sinfonia No. 3 in D Major, BWV 789 (J.S.Bach)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

CALL TO WORSHIP The Gilpin Family...Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily

He came riding on a donkey...

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

No one knew what to think...

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

But they knew something extraordinary
was going on, something worth laying down
one's cloak, something worth tearing the branches
from palm trees and waving them in the air...

Hosanna! Hosanna!

**Blessed is the one who comes
In the name of the Lord!**

(S.Spencer, Gathering)

HYMN Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (VU 123)

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.

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.

‘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!

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

We have gathered here and at home, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine. As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the broken places in our world where people struggle every day to find meaning and purpose for their lives.

(Sixth candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray...

Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day—choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the wellbeing of the earth, ourselves and our neighbours; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 118: 2-4, 19-29 (VU p.837) Pat Innes

Let Israel now say:

‘God’s love endures for ever.’

Let the house of Aaron say:

‘God’s love endures for ever.’

Let those who fear God say:

‘God’s love endures for ever.’

Open to me the gates of the temple, that I may enter and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of God; through it the righteous shall enter.

I thank you for you have answered me; you have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is God's doing, marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Save us, O God, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;

with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will extol you.

GIFT OF MUSIC The Road to Jerusalem (*W. Gross*) Handbells

GOSPEL John 12:12-19 (Jesus enters Jerusalem.) NRSV (Video Clip: The Gospel of John)

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Hosannas and the New Normal

HYMN When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming (R. Cooney MV 128)

When they heard that Jesus was coming, Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

All the people went out to meet him. Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Spread their cloaks and branches before him, Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Children sang with palm branches waving. Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Blest is he, like David before him. Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Blest is he, God`s blessing upon him. Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Word of God, and first born of people, Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Promise kept, the crown of creation. Sing hosanna to the chosen one!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the chosen one!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN Jesus Christ Is Waiting (VU 117)

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets; no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too. Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets, where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too. In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets; curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too. Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets, where each sign of hatred he with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too. On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets, 'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few. Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

And now, we go in the joy of God's love,
knowing it is powerful enough to cover all that separates us—even death.

May the blessing of God, giver of every good and perfect gift;
the blessing of Christ, the Redeemer of the lost and broken;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives,
be with each one of us and all whom we love and serve. Amen.

POSTLUDE All Glory, Laud and Honour (*arr. Lani Smith*)



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



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Participating in Worship today...

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar

Margaret Heney, Music Coordinator

Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily Gilpin

Pat Innes

With thanks to... Bob Kyriakides, worship video editing

Keegan Comar, videographer...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate in worship in some way! 😊

