



March 28th, 2021 ~ 10:30 AM ~ Palm Sunday

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Leading us today in Worship

Guest Minister: Major the Rev. Bob Lay

Music Director: Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Leader & Scripture Reader: Jim Dolmer

Soloist: John Thompson

~ Leader: regular font ~ All: bold font ~ Sung words: bold italics

We Join One Another to Worship God

PRELUDE: Sonata K. 333, 2nd Mov't, W.A. Mozart

GREETING (2 Cor. 13:13) (Lay Leader)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

WELCOME (Lay Leader)

Welcome to Major the Rev. Bob Lay, who will be leading us in worship today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord hath made;
He calls the hours His own;
Let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad,
And praise surround the throne.

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, this morning I'm thankful that you are not caught up in the enthusiasm of a crowd that saw you in political and military terms.
But you had a larger and greater purpose to redeem not just Jews, but Jews and Gentiles alike.
Thank you, Lord, for saving our soul.

Thank you, Lord, for making us whole.

Thank you, Lord, for giving to us your great salvation so rich and free. Amen.

HYMN VU #122 All Glory, Laud and Honour

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.***

Refrain

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

***2. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.***

Refrain

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

***3. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.***

Refrain

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

***4. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king.***

Refrain

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us come together to a moment of confession. Imagine Jesus entering our presence just as he entered Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. Envision the palm branches, the

donkey, the shouts of "hosanna." Understanding who he is and knowing who we are...

Leader: ...we pray together...

All: **O God, you know us well. We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to live it fully. We shout "hosanna" as Jesus approaches, as did the people of Jerusalem many years ago; but we do not want him to come too close -- not close enough to really see...**

Silent Confession

Leader: And we pray together...

All: **O God, you know us well. We are quick to claim faith in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour; but, like the throng who greeted his entry into Jerusalem, we are fickle, slow to live fully and everywhere as faithful disciples. We know where we fail...**

Silent Confession

Leader: And we pray together...

All: **O God, you know us well. We are quick to want the blessings of faithfulness; but, like the Twelve who spent the last week with him, we are slow to accept the pain and suffering of authentic Christ-like living. Forgive our weakness and fear...**

Silent Confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Lord is God. The Lord brings light to those in darkness, forgiveness to those who truly confess, and pardon to all who seek to follow Jesus. Rejoice that the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever and ever. In the name of Jesus the Christ, receive the love that never dies and never fails. Amen.

God Speaks, We Listen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(Lay Leader) (CGP p44)

As we prepare to listen for what the Bible is saying to us, let us pray together:

**O God, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE:

(Lay Leader)

Psalm 118 Parts: 1,3 & 4 VU# 837 The Psalm is Responsive

Refrain : **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

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.

Refrain: **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

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.

Refrain: **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

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 extoll you.

Second Reading:

(NRSV)

Hebrews 10:4-10 The Sacrifice of Jesus

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ¹ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book² it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will³ that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Third Reading :

(NRSV)

Mark 11:1-11 Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

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.

RESPONSE:

(Lay Leader)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: Little Litanies of Jesus. G. Grovlez

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(AWA)

May the words of my mouth...
and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
our strength and our redeemer.

SERMON "Allowing the Lord to Lead"

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 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 Join God in the World

PROFESSION OF FAITH A New Creed

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created
and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make
new,
who works in us and
others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the
Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in
Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond
death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(VU #909)

Merciful God, you are close to all in need,
and by our prayers we draw close to you.
Claiming your love in Christ Jesus for the whole world,
we dare to pray for others.
Committing ourselves to the care in his name for those
around us,
we bring our prayers and concerns for friend and stranger:

(Silent prayers for people both near and far may be offered)

Bountiful and merciful God,

accept our prayers of your people, and strengthen us to
do your will; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken, traditional words, VU 921)

As a child turns to a loving caregiver who watches over
them, we turn in prayer to you, O God, who are our
heavenly parent, our mother,
Our Father, who art in Heaven...

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Think of one person with whom you would like to share the peace
of Christ. You can also share the peace by typing in the chat box.*

MUSIC for PASSING the PEACE : Improvisation on a Hymn.
C. Burton

OFFERING *We honour all the ways we give as we dedicate our offering.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

With an offering stone to honour all the ways we give as
we dedicate our offering let us pray:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF (CGP,50)

**We bring our gifts to you, God.
Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.
Accept them and use them,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A single stone placed in the offering plate honours all our gifts.

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Ways to give:

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Credit Card: www.graceunitedthornbury.ca, select "Give"

More ways to give: **Care, Prayer, Share**

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Congregational Meeting**

Coffee Hour: Join us via ZOOM for community time

The link was sent out by e-blast.

(LAY LEADER)

We Go Out to Share God's Love!

HYMN MV #8 And on This Path

**1. And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!**

Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!

the gates are open wide:

**2. So enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide!**

Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!

the gates are open wide!

SENDING

Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

(CGP p. 72)

SUNG BLESSING Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there, * within, around, above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Amen, amen, amen.

* alternate words: watching from above

In response to congregation feedback, the Worship Committee has decided that, a sending or blessing other than Go Now in Peace will be sung one Sunday a Month

POSTLUDE: Sonata Op. 10 #2, 1st Mov't L.van Beethoven**RESOURCES USED****LITURGY SOURCES: The following are used with permission:**

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Prelude: **Sonata K. 333, 2nd Mov't**, W.A. Mozart

Musical Interlude: **Little Litanies of Jesus** G. Grovez

Passing of the Peace: **Improvisation on a Hymn** C. Burton

Postlude: **Sonata Op. 10 #2 1st Mov't** L. van Beethoven

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