

April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday

Prelude

Palm Parade: VU124 He Came Riding on a Donkey

Welcome and Announcements

Check In: Talk about a parade or street celebration you have been to.

Acknowledgement of the Land and Commitment to Reconciliation:

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, including Metis and our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land. We are all Treaty people.

This week, we honour those who are preparing to celebrate. We think of the regalia makers, dancers, drummers, artisans, storytellers, and elders. All of those who are getting ready for Pow Wows, celebrating Indigenous culture and achievement.

We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch

Call to Worship

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips:
we will travel through betrayal and death,
cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Today, we wave palm branches in anticipation.

Today, we lay our love before him to cushion his walk.

Setting aside all power glory and might Jesus comes,
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

**Blessed is the one creating beloved community among us,
We are all embraced in the kin'dom of God.**

(Adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman)

Song of Praise: Choir Anthem, "Hosanna"

Poem: Palm Sunday by BD Power

Reader: Carolyn Hendry

Along the pilgrim way they went
where seers and saints had trod,
he sensed the blessing of pure hearts,
that look upon their God.

They cheered and laughed along the road,
Hosannas thick and fast,
but we wasn't fooled by human praise
he knew the first was last.

He did not watch how Judas scowled,
Or dote on Peter's smile,
he simply did what he was asked
and went the second mile

The pilgrim crowd were on a high,
their palms a waving mass
he went in trust all of the way
though he was just a...[donkey]

Lighting of Christ Candle

Prayer:

As we light this Christ Candle, may it be a reminder
that Christ is in us and in our world.

Sung Response

Gather Us In

Peace of Christ

Theme Conversation: Why do We Sing?

Children's Song: Reprise of Palm Parade as they leave.

The Story: Luke 19:29-44 Reader: Fran Hill

Luke 19:29-44

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and

bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.' " 32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord needs it." 35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 38 saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

41 As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

Song for Reflection: VU376 Spirit of the Living God

Sermon: All Things are Possible

Offering of Thanksgiving

"Just because something bears the aspect of the inevitable
one should not, therefore, go along willingly with it."

Phillip K. Dick

Offertory Music

Offertory Response Your Work O God

Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People Reader: Carolyn Hendry

(Adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman)

We come as thankful people, and grateful for all the blessings in our lives.
We give thanks for all the celebrations mentioned here, and online.
In this quiet place, in a quiet moment, we offer our own gratitude (silence)

We come knowing that there are those who need care.
We raise up the concerns mentioned here, and online.
In this quiet place, in a quiet moment, we offer the prayers of our hearts (silence)

When we are so weary
We cannot seem to put
One foot in front of the other
You take us by the hand,
Steadfast Love,
So we can join you
On a morning walk
To hear the songbirds.

When we would rather
stuff our ears with cotton
than listen to one more whine,
one more argument,
Word of hope for all,
You teach us how to listen
to the hearts which are ignored
to everyone, everywhere.

When we long to run away
From all the worries, the fears,
The insults flung in our faces,
Peace of the weary,
You model for us
how to be willing to care
for all who suffer injustice
which we cannot begin to imagine.

Steadfast Love, Word of Hope, Spirit of Peace,
God in Community, Holy in One
hear us as we lift our prayer to you,
You, who loves us a mother, who is
Our Father...

Song for the Journey: VU221 Sing Praise to God

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: May the Christ Who Walks on Wounded Feet

Postlude

Beyond Sunday: Holy Week

Holy Week is full of highs and lows. There is the quiet intimacy of Maundy Thursday, which begins with Jesus washing the feet of the disciples as they gather. It continues with that meal, the communion, we celebrate each month. And includes Jesus offering the gift of a new commandment, *mandatum* in Latin, hence the name Maundy Thursday.

Then there is the terror, pain, and loss of Good Friday. We stand in the story with the disciples, participating in their grief at the base of the cross.

There is the in between time of vigil on Saturday.

And finally, the moment of celebration when we gather on Easter.

A colleague of mine used to use this as a quick check in,
"Are you in Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or Easter, today?"

As you move through Holy Week, you are invited to consider what your heart needs.

Come for the comfort, sit in grief, arise early on Easter Sunday, or arrive for the celebration. Experience one or all.

May you be blessed, and surrounded in love, whatever your choice.