

**April 10, 2022**

**Palm Sunday**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "All Glory, Laud, and Honour"

**Lenten Liturgy** Written by Jen Dresser, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2016, page 67. Used with permission.

Will you follow Jesus with this final rock into death? Will you follow Jesus to the cross and witness death? Will you witness the oppression, pain, and suffering that led Jesus to this place? Will you bear witness to the oppression, pain, and suffering of our own world?

*(rock is placed, candle is extinguished)*

The rock that will not be moved.

**May God's spirit walk with us.**

**Gathering In Song MV 90 "Don't Be Afraid"**

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...**

**Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 24)*

Lift up your heads, o people of God!

and open wide the doors of your hearts!

that the Prince of Peace may enter in.

**Who is the Prince of Peace?**

The Lord, strong and gracious,

the Lord, who comes to rule in justice.

**We lift our heads, open the doors of our hearts**

**And welcome the one who comes in peace.**

**Hymn VU 29 "Hark the Glad Sound"**

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:

let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

## Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Eternal God, this morning we have come to cheer you on. We can feel the excitement of the crowds who welcomed Jesus with such joy, and we want to join in, to share their hope, remembering your promise of a savior. Bless us as we greet your Son, who arrives now, and in whose name we pray. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem:** "He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd" Handel, from *The Messiah* Nancy Quinn

## Time for the Young and the Young @

### Hymn VU 124 "He Came Riding on a Donkey"

He came riding on a donkey, he came riding into town;  
slow and easy kind of lowly he came riding with the dawn.  
His disciples walked beside him, staying close, a little shy;  
not too sure where he would guide them, on to live or on to die.  
But all the morning sang his praises; waking birds and dancing wind;  
here he is, the Son of David; riding on to take his throne.

Then the children gathered, singing shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;  
in the streets their song was ringing, 'Hosannas' filled the morning air.  
Timid adults strained to see him, caught the Spirit, joined the song;  
spread their cloaks along before him, branches flashing in the sun.  
So all the city sang his praises; waking streets and dancing crowd;  
here he is, the Son of David; our Messiah, Son of God.

In our fasting, and our feasting, called to follow in his way;  
called to walk his road to Easter, called to live his cross today.  
Hosanna to the Son of David, hosanna in the heavens above;  
blessed is he who comes to save us, blessed is he who brings his love.  
Let us join to sing his praises; open hearts and souls to God;  
he is with us, Son of David; God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

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, marvellous 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.**

**Scripture:** Luke 19:28-40

### **Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 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. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now 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, saying,

"Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!"

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

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; and either Luke 22:14 – 23:56, OR Luke 23:1-49.** You can look them up on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James – KJV, NIV, NRSV, etc.)*

**Meditation:** "More! or Less."

**Hymn VU 325** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the church in one,  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and its confidence alone.

To this temple where we call you,  
come, O Lord of hosts, today;  
with your faithful loving-kindness  
hear your servants as they pray,  
and your fullest benediction  
shed within its walls always.

Here bestow on all your servants  
what they ask of you to gain,  
what they gain from you for ever  
with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,  
laud and honour to the Son,  
laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever three and ever one,  
one in might, and one in glory,  
while unending ages run.

**We Respond To God's Grace**

**Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

We have offered our hosannas and our praise, now is the time to offer our tithes and other offerings. Our tithes and other offerings will be received, via Canada Post or CanadaHelps, the offering plate, the mail slot at the church, or by e-transfer.

**Offertory Hymn VU 542** “We Give You But Your Own”

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

**Offering Prayer**

As you have received our hosannas and our praises, so to we ask that you would receive our offerings. Bless what is given, and those who give it. Most especially bless those whose lives will be touched by what is offered. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

We say, O God, that everyone loves a parade, but what does the parade celebrate? Victory? Homecoming? Thanksgiving? Achievement? Or the arrival of your beloved child, come to show us your way in the world – our way in the world? May that be what we celebrate this day.

Our prayers today are for a world in which so much seems right – beauty, the warmth of the sun, the love of family and friends, the sound of happy children, a world of wonder and possibility, and so much more.

Our prayers today are for a world in which so much seems wrong – violence, terrorism, poverty in the midst of plenty, hatred, pain and suffering, disease and sorrow, loneliness and heartache, and so much more.

Today we pray for your church, that it may be a gateway to life as you intended. Especially we pray for Blenheim United Church as they discern their future without either a spiritual leader or a building.

Today we pray for those who hope that their dreams of a better world may be fulfilled. Especially we pray for the people of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.

Today we pray for those who mourn, that their pain may be eased by our words and actions, and by the healing presence of your Spirit. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Leon Denniss and Ron Dickie.

Today we pray for those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Jack, Marlene, Scott, Tucker, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray, saying:

**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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Hymn VU 133 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
you that feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see;  
watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his grief away:  
learn from him to watch and pray.

See him at the judgement hall,  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
see him meekly bearing all;  
love to all his soul sustained.

Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:  
learn from Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain view;  
there the Lord of glory see,  
made a sacrifice for you,  
dying on the accursed tree.

'It is finished,' hear his cry:  
trust in Christ and learn to die.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

May the blessings of God

**give us strength for the events of Holy Week**

May the Spirit of Wisdom

**give us vision for the road that lies ahead**

May the love of Christ made known on the cross

**make us caring companions and daring disciples.**

May it be so.

**Amen.**

**Sung Response: VU 961** "Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace"

Let us, O God, depart in peace, who in your name are gathered here.

Disclose the brightness of your face, and be forever near.

**Postlude:** "How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them" Handel, from *The Messiah*

Nancy Quinn

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ALL:

**WANTED:** Holy Humour Sunday is coming soon and your jokes (appropriate to be told from the pulpit) are wanted. Submit one. Submit many. It's up to you. The minister will not be held liable for any adverse effects the telling of your joke may have on others!

### **Bridges Out of Poverty**

**Bridging Poverty and Privilege... *growing life-changing relationships***

**Six Wednesdays: April 27 to June 1, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST / 10:00 a.m. - noon PST**

What if our response to poverty went beyond charity? What if we grew intentional friendships with our neighbours who are living in poverty? What if your church community could start a ministry that will make a tangible impact on poverty in the place you live? Explore how this can happen in weekly gatherings of food, fun, and storytelling while learning together how to bridge poverty and privilege. Register for this program at [united-in-learning.com](http://united-in-learning.com)

**Siloam United Church** is hosting **Expressions of Love**, a concert featuring singer/songwriter Kelly Walker, Actor/Singer Breanne Dietrich and Stratford Poet, David Stones on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 7:30 pm. Admission is by freewill offering at the door in support of the work and outreach of Siloam United Church.

### **DORCHESTER:**

Donations to the Dorchester Food Bank are being collected once again. There is a box next to the back door for food donations.

### **UNION:**

**April Outreach:** Port Stanley Community Cupboard food bank suggestions: dry and canned goods or a monetary donation.

### **Lectionary Readings for next week (Holy Week):**

Monday, April 11, 2022:

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 12, 2022:

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 13, 2022:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thursday, April 14, 2022 (**Maundy Thursday**):

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 15, 2022 (**Good Friday**):

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 OR Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9;  
John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 16, 2022 (**Holy Saturday**):

Job 14:1-14 OR Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16;  
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 OR John 19:38-42

Sunday, April 17, 2022 (**Easter Sunday**):

Acts 10:34-43 OR Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 OR Acts 10:34-43;  
John 20:1-18 OR Luke 24:1-12