

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

2

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**REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE**

Millgrove

**Palm and Passion Sunday**

“Where did he come from? Where was he going? Who is this Jesus?”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Name above all names,  
as you emptied yourself for others,  
we offer ourselves and these gifts  
as a sign of our hope in your reign.

Where there is death, bring life.

Where there is sorrow, bring joy.

Where there is injustice, bring courage for change.

**Amen.**

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**OPENING SCRIPTURES**

Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

John 12:12,13 - The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

**OPENING WORDS OF CELEBRATION**

L: Let all creation shout!

**P: Let us wave the palm branches high. Jesus is coming!**

L: He comes in humility to claim God's own.

**P: May he claim us this day and heal our hearts!**

L: Hosanna to the Son of David.

**P: Hosanna to the blessed Son of God.**

*Sing verse 1 of #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.

L: Look! He is coming! The King of all creation is riding into Jerusalem!

**P: He is seated on a donkey's back! He does not look like royalty.**

L: Yet the crowds cheer and wave branches from the palm trees.

**P: Is he riding into a royal welcome or to condemnation?**

*Sing verse 2 of "Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!"*

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.

L: Let us join the celebration and raise our voices to welcome the Lord of Life!

**P: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Hosanna Savior, we wave our palms and sing our praise as we remember your triumphal entry into Jerusalem. May your Spirit enter

the heart of our worship this day giving us the strength to endure the journey ahead.

*Sing verse 3 of "Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!"*

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!

### OPENING PRAYER

Hosanna! Blessed is Jesus who comes in God's Name! We stand at the gates of our Jerusalem and wave our branches high. We get caught up in the excitement of the parade. Jesus sits astride a donkey, a beast of burden bearing a most precious gift. Let the joy fill your hearts this day as we shout our Hosannas. Praise God for the wondrous ways in which our lives have been touched. Prepare our hearts to worship today for the shouting will die out and the time of trial will still lie ahead. Soon there will be a deathly quiet on the land. Soon the Savior will give his life for us. Amen

### SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 19:28-40

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They replied, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

<sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

<sup>38</sup> "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"<sup>[a]</sup>

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

<sup>40</sup> "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

**VIDEO:** "Wonderful Merciful Saviour"

*But remember that the shouting will die out and the time of trial will still lie ahead of us. Soon there will be a deathly quiet on the land. Soon the Saviour will give his life for us. But first Jesus shared one final meal with his disciples.....*

### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: As the many threads are made one in the cloth,  
 as the many grains are made one in the bread,  
 as the many grapes are made one in the wine,  
 so we who are many are made in the image of one God,  
 as we gather at this table

### HYMN: #469 We Gather Here

1 We gather here in Jesus' name,  
 his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;  
 for through the loving son God fashions us as one:  
 Come take the bread, come drink the wine,  
 come, share the Lord.  
     No one is a stranger here, - everyone belongs;  
     finding our forgiveness here,  
     we in turn forgive all wrongs.

2 He joins us here, he breaks the bread,  
 the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;  
 the One we love the most is now our gracious host:  
 Come take the bread, come drink the wine,  
 come, share the Lord.

We are now a family of which Christ is the head;  
though unseen he meets us here  
in the breaking of the bread.

3 We'll gather soon where angels sing;  
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;  
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:  
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,  
come, share the Lord.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our unity with one another, and with all those who have gone before us in this place.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our communion with the earth and our interwovenness with the broken ones of the world.

### THE STORY

We are reminded again of the tradition that surrounds this story.

Long ago, on the night of his arrest,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it:  
v2 'This bread is broken, as my body will be'.  
And he handed it to his friends, inviting them to eat:

Long ago, on that same night,  
Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it,  
and gave it to his friends:  
v2 'This wine is poured out, as my life will be.  
Remember me and give thanks for all I have given'.

### THANKSGIVING

Creating God, Source of Life, we offer our thanks for ...

**People: The smell after rain,  
The surprise of ducks in flight,  
The taste of peach and plum and nectarine,  
For all gifts simple and profound,  
in country and city, or back yard and on lake:  
We give thanks. We give thanks.**

Leader: We who hold all such good things in trust

join in the praise of all people:

**People: Holy! Holy! Holy! Heaven and earth are holy and good.  
All Holy is peace. All Holy is truth. Holy is love.**

Leader: In this season of transition  
as the leaves begin to spring forth  
and our hearts cling to the warmth as the days lengthen,  
All once again we are reminded,  
that new possibilities can rise from our failures or disappointments  
or what has come to an end.

**People: We give thanks for all the influences in our lives  
that have helped us to see beyond the present:  
that teach us to combine labour and rest,  
that bring us the cycles of time and season,  
that sustain us when we are in need.  
God loves in us; God cares through us; God laughs in us;  
God cries in us, as nowhere else.**

Leader: Especially we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth, gatherer of folk, teller of stories, breaker of bread, pourer of wine, weaver of lives. In his life, wisdom, stories and social vision we recall the words he spoke to call forth in us love, care and respect for one another: All And we believe the same Spirit of God that came to visibility in Jesus yearns for visible expression in us.

### PAUSE

So, we take this bread and this wine...  
(The bread is broken... the wine poured)

Bread broken... Wine poured out... for the life of the world.

### WORDS OF COMMUNION

Come, taste of this same bread and wine...  
Gifts of the earth. Work of human hands.

### DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND WINE

**POST COMMUNION WORDS**

After the meal Jesus told His apostles, “I give to you a new commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another”. When the supper was over, they all stood up. Jesus knew that he will have to leave us soon. He knew that there are some very angry leaders who don’t want him around anymore. Jesus knows that God will always be with him. And Jesus is certain that God will always be with us too.

**LET US PRAY ... FOLLOWED BY LORD’S PRAYER****POST COMMUNION HYMN: #470 For the Bread Which you have Broken**

- 1 For the bread which you have broken,  
for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken,  
now we give you thanks, O Lord.
- 2 By this promise that you love us,  
by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heaven above us,  
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS****Mark 14: 27-42****Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial**

<sup>27</sup> “You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written:

“I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep will be scattered.”<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>28</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

<sup>29</sup> Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

<sup>30</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice<sup>[e]</sup> you yourself will disown me three times.”

<sup>31</sup> But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

**Gethsemane**

<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along

with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them.

“Stay here and keep watch.”

<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> “*Abba*,<sup>[f]</sup> Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

<sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup> Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

**Mark 14: 43-50****Jesus Arrested**

<sup>43</sup> Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

<sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” <sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup> Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>48</sup> “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” <sup>50</sup> Then everyone deserted him and fled.

**ANTHEM****READING “THE BETRAYAL”**

Betrayal

Love has moved out. The room is silent.

The table is left: broken bread still sitting there,

wine half finished, herbs and lamb scattered across the table.

In the distance you can hear footsteps moving through the olive grove,  
Whose they are we do not know.

The room hangs, suspended in time, cushions scattered,  
crumbs across the floor, a basin and a towel sit by the door.

There is a rustle of leaves among the trees, a brushing of garments  
caught on branches, the sound of knees breaking twigs as they kneel.

The room is cold, full of questions.

The air is deep with the smell of betrayal and panic, of accusations and  
unfinished stories. But something deeper is gone, and gone forever:  
a presence, a hope.

Footsteps sound on their way past the house out of the city.  
The room is dull.

Shadows stretch across unfinished bread and half-drunk wine,  
a breeze from the empty window fills the space, and crumbs roll and  
tablecloth flutters, as the wind moves  
around the emptiness of the room; a ghostly presence,  
filling the space, haunting love.

There is a gathering of noise, shouts, and silence.

From the room can be heard distant muttering.  
The trees capture the sounds and clasp the moment of betrayal.

Suddenly, all at once, the wind changes direction, the silence breaks,  
there is a cry somewhere in the city, The sounds are drowned out by the  
clinking of silver coins and a disciple betrays his teacher.  
and a kiss is traced on a carpenter's cheek.

The shouts are driven out by the stomping of boots, the cords that bind  
our Savior as he is brought to the hall of judgment, just to be shuttled  
back and forth between religious and temporal authorities.

It is the moment of betrayal.  
They Shouted "Crucify Him"

But what crime has he committed? Pilate asked  
They shouted all the louder, "Crucify him"

The time has truly arrived.  
Weep. For your Savior is about to give you his whole life for us.

**THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED**

**CLOSING HYMN:** #135 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

**BENEDICTION**

The road has been long. You have seen much on this journey, but it is  
not time to quit. The most important part of this journey has begun.  
This time next week the world will be different, but the journey has to  
be travelled. Go now in the shadow of the promise, with the God who  
has already travelled and will travel again, the same path, in the name of  
love. It is a violent and disturbing week: the heart will be torn out of the  
universe, but the promise is that it will beat again.  
Go, and all heaven's peace be with you.

**CHORAL AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Announcements**

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:** Good Friday Service at Hagersville at 10:30am.  
Hot cross buns served afterwards.

**Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:** Easter Sunday. Springvale will be having an  
Easter Basket draw as well as a hot breakfast starting at 8:30am. Tickets  
for the draw are 1/\$2 or 3/\$5. Baskets will be drawn during breakfast  
with service to follow. Special music by Chad & Emilia Smith and our  
choir.

**Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Coffee Time at 9:30am at Springvale. All are  
welcome

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:** Ham & Turkey Supper at Springvale United  
from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Adults: \$25.00, Children: \$12.00. Take-out only  
Meal includes: Ham, Turkey, Scalloped Potatoes, Stuffing, Corn,  
Coleslaw & Pie. Please call or text Shirley at 905-981-5455 to reserve  
your tickets.

**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>:** Soup Lunch at Hagersville. More information to  
follow.

Please bring in paper products for the  
Hagersville Food Bank!

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Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than any man's mind could ever conceive or plan. Man looked for someone to fight their battles in the present-day world. Yet God had the ultimate plan of sending His Son to fight the final battle over death. This is the greatness of why we celebrate this week. We can be free of death because of Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,'" John 11:25

As we enter into Holy Week, we have so much to be grateful for this week. The enemy knows that, and you can bet He will do everything he can to distract us from this Holy Week's true meaning.

Don't let him win.

In this Holy Week, may God direct our thoughts and attention towards what matters most, Jesus Christ our King...

Let's focus on worshipping our Lord, thanking Him for the gift of His sacrifice, celebrating the power of the Resurrection, and the new life found in Him alone.