

HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 5th, 2020

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Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Christ First United Church (Mississauga)

Palm/Passion Sunday
Preparing for the Final Encounter at the Cross

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

On this day of changes of confusion, of uncertainty, do not abandon us,
O God, even when we abandon you. Give us the courage in this time of
worship to face the truth of our stories, and the wondrous power of your
presence and forgiveness in even the most trying of times. Amen.

ANTHEM

READING "THE JOURNEY"

Narrator: Throughout Lent we have journeyed with Jesus, beginning
with entering the wilderness, encountering Satan and now ending with
entering Jerusalem. In contrast to the quiet desolation of the wilderness,
this entry is marked by not only the teeming of the city but also by
disciples shouting, "Blessed is the king that comes in the name of the
Lord!" So much has happened since Jesus emerged from the wilderness:
teaching through Nicodemus, barriers crossed as he meet the woman at
the Well and healing of the blind man and the resurrection of Lazarus
that gave the people a vision and hope of who Jesus will be for them.

But just as Jesus revealed a purpose beyond the temptations offered to him in the wilderness, here he will keep moving beyond the jubilant crowds of followers towards the true revelation of his identity and purpose on the cross.

Jesus: I know my mission is almost finished. My disciples and I have been travelling to Jerusalem, and as we have travelled I have warned them that I would soon be put to death, and after three days I would rise again. I am not sure if they understood... pausing

Narrator: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples with these instructions:

Jesus: Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this: "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.

Narrator: This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him, and those that followed were shouting:

Congregation: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Narrator: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. People were wondering who this person was? Some said that he is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.

Jesus: My journey is almost complete...come with me and see what happens next. (Jesus leaves from of the church)

Narrator: The crowds surged into Jerusalem for the celebration of Passover. This was the high, holy time--a time when something wonderful could happen in the lives of believers. They came offering sacrifices and prayers, bringing their hopes and dreams, their burdens

and sorrows. All these were mingled together with the aromas of incense and sacrifice--smoke billowing toward heaven - toward God.

Congregation: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Behold, the king comes. He comes riding on a donkey. Surely this is the son of God. Hosanna in the highest!

***HYMN: #127 Ride On! Ride on in Majesty! Vs. 1**

1 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

OUR STORY CONTINUES AS WE MEET JESUS IN THE UPPER ROOM

Reader - Luke 22:14-23

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.

¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. ^[a] ²¹ But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²² The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" ²³ They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

***HYMN: #480 Let us Break Bread Together Vs. 1.**

1 Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Word was spreading... people were talking... Jesus drew his friends close to him.

The disciples talked and ate. They were spending time together and sharing the Passover meal together as friends do.

Then Jesus stood up and... The room became quiet....

Full of love he took a loaf of bread, broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Full of love, he took a cup of wine as he said,

"This cup is poured out for you showing you a new way and God's promise in me."

Full of awe and wonder the friends ate the bread and shared the cup.

They had been fed with stories and prayers, words and deeds, and now this most special bread and wine.

Word was spreading

And now we are to be feed with this wine and this bread on this Palm Sunday as we remember what followed that night as Jesus share this meal with his friends.

Come share this meal, as we enter this Holy Week, we move with Jesus into the last days of his ministry. We prepare for the ultimate sacrifice of love.

Come to the table, you are invited by Jesus....

COMMUNION IS SHARED**POST COMMUNION PRAYER - SHARED**

Leader: WE have shared this meal with you lord, a meal that reflects the last supper you shared with your disciples. Now we are finished and the time has come. To enter a week that is hard to understand at times.

People: God, hold us, as we walk too, through, on, into this world's darkness. (Pause.)

Leader: God of passion, we kneel with you, praying, into the night, while the world conspires against you, and tries to put an end to love. (Pause.)

People: God, kneel with us, as we pray too, into this night, as forces gather behind our words, and betray love's future. (Pause.)

Leader: God of the day and night, who lives through it, we follow, holding your cup, trusting your will, though the shadows seems so long. (Pause.)

All: God, who lives through us, follow on, help us hold your cup, and keep trusting, Jesus, through the deep night. ((Leader will continue the prayer and followed by Lord's Prayer)

MEDITATION - THE 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, and a kiss is traced on a carpenter's cheek. It is the moment of betrayal. The night has truly arrived.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 22: 47-54

Jesus Arrested

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Peter Disowns Jesus

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

***HYMN:** # 135 Beneath the Cross of Jesus Vs. 1

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.

SENDING FORTH

Leader: This worship does not end with words of benediction, for this worship service does not end.

People: As people of faith we know that the story does not end –cannot end – with death.

Leader: And so we depart with the story unfinished, to contemplate, to wonder, and to wait.

People: We return during the week to continue our waiting and our wondering and, ultimately, to rejoice in the story of resurrection.

CHORAL AMEN

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Some things to think about this week; things that
COVID-19 has proven:

- The job that you were told to couldn’t be done remotely, can be done remotely.
- Internet is a utility, not a luxury.
- Universal healthcare is necessary.
- Homelessness can be solved when it can affect the rich.
- Childcare isn’t “doing nothing all day”
- Universal Credit is not enough to live on.
- Wages have nothing to do with skills or value of service from fruit picker to nurse.
- Millionaires get tested first but not spared.
- We are as strong as our most vulnerable.