

First United Church

April 2, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday



Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude Reflections on Holy Week for Organ John Carter
What Wondrous Love Is This; Go to Dark Gethsemane; Were You
There; Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Listening as we Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

One: We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet is sacred. We are on holy ground.

All: Earth is our only home, and we are related to it as part of the web of life.

One: We lament that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the earth. The climate crisis is one result of our overconsumption and wastefulness. We commit to learning and practicing better care for the earth.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and their spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton, and Anishinaabe and acknowledge their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We lament that we have not honoured their ways, nor their spirituality and we all live with the consequences.

All: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous people with whom we share the land. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.

One: We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring as part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background or abilities.

Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

ACT 1

One: Hear the words of the prophet.

Zechariah 9: 9-10a

Call to Worship

One: Rejoice in heart and soul all you people, the Promised One comes and peace shall come to all nations.

All: Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Procession of the Word and Lighting of the Christ Candle and Palm Parade.

• **Opening Hymn** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna VU 123

Prayer of Approach

Listening For God's Word

A Story for the Young at Heart

Ministry of Music Sing Hosanna Joseph M. Martin
 Family Choir; Isaac Morland, Piano

Readings from Our Tradition

The Gospel: Matthew 21: 1-11 (Reader: Peter Taylor)

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music Hosanna Gregor
 Gallery choir; Lee Willingham, organ

A Reflection: Two Parades, One Town

• **Hymn** He Came Riding on a Donkey VU 124

ACT 2

The Gospel: Matthew 21: 12-17

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
All: Praise to you, O Christ!

• **Hymn** Tell Me the Stories of Jesus VU 357

A Reflection: Tables Overturned, Open Access

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory

• **Dedication of Offering** We Give You But Your Own VU 542

Prayer of Dedication:

All: We come with joy Bounteous Creator to offer our gifts of thanks and celebration. Bless us and these gifts that we and they may bring your joy to all the world. Amen

Call to Prayer O God, Hear My Prayer VU 948

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

• **Sending Hymn** All Glory, Laud and Honour VU 122

Sending Forth and Benediction

• **Benediction Response** Threefold Amen VU 967
 Amen, amen, amen

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna arr. Pierre La Plante