

# EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH

Palm Sunday  
March 29, 2026

## Gathering In Community

### Prelude

### Choir Introit

**Lead Me, God**

**Peace Greeting:** The Prince of Peace rode into Jerusalem in lowly estate to bless us. Let us claim our heritage as children of peace by sharing signs of our kinship with one another.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

### Opening Hymn

All Glory, Laud and Honour

VU: 122

### Territorial Acknowledgement

Bill Berry

We gather today on this sacred soil of the Anishinaabe Peoples, the Haudenosaunee Peoples, the Huron-Wendat Peoples, and the Mississaugas of the Credit Nation. For thousands of years these people lived on this land, honouring the Creator and living in harmony with creation. We acknowledge their stewardship and relationship with the land, its plants and animals, the lakes and streams and their life forms throughout the ages. We accept the responsibility we have to nurture and protect this legacy. We seek to live in right relations with all.

### Announcements

Morgan Perigo—Nominations

Reverend Jan

### Words of Welcome

## Theme Introduction

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

#### Call to Worship

Reverend Jan

We join with the crowd  
that eagerly awaited the coming of Jesus.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Fulfilling prophesy, Jesus entered the city  
riding humbly on a donkey.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Come, let us worship God together.**

#### Opening Prayer

God of all creation, you are love.  
In joyful times, in excited times...  
in times of sadness, in times of fear...  
you are the love that holds us and sustains us.  
Wherever we are in the crowd...  
walking right beside Jesus,  
waving and shouting from the sidelines,  
or perched on the edge, wondering...  
help us to know  
that you are with us.  
We are loved.

Amen

Hymn: He Came Riding on a Donkey

VU: 124

### Seeking to Grow Spiritually

#### Prayer for Illumination

Bill Berry

Let us pray:

God of call, God of transformation,  
God of our Lenten journey;  
help us to discern your still, small voice.  
As we listen to words of scripture today,  
open us to change and growth,  
that we may gain understanding and wisdom  
as we walk with Christ.  
Holy One, may we hear your Word above the shouts of the crowd.

Amen

**Hebrew Testament Reading**  
**Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

**New Revised Standard Version**

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher, [\[a\]](#)  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens,  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand in court together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

## **Gospel Reading**

**New Revised Standard Version**

### **Matthew 21: 1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "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."

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;  
<sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks  
on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd<sup>[b]</sup> spread  
their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the  
trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went  
ahead of him and that followed were shouting,  
“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil,  
asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the  
prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us,**

**Thanks be to God!**

<b>Choir Anthem</b>	Entry into Jerusalem	by D. Besig
<b>Message</b>	Who Is This?	Reverend Jan
<b>Hymn</b>	What Wondrous Love Is This	VU: 147

**Service of Communion**

**Invitation to Communion**

**Hymn to Begin Communion**    All Who Are Thirsty    MV: 4

**Communion (see bulletin insert)**

**Hymn following Communion**    For the Bread Which You  
Have Broken    VU: 470

## **Responding In Care**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Doxology**    What Can I Do?    MV: 191

**Offering Prayer**

Loving God, you come to us in Jesus,  
a poor man, riding a donkey;  
we thank you for this witness of the power of love,  
despite the powers of this world.  
We thank you for all who have withstood evil,  
who have suffered the jeers, and worse, of the crowds,  
who have been tormented and still  
refused to use the weapons of hatred.  
We thank you for the times we have been able  
to let go our defenses, give up control,  
and live with open hands and hearts.  
We thank you for the gifts we have received and for the gifts  
we are able to give.  
We thank you with "hosannas!"  
Amen

## **Reaching Out In Love**

**Closing Hymn**    Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right    VU: 126

**Commissioning**

**Extinguishing the Christ Candle**

## Benediction

## Three-fold Amen

## Postlude

**Worship Resources:** *Gathering Magazine Lent/Easter, 2026 Year A* (page 14, 34-35); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 63-66); *Feasting On the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Volume 2* (pages 146-175); *Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A* (pages 228–236). Used with Permission.

## EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH AFFIRM STATEMENT

We celebrate the richness of our community when we have diversity in age, gender identity, racial/cultural backgrounds, economics, class, sexual orientation, and family configurations fully participating in all aspects of the life and work at East Plains United Church. We commit to continuing education to promote understanding and create a safe environment for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Easter Appeal



We will be collecting food and donations this year which will go to the Compassion Society. Please use the new envelope for cash or cheque donations, made payable to East Plains United Church, with Compassion Society in the Memo line. Many thanks from the Wider Work Committee!



Vista gift card orders are due on **Mar 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please see forms in The Gathering Place for payment information and give to Gayle Burnison, or call her at 905-630-3525. All proceeds applied to the EPUC General Fund.

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The **EPUC Affirming Ministry** will be represented at the free 2SLGBTQIA+ Senior's Symposium at the Art Gallery of Burlington **Sun, Mar 29** from 11:00-3:00pm

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**SOLO** is celebrating it's **10th anniversary** with a Gala Concert at BPAC on **Wed, Apr 22** at 7:30 pm

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### Jan's Journal



As you arrive for worship this Sunday, you will be offered a palm branch to wave as we sing the Opening Hymn. This is the symbolic tradition on Palm Sunday. We replicate in a small way, the jubilation of the crowd as Jesus made his way into Jerusalem, riding on the colt of a donkey, for the Passover celebration. This is the beginning of Holy Week.

The Good Friday service will be a joint service with West Plains United Church, held at **West Plains** on Friday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** This is always a very meaningful service. Lianne Tan, who is the Music Director at West Plains, has arranged some guest musicians and there will be a joint Choir

comprised of members of both East Plains and West Plains Choirs. I hope to see you there!

As Holy Week begins, the Wider Work Team is launching the annual **Easter Food Drive**. Please use the new donation envelopes in the pew pockets to make your cash donation and mark the line "Food Banks" or make a donation of non-perishable food items to the grocery cart in the Gathering Place. Your donations will go to the Compassion Society.

The United Church of Canada Mission and Service is launching an Easter Campaign in support of rural congregations. In many small communities across Canada, churches are central to the community, but are struggling financially as church membership declines. For more information about making a donation, please visit the United Church of Canada website.

### **Mark your Calendar**

If you are the Chairperson for a Ministry Team, time is running out! Reports for the Annual Report 2025, need to be submitted to the church office by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Friday, April 3, 2026 – Good Friday Service at West Plains United Church at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 5, 2026 – Easter Sunday worship

April 16, 2026 - Community Connections Team hosts the Community Event to explore ministry opportunities in conjunction with Community Development Halton. Everyone is invited to attend this event between 1 to 3 p.m. in Peart Hall.

April 19, 2026 - The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place following worship. Please plan to attend.

## **Looking ahead to May**

Companion Training for A Week of Guided Prayer will take place this **Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**. As you discern whether you will register for the week, it is important for you to know that all Companions are required to attend a specific day of training and to make a commitment to maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all participants.

The week will take place between **May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. You will soon see trifold information boards at the church entrances. Registration forms will soon be available. You are invited to participate in “A Retreat in the Midst of Daily Life,” as you pray with scripture and then meet with a trained Companion to discuss your prayer experience. The time with your Companion will be arranged to fit your schedule. The registration cost is \$20, which will be used to cover the cost of materials. Those materials are produced by the Week of Guided Prayer Network. If anyone is unable to afford the \$20 registration fee, the church will cover the cost for you. No one will be unable to participate due to financial restraints.

If coming to the church to meet with your Companion each day is difficult due to mobility limitations, we will provide a Companion who is able to meet with you on Zoom or FaceTime, or telephone.

The Theme for the Week of Guided Prayer is “Hope,” which seems quite pertinent at the present time!

For the first time, the Wider Work Team is replacing the spring Rummage Sale with a Trunk Sale, which they hope will be less labour intensive! Vendors and Artisans will rent a parking spot in the west parking lot and sell their items from the trunk of their vehicle, or a table set up behind it. There is also the option for members of East Plains to fill the trunk of your vehicle with items stored in room 14, which did not sell at last

year's spring sale. If you are willing to do this, you will not be asked to rent a parking spot, but to donate the proceeds from your trunk to the church. You could also sell items from home, which you would have donated to the rummage sale! Please support this new experiment! The Trunk Sale is planned for **Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm**. If that happens to be a day of heavy rain or thunderstorms, the Trunk Sale will be postponed to May 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read here, you can reach me at:  
[revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Reverend Jan