



**April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday**

*A family of faith ministering together
in the name of Jesus Christ*

Ministers: Each of us Assisted by Rev. Mark Perry

Organist: Kathy Limon

We Gather In God's Presence

Candle Liturgy

*(written by Sue Browning. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2013, pg. 58. Used with permission.)*

Today is the sixth Sunday of Lent. Lent is a time to think about the things that block us from following God's way of loving and caring for this world and one another. Today we will extinguish our last Lenten candle. This candle represents helplessness. As the candle is extinguished, let us pray in silence for God to remove helplessness within us, empowering us to believe that when we work with God we can change ourselves and can make the world a better place.

(extinguish candle, moment of silent reflection)

Knowing that God accepts us for who we are, but loves us into who we can be, let us join together in this song,

Gathering In Song MV 85 "Take, O Take Me as I Am" (repeat)

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me

Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

based on Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Look! Your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he –

humble and riding on a donkey

on a colt, the foal of a donkey!

***Hymn VU 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.

- 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.
- 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 (*unison*)

Holy One, today your Christ entered Jerusalem, surrounded by cheers and waving branches; the way paved with the cloaks of the people. Today your Christ comes riding into our hearts; and we sing and cheer and wave our branches and pave the way with the cloaks of our faith. And after the parade is over, we will turn away and go back to our old lives, our old ways, our old sins. With haste we will discard our commitment as we discard our palms. We will pick up our faith, shake it out, fold it up, and put it back on the shelf, where it belongs. Hosanna, Save us, Steadfast God! Help us to let our fears, our doubts, our faithlessness slip from our lives and fall at your feet, so we may stand with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ, who comes in your name to save us all. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @



***Hymn VU 128** "Sanna, Sannanina"

Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna,
Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.

Prayer Requests and Thanksgivings

Introit to Prayer VU 948 "O God, Hear My Prayer"

O God, hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer; when I call answer me.
O God, hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

& The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

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,
Forever and ever.
Amen.

Minute for Mission

Planting a Path to Reconciliation

Twenty-eight years ago when it was founded, Faith United Church in Kingston, Ontario, bought land near Highway 15 with the vision of creating a church building. Meeting in a local high school, they eventually decided to put their energy into being a caring community rather than into a building. Then, during the last year, Faith United began a time of discernment around the land. The members of the congregation felt inspired to walk a path of peace and offer the land as a place of healing. The church and the Indigenous peoples of Kingston are currently in conversation as they collaborate on how to create a space where all can find healing. Talking over tea and shared meals, they are exchanging ideas on how to come together in friendship. Currently they are considering creating a garden for reflection and reconciliation that contains Indigenous sacred medicine plants. Thanks to a grant from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund, supported by your gifts for Mission & Service, the Indigenous peoples of Kingston and Faith United Church members are able to move forward.

“We open our eyes now,” the Elders and congregation members shared in a report on the initiative. “We aren’t blinded by hopefulness and naïveté: we know our vision for this piece of land is grand in size and workload. We also know that when we walk together in a good way, when we root the process in ceremony and healing, we are acknowledging we aren’t walking this path alone. Together we can. Together we will. One step along the path of peace.”

May it be so!

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Invitation to Invest in God’s Mission

***Offertory Hymn: VU 218** “We Praise You, O God”
We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

*Prayer of Dedication

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

A Song of Victory

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² **Let Israel say,**
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ **This is the gate of the LORD;**
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² **The stone that the builders rejected**
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made;**
let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a]

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.**^[b]
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.^[c]

²⁸ **You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;**
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just

say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.^[a]" 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5 "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."

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 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!"

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

Meditation: "One or the Other"

We Go Forth, Serving God

*Hymn VU 122 "All Glory, Laud, and Honour"

R All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the King of Israel,
and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and blessed one. **R**

2 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. **R**

3 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. **R**

4 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king. **R**

***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: "Go Now In Peace"**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there supporting us with love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Announcements.....

Next Sunday, March 12, is Easter Sunday. The 200th Anniversary Committee originally planned to make Easter Sunday a day to wear your Easter Bonnet. There is no reason why we can't still do that, so everyone get creative and wear an Easter Bonnet for next Sunday. Also, we had scheduled communion for Easter Sunday. There is no reason why we can't go ahead with that too. Rev. Mark will be dropping off, on your doorstep or in your mailbox, instant communion. There is a sealed cup of grape juice, and a wafer too (between two flaps on the lid). Let's celebrate together!

Those wishing to send your offering to Berniece, here is her address

Union United Church
c/o Berniece Lidster
46810 Martyn Line
Sparta, ON N0L 2H0

If you prefer to donate your offering electronically, there is a "donate now" button on our website at:

www.unionunitedchurch.ca

Just complete the form and submit. You may choose "now" or "monthly".