

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on Palm Sunday April 10.

Announcements

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. Knox is on the traditional lands of the Anishinabewaki, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We seek a new relationship with the First Nations of this land, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation.

HYMN Let There be Light #727

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Holy God, Source and Spirit of all life, Holy Three and Holy One, In you, we confront the mystery of mercy and the courage of compassion. As we journey through Lent to the Cross we recognize that your suffering allowed new life to be realized. As the Spirit speaks to us through the story of your amazing love our hearts are moved to praise you. Words cannot express our awe, the grief and the gratitude for all you have given and for all you will give.

Merciful God, we recognize how often we fall short of your purpose for us. We confess it is easier for us to avoid conflict than stand up for your mercy and understanding. We allow other voices to drown out your wisdom and truth. Forgive us, O God. Fill us with the courage to follow Jesus, even when the cost to follow is high. We pray all this in the name of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Apostle Paul wrote: "This saying is sure and worthy of our full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners". It doesn't matter how big or how small our sins, God is able to forgive them all. Trust that, in Christ, we are forgiven. Be at peace

¹ PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

with God, with yourself and with each other. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn

Praise him, praise him

#372

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination

Living God, you feed us with bread and with your Word. Give us undivided hearts and undistracted minds, O God, so that we might walk in your truth and live in your light. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Bible Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 [B#565/W#625]

Gospel Luke 19:28-48 [B#83/W#85]

Hymn

Tell me the stories of Jesus

348

Contrasts

O holy One, by the power of your Holy Spirit at work in the word read and proclaimed, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

Palm Sunday is a time of contrast. We hear it in the hymns as they speak of peace and crucifixion. The contrast is present within Jesus as the divine God of Creation rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed colt. There is contrast in the setting as Jesus travels from the mount of Olives into the city where the crowd would first praise him with hosannas and later cry out to crucify him. Psalm 118 expresses joyful thanksgiving as the song of the faithful. They would sing it as they walked to the temple. The Psalm begins and ends with an affirmation of faith: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" This psalm, like our faith, brackets all that comes in between ... when we are in distress, under threat, outnumbered, pushed to beyond reasonable limit— we are strengthened by God.

The psalmist helps us to broaden our perspective and turns us around to see things differently. It is possible to re-center our balance as we begin to see that God chooses what we often reject. A powerful metaphor demonstrates a purpose of God: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." The cornerstone of a building is chosen with care, for the weight

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of the building presses on it from different sides. What looks unworthy to us may be where God sees great value. There are many examples in the scriptures. We can look to Moses and the slaves set against Pharaoh and all his military forces. Many examples of Gentile women who became key people in the genealogy of Jesus through Mary and Joseph.

This Psalm has been woven into our rituals and language of faith. Each week our worship service continues a traditional ritual when I say "The peace of Jesus Christ be with you." You participate in the ritual by responding "And also with you." This is an echo that reverberates at least as far back as the first Palm Sunday.

Luke's Palm Sunday account echoes his Christmas story. When Jesus was born, the Gospel writer tells us that angels appeared to sing, 'Peace on earth'. Now, as Jesus rode his colt toward Jerusalem, the people look to the sky and sing, "Peace in heaven." Heaven sings of peace on earth. Earth echoes back, "Peace in heaven." As holy week begins on this Palm Sunday we are in the midst of blessing coupled with sorrow of the story that we know will unfold.

Jesus traveled into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives where prophecy foretold the Messiah would appear. People gathered to praise him with enthusiastic voices. They sang Psalm 118 which praises God for rescuing them. The great multitude along the road into Jerusalem declared Jesus to be the one who represents the peace and glory of heaven. The crowds praised him. They were exuberant and filled with joy. Yet, the joy experienced by Jesus suddenly turned to great sorrow when he wept over Jerusalem. When Jesus entered into the crowd there was a shift and he began to weep. He said, "Jerusalem! If only today you knew the things that make for peace, but you do not know them. They are hidden from your eyes."

In Jerusalem today, halfway down the Mount of Olives, there is a small chapel which resembles a teardrop. It is called Dominus Flevit, which is Latin for "the Lord weeps". The chapel was built in the 1950's to honour the space where Jesus wept. The grounds are beautifully kept and offer a peaceful setting for visitors. It faces the Old City of Jerusalem. Listen carefully to the scripture and you may notice that the echo of peace on earth, peace in heaven was interrupted when Jesus offered a premonition of what will happen later in Holy Week.

When the disciples proclaimed Jesus the Messiah, some of the Pharisees told him to restrain his them. Jesus responded that God could make stones on the Mount of Olives cry out if the disciples were silenced. There is an echo of John the Baptist when he proclaimed at the Jordan: "God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham" (Luke 3:8). An echo of the prophetic warning of Habakuk 2:9-11 of injustice that will not long prevail. The very stones of the house built on corruption "will cry out from the wall." There is a contrast in the portrayal of divine and human kingdoms The oppressive, dominant kingdom of Caesar with its strict, ruthless power structure. The kingdom of God based on justice, mercy, and the love of God.

I wonder if we recognize the challenges we face within ourselves, particularly as we enter into this holy week. Nadia Bolz Webber wrote, "But I wonder if the nature of regret, and the practice of morbid reflection itself, is in some way rooted in the idea that we are different now. We like to think it's true, that given the opportunity to go back and do things differently, we would. We would, as improved, wiser people, make completely different choices. After all, we are better versions of ourselves now. And I kind of think that's true and I kind of don't."

On Palm Sunday we recall the stark contrast of the people lining the streets to praise Jesus as he wept over the people of Jerusalem who would not recognize "the things that make for peace." We look to our own lives and wonder where the contrasts may exist. As we enter into Holy Week may you lean into your faith to gently hold the complexity of God's creation. Praise be to God.

HYMN

This is the day

#78

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world. Desmond Tutu – cleric, theologian, human rights activist

BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ps. 118:22; Phil. 2:5-9; Luke 23:32

Let us join in prayer:

Holy God, you call us from every tribe, language, people, and nation to share in your everlasting kingdom. Mighty and Merciful God, we bring our gifts to you, trusting that your blessing will multiply their effects in the world. God in the highest, you came in human form to experience life with us.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. We pray for the nations that worship power and might; may they be ruled by humility and peace. The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. We pray for the church and its leaders, that we may have the mind of Christ. We pray for the victims of human tragedies and disasters of nature.

We pray for those who are in prison—the repentant, the unrepentant, and the falsely accused. We pray for those who are ill, frail, or rejected because they seem to be weak.

God of compassion, through Jesus Christ you have come to us and shared our common lot. Mold us into people who show your mercy and keep us obedient to the ways of Jesus. God of love, we lift up those who travel the long journey of grief and mourning. Holy God, we bring before you the names of people on our hearts this day: Ruth Talbot, Lois, Rudy and Grace; Bonnie; Rob; Courtney and Kyla. We lift up all those who prefer to remain unnamed as they face immense challenges of health and finances. Merciful God, accept our prayers, spoken and unspoken. May your love overflow more and more in our lives, in your church, and in all the world.

We join our voices together across space and time to speak the words that Christ taught his disciples ... **Our Father who art in heaven, hallow'ed 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN

Give me oil in my lamp

655

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Go in peace. Trust in Christ's promise that we will be with him in paradise. May you know the love of Christ, the mercy of the Father, and the fire of the Spirit as you go with the One God who is Mother of us all.

Postlude Holy, Holy, Holy

623

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#727 Let there be light

Let there be light; let there be understanding; Let all the nations gather; let them be face to face. Open our lips; open our minds to ponder; Open the door of concord, opening into grace.

Perish the sword; perish the angry judgement; Perish the bombs and hunger; perish the fight for gain. Hallow our love; hallow the deaths of martyrs; Hallow their holy freedom; hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your spirit turn to language; Your people speak together; your spirit never fade. Let there be light; open our hearts to wonder; Perish the way of terror; hallow the world God made.

623 Holy, holy, holy Words: traditional Music: F Schubert

Refrain: Holy, holy, holy, God almighty Lord!

Holy, holy, holy, everywhere adored!

God without beginning, God eternal One reigns and rules forever all beneath the sun

Refrain

Power and love and wonder, circling round God's throne, Praise our God most holy, Lord of Life alone **Refrain**

78 This is the day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Open to us, open to us the gates of God, the gates of God; we will go in, we will go in and praise the Lord, and praise the Lord. Open to us the gates of God; we will go in and praise the Lord. Open to us, open to us the gates of God.

You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name, we will praise your name; we will give thanks, we will give thanks for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness. You are our God, we will praise your name; we will give thanks for your faithfulness. You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name.

348 Tell me the stories of Jesus

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear, Things I would ask him to tell me If he were here: Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

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First, let me hear how the children Stood round his knee, And I shall fancy his blessing resting on me: Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, All in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Tell me about the disciples from far and near, And I will listen among them eager to hear. Whose loaves and fishes did Jesus bless, Showing the people God's tenderness?

Tell me, in accents of wonder, How rolled the sea, Tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee, And how the Master, ready and kind, Chided the billows and hushed the wind.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band, Waving a branch of the palm tree High in my hand; One of his heralds, yes, I would sing Loudest hosannas: Jesus is King!

372 Praise him, praise him, Jesus ...

Praise him, praise him, Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim! Hail him, hail him, highest archangels in glory; Strength and honour give to his holy name! Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children; In his arms he carries them all day long.

Refrain Praise him, praise him! Tell of his excellent greatness; Praise him, praise him, Ever in joyful song!

Praise him, praise him, Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! For our sins he suffered and bled and died; Be, our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation, Hail him, hail him! Jesus the Crucified. Sound his praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows, Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong. **Refrain**

Praise him, praise him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer! Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring! Jesus, Saviour, reigneth forever and ever; Crown him, crown him, Prophet & Priest & King! Christ is coming, over the world victorious; Power and glory unto the Lord belong.

Refrain

655 Give me oil in my lamp

Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning; Give me oil in my lamp, I pray. Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning; Keep me burning till the break of day.

Refrain Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the Servant King; Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna, let us sing!

Give me joy in my heart; keep me praising; Give me joy in my heart, I pray. Give me joy in my heart; keep me praising; Keep me praising till the break of day. **Refrain**

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Give me peace in my heart; keep me loving; Give me peace in my heart, I pray. Give me peace in my heart; keep me loving; Keep me loving till the break of day. **Refrain**

Give me love in my heart; keep me serving; Give me love in my heart, I pray. Give me love in my heart; keep me serving; Keep me serving till the break of day. **Refrain**