

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

### **Announcements**

We will gather in the lower level for a conversation and a light lunch after the service.

**Mission Moment** Pastors and church workers of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Western Ukraine, have been providing spiritual support to those who remained during the ongoing war in Ukraine. They welcome refugees and internally displaced people from Eastern and Central Ukraine. In recognition of the dedication and work of faithful servants, the Reformed Church in Hungary established a solidarity fund. Partner churches are invited join them in providing encouragement and financial support. The PCC, through Presbyterians Sharing, along with the First Hungarian Presbyterian Church in East Toronto respond by contributing to the fund. They aim to provide a monthly financial supplement of \$360 to help support 100 pastors and church staff in Transcarpathia.

Hunger and food security issues persist in our local community. The **Foodbank** focus will continue to be cereal, canned tomato, and pasta sauce.

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. We live on the traditional lands of the Chippewa and Haudenosaunee, 'People of the Longhouse,' Anishinabewaki, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We recognize the harm incurred through colonization and we acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We affirm the 94 Calls to Action, refute the Doctrine of Discovery, and accept the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There is much for us to learn. We commit to growing in healthy relationship, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation, with the First Nations of this land.

**HYMN Praise God**

**#306**

**CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]**

One: This is the day the Lord has made.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Holy God, in baptism we have been bathed by your grace. Trusting in your steadfast love we confess our sin to you. God, you know our hearts and still you love us.

We have deny you and we deny our calling to serve one another. We betray you and we betray your commandment to love one another. Holy One, pour out your Spirit of grace upon us. Teach us to love and serve you faithfully and to love and serve one another by the example you set for us. We pray in your holy name we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." ... Trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gift to you, whatever burden you carry. Be renewed by the breath of the Holy Spirit that will bring you into each new day. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn                    Jesus calls us here to meet him                    #528**

**To Hear The Word Of God**

**Prayer For Illumination and Scripture<sup>1</sup>**

Your Word, O God, comes to us in the translation of ancient scripture. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds with understanding and our hearts with wisdom in the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

**Scripture<sup>2</sup>**

Psalm                      Psalm 31:9–16                      **[B#506/W#558]**

Epistle                      Philippians 2:5–11                      **[B#197/W#210]**

May God bless our understanding of this, God’s holy word. **The word of the Lord.**

**Love one another**

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. Amen.

Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Observing the ritual of the traditions of Holy Week has shifted over time. Many churches do not hold services on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Here we observe Good Friday with a service at 11 am. Our gospel readings during Lent have followed the journey toward Jerusalem. In preparing for today’s worship service, there were several scripture choices. The traditional readings to celebrate the Palms and the story of the Passion. There has been a tendency for these passages to become conflated or combined. Traditionally the Holy Week begins with the celebration of the Palms with the account of Jesus entering the city. Then Maundy Thursday reflects on the foot washing, the shared Passover meal with Jesus and the disciples, and the betrayal of Christ. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, and, then the joy of resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday. In John’s gospel we will hear of the events around the last supper, the betrayal, and the foot washing.

First we will consider the passage in Isaiah which reveals the impact of being attentive to God. The prophet wrote that ... morning by morning ... God provides the wisdom and the ability to teach and care for others. God “wakens the ear to listen”. As I read this passage, I wondered how we as a congregation might become more attentive to the many ways in which God speaks to us. The scriptures tell of God speaking to individuals and communities. God spoke to Moses, David, Jonah, the prophets, Mary, the magi, and Paul,

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<sup>2</sup> Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

and many others. Through centuries history tells of many who experienced a personal relationship with the Spirit of God.

Isaiah 50:4–9a **[B#681/W#755]**

Isaiah speaks of "listening for God" and "listening to God." He speaks of being aware of God's presence and of being open to God's love and guidance. When we are open to hearing the divine, we can take appropriate action. Listening for and to God is a spiritual practice. Part of this spiritual practice is learning to wait for God.

Many years ago, before I became a minister, when I was active in a Kitchener Presbyterian congregation, an opportunity arose to attend a conference to 'Equip ambassadors for reconciliation' I hesitated to volunteer for many reasons including family commitments and I wasn't sure if I was suited for it. Yet, I felt pulled to it and decided to attend. It was an incredible learning journey and very helpful in understanding many of the complex issues related to Healing and Reconciliation While at the conference, during a solitary walk in the evening, I experienced a sense of the Spirit. In hindsight, I better understand the nudge allowed me to become more attentive, open to possibilities, and to have the courage to take action. The experience at the conference propelled me to speak with my minister who guided me to Knox College.

The Reverend Howard Finster received a direct message from God to "paint God's pictures." He had been a bi-vocational preacher and fixed small machines such as bicycles and lawn mowers. When Finster was sixty, God told him to stop fixing bicycles and lawn mowers and to "paint my pictures." He listened to God's message and became a prolific artist. For the next 30 years he shared God's love and grace through pictures of Bible stories. The spiritual practice of listening for God and to God propels us to respond and take action. We do so in our love of God when we are attentive to the needs of others.

The PCC April Social Action Spotlight draws our attention to the Climate Crisis and Global Food Insecurity. Research tells us that the majority of people experiencing extreme poverty live in southern countries that are environmentally vulnerable.<sup>3</sup> The poorest people live in rural areas and they primarily rely largely on farming to eat and to earn a

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<sup>3</sup> Global Humanitarian Assistance Report,

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living. The smallholder farmers are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change—including soil degradation, erratic rainfall, droughts and pests. Agricultural innovation can have an impact in developing a sustainable future.

The PCC is working every day, through Presbyterian World Service & Development, to ensure food insecure families and communities have the food they need to survive and thrive. With partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the church is advocating for action to address food insecurity around the globe.

**Music            The Psalm**

**Gospel of John 13**

**[B#107/W#111]**

In reading the Gospel this morning it is important to place it within its context. We are familiar with different aspects of the last supper. Several times each year you receive communion at the Lord's supper. The passage from John's gospel took place during Passover. We discover that Jesus was gentle with the disciples as he prepared for his death. After their meal together, Jesus rose from the table to wash their feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. When Jesus finished, the disciples were told, "You call me Teacher and Lord-and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I ... your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." Then, Jesus told Judas to go.

Jesus told the disciples that his hour had come. Jesus referred to the events that were about to unfold and culminate in his crucifixion. John's Gospel provides two perspectives—the ministry of Jesus as it unfolds and the concerns of the communities around him.

In the midst of the supper, Jesus built on the teaching that we are to care for one another when he said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another". Amy Jill Levine reminds us that this teaching is not "new" in the sense of original: Leviticus 19:18, 34 encourages the love of one another including the stranger. This command to love is the center and focus of the ways of Jesus. It seems a simple teaching, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." This is part of the new life to which the disciples are invited. To embody

the love and truth of Christ we are to love and care for each other. This embodied love is revealed to others in all that we do and say. Cyril of Alexandria, Augustine, and others noted that Leviticus 19:18 essentially commanded Israel to "love your neighbor as yourself." What was new? Augustine suggested the difference was found in the spiritual love. The Spirit of God moves us to be in relationship with one another.

The love command forms the premise and structure of our faith. We are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbours as ourselves. The Spirit nudges us to respond with love to needs in our family, in our congregation, in our community, and in all of God's creation. In this we become one in Christ's love. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

**Hymn**

**Let there be light**

**#727**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD**

**Quote** Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

St Gregory Nazianzen, 4<sup>th</sup> Century Archbishop of Constantinople

**Doxology** We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

**Prayers of People, Blessing of Gifts**

O God, we love you. You have heard our cries and we will call on you as long as we live.

You delivered our ancestors from slavery and led them to a land of promise and plenty, liberate all who are captive or oppressed and bring them to a place of abundant life.

Jesus stooped down to wash his disciples' feet, teaching us to love and serve one another with Christ-like compassion and humility.

Holy One, we offer our heartfelt thanksgiving of gratitude and praise. We offer our lives to you. Show us how to love and serve you. Show us how to love and serve one another for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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O God of the bruised and broken, we are grateful that, in Christ, you have taken up the cross and know by heart all that causes suffering and pain. We pray today for all those in need of healing and comfort, whatever the source of their pain.

Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our voices. Hear our prayers. Loving God, by your Spirit, surround us with strength and love. Equip us to offer support for those who are near to us. O God of the lonely and sorrowing, in Christ you experienced the loss we know when loved ones die and the pain of betrayal by friends. We remember before you those who grieve the loss of their beloved and those who are lonely.

God of light and love, draw near to those who must confront illness, loss or changing circumstances. We are thankful for healing and we are thankful for the end of suffering. God of compassion, we lift up families who travel the long journey of grief. May their memories be a blessing. We ask you to linger with all who mourn Ruth; Lyle; and Danielle.

God of hope, we ask you to linger with all who are dealing with health challenges: Brian; Stephani, Judith & Gerry; Carter, Jim & family; Rob, Valerie, Jim & Jane; Carl; Betty Lou; Ruth; Rudy, Audrey, & Grace; and, Warren & Lori. We lift up all who are on our hearts as they face immense challenges.

O God of hope and new possibility, in Christ you opened the way into the future for us through the power of your redeeming love. Give us the courage we need to face our future, assured of your presence and power to sustain us. We offer all that we are and all that we hope for through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together as his people:

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            I danced in the morning (v. 1, 2)            #250**

**To Go Forth In God's Name      Commissioning and Benediction**

Listen to the word of the Lord and believe. Go in peace, assured of God's presence with you, with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide, and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit.

**Postlude**

**Amen**

**64 Be still and know**

Be still and that I am God      x3

I am the Lord that health thee    x3

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust    x 3

**306 Praise God**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures high and low; Praise God in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

**250 I danced in the morning**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; At Bethlehem I had my birth.

**Refrain**      Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; They came with me and the dance went on. **Refrain**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And they left me there on a cross to die. **Refrain**

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body, and they thought I'd gone, But I am the dance, and I still go on. **Refrain**

They cut me down and I leap up high; I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. **Refrain**

**528 Jesus calls us here to meet him**

Jesus calls us here to meet him As, through word and song and prayer, We affirm God's promised presence Where his people live and care. Praise the God who keeps his promise; Praise the Son who calls us friends; Praise the Spirit who, among us, To our hopes and fears attends.



Jesus calls us to confess him Word of Life and Lord of all, Sharer of our flesh and frailness  
Saving all who fail or fall. Tell his holy human story; Tell his tales that all may hear; Tell  
the world that Christ in glory Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other: Found in him are no divides. Race and class and sex and  
language: Such are barriers he derides. Join the hands of friend and stranger; Join the  
hands of age and youth; Join the faithful and the doubter In their common search for  
truth.

Jesus calls us to his table Rooted firm in time and space, Where the church in earth and  
heaven Finds a common meeting place. Share his bread and wine, his body; Share the  
love of which we sing; Share the feast for saints and sinners Hosted by our Lord and King.

### **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.