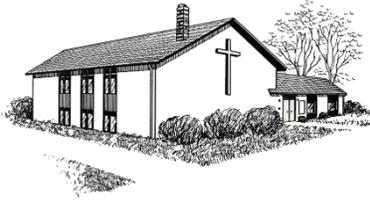


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*Our Mission...*

*to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.*

*We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.*

Palm/Passion Sunday  
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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***Bold print** indicates a congregational response.*

## **WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

### **WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

*We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.*

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*In Christian teaching and tradition, each Sunday is believed to be a little Easter, a weekly celebration of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we light this candle, affirming that Christ is indeed the light of the world, our hope and our salvation. There is no other in whom we place our trust.*

### **PRELUDE: #122 VU – “All Glory, Laud and Honour”**

*~ words by Theodulph of Orleans  
~ Michael McKay*

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*This hymn is a traditional Palm Sunday processional, as it has been for centuries. However, as we are not able to process on this day, the hymn will be taken up by the Prelude.*

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

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

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Hosanna to the Son of David!*

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

## INTRODUCTION

*Sisters and brothers in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we begin this solemn celebration in union with Christians throughout the world. Our Lord Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem in triumph to complete his work as our Saviour; to be rejected, to suffer and die, and to be raised from the dead.*

*Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.*

*Hear now St Mark's record of Christ's entry into Jerusalem.*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

## PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY

*Humble and riding on a donkey,*

**we greet you;**

*Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,*

**we cheer you;**

*Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,*

**we salute you: Christ our Lord.**

*You are giving the beast of burden*

**a new dignity;**

*You are giving majesty*

**a new face;**

*You are giving those who long for redemption*

**a new song to sing.**

*With them, with heart and voice,*

**we shout: Hosanna! Amen.**

## INTERLUDE: #127 VU— “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529)

~ words by Henry Hart Milman

~Michael McKay

Jesus' triumphant procession is over and now begin the last days of his life. This hymn, played as an Interlude, takes a dark turn: “Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die...”

**4 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Eternal God,  
in your tender mercy towards the human race  
you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
to take our flesh and to suffer death upon a cross.  
Grant that we may follow the example of his great humility,  
and share in the glory of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### THE PASSION

*Mark 14: 1-31*

*It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'*

*While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'*

*Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.*

*On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever*

*he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.*

*When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.' They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, 'Surely, not I?' He said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.'*

*While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'*

*When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters; for it is written,*

*"I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep will be scattered."*

*But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.' Peter said to him, 'Even though all become deserters, I will not.' Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' But he said vehemently, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And all of them said the same.*

**INTERLUDE:** *(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529)*

*~Michael McKay*

*'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'*

**THE PASSION** *Mark 14: 32-52*

*They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake*

*and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'*

*Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.' All of them deserted him and fled.*

*A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.*

**INTERLUDE:** *(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529)*

*~Michael McKay*

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
you that feel the tempter's power;  
    your Redeemer's conflict see;  
    watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his grief away:  
learn from him to watch and pray.

**THE PASSION**      *Mark 14: 53-72*

*They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven."' '*

*Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, 'Prophesy!' The guards also took him over and beat him.*

*While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.' But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.' At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.*

**INTERLUDE:** *(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529)*

*~Michael McKay*

Bitter was the night,  
    thought the cock would crow for ever.  
Bitter was the night  
    before the break of day.

## **THE PASSION**      *Mark 15: 1-20*

*As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.*

*Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.*

*Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a*

*purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.*

**INTERLUDE:** *(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529)*

*~Michael McKay*

Alone you once went forth, O Lord,  
In sacrifice to die;  
does not your sorrow touch the hearts  
Of people passing by?

**THE PASSION** *Mark 15: 21-39*

*They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.*

*It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.*

*When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'*

**A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION**

**AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PASSION**

*It was at the ninth hour, at three in the afternoon, that Jesus died.*

At such an hour a passing bell might toll.

*John Donne wrote:*

*Who bends not his ear to any bell, which upon any occasion rings? But who can remove it from that bell which is passing a piece of himself out of this world? No man is an island, entire of itself: every man is a piece of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls: it tolls for thee.*

So let us bring to mind those whose stories have been woven into the drama of the Passion of Jesus, along with countless human beings before and since who have played similar parts in the unfolding of this world's story:

*Simon the leper,  
who was hospitable to Jesus at Bethany,  
and all those who have been rejected,  
and yet sheltered the persecuted and outcast...*

The unnamed woman  
who anointed Jesus with expensive ointment,  
and all who have given of themselves with reckless generosity...

*Judas Iscariot,  
who betrayed Jesus,  
and all who have sold their friends out of fear or greed or from mistaken loyalties...*

Peter the Rock,  
who denied Jesus yet whose heart was true,  
and all who have let others down through cowardice,  
yet have repented and been forgiven...

*The disciple whom Jesus loved,  
who lay close to him at the Last Supper,  
and all who have found through their love for each other something of the love of God...*

The young man  
who followed Jesus to Gethsemane,  
and all who have been attracted Jesus and his Way...

*The disciples  
who slept in the garden and then ran away,  
and all who have fled through weakness from a test of courage...*

Caiaphas,  
who acted out of loyalty to his tradition,  
and all who have refused the deeper challenges of their ancestors' faith...

*Herod,  
bewitched by a desire for dazzling displays of magic,  
and all who have yearned for knowledge and power alone,  
without the way of faith and love at heart...*

The soldiers,  
who did their job, but with cruelty,  
and all who have misused the law with excess of force...

*Simon of Cyrene,  
who was compelled to carry the cross,  
and all who have been forced to obey an oppressor's whim...*

The thief who repented and the thief who did not,  
and all who have been faced with their past life at their last hour on earth...

*The bystanders and crowd,  
who mocked and bayed and gaped,  
and all those who have been swept along by rhetoric to do harm...*

The centurion,  
who was impressed by the way in which Jesus died,  
and all who have been moved to a moment of faith by the example of others...

*Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, Salome, and the other women  
who had ministered to Jesus, and now looked on from a distance,  
and all who have been forced to serve within the limits set them by those in power...*

Mary the mother of Jesus,  
whose heart was pierced, but who bore him there still,  
and all who have been sore wounded by the unjust death of those they loved...

*Joseph of Arimathea,  
who was bold to ask Pilate for the corpse of Jesus,  
and all who have found within themselves unexpected reserves of courage...*

Nicodemus,  
who had come to Jesus by night,  
and all who have listened to the wind and done good, even if by stealth...

*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice,  
Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which means,  
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
And some of the bystanders hearing it said,  
He is calling Elijah.*

*And one ran, and filled a sponge full of vinegar  
and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.  
Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.  
And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last.*

## **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

### **PRAYERS**

*God..., your will be done.*

**Your Love be shown.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

## A FINAL PRAYER

**Lord Jesus Christ, in this sacred and solemn week  
when we see again the depth and mystery  
of your redeeming love,  
help us to follow where you go,  
to stop where you stumble,  
to listen when you cry,  
to hurt as you suffer,  
to bow our heads in sorrow when you die,  
so that when you are raised to life again  
we may share your endless joy. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*The peace of God, which passes all understanding  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with you always. Amen.*

**POSTLUDE:** #149 VU – **"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"** ~words by Isaac Watts  
(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License) ~Michael McKay

*Today's Postlude is offered in the spirit of the hymn's final verse: the "love so amazing, so divine" that we encountered in the passion narrative demands our souls, our lives, our all. Let us take those words with us and let them transform us with new resolve in the life in Christ.*

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small:  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**