

St. Paul's United Church

April 5th, 2020 Palm Sunday

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

-Psalm 118:26-27

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude:

Greeting (Responsive):

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: He Came riding On A Donkey VU 124

Lenten Liturgy (Responsive):

We stand in the light of Christ,

Where we are revealed not only to God, but to ourselves.

We look at ourselves and know.

We know the ways that we have made God second in our lives. We work for and catalogue our own greatness, wearing our great deeds like medals. So rarely do we act solely in your name or purely for the support of another. Being good isn't nearly as important as looking good. We resist allowing Christ to be king in our lives because we think so much of ourselves. Forgive us, O God, our boasting and bragging. Forgive us our arrogance. Forgive us when there is no room left in our hearts for you because we focus only on ourselves. O Lord, in our brokenness we struggle to follow you...

(silent reflection)

The light that reveals who we are, also reveals a path at our feet.

We walk that path with the assurance that God finds us in our sin, embraces us, and loves us to wholeness in Christ.

Sung liturgy response: Take O Take me As I am (X2)

MV 85

Take, O take me as I am.

Summon out what I shall be

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive):

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

Hosanna! Rejoice for the Lord is in our midst.

He comes with joy and hope.

He comes to set us free from fear.

Hosanna!

Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest Heaven.

Opening Prayer

Hymn:

One More Step

VU 639

Prayer of Longing (Unison):

We cry out Lord, from the depth of our heart, we cry out to you as we watch everything we know fall away. We long for stability, in a world that has been turned upside down. We yearn for answers, as we find ourselves overrun by questions. As we are forced to be separate from each other, we desire connection. Amidst the uncertainty and fear created by this pandemic, we long for peace in our souls. We cry out to you O Lord, from the depth of our souls. For we are your children and we need you. Come to us in our fear, loneliness and worry. Speak to our heart and bring us peace. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen

Response:

Don't Be Afraid (x2)

MV 90

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

A New Creed

Illumination Verse: I love to tell the Story (vs 3, refrain)VU 343

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

Today's Scripture:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Not What We Expected* *Rev. Richard*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming MV 128 (vs 2, 5, 6, 9)

Moment for Community Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Dedication Verse: God of all Good (vs 1) VU 539

**God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew
That our whole life is offered to Your will.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

**We lay at your feet, O Christ, all that we are as we welcome you one
again into our hearts; into our lives. Bless what we give in time,
talent, and treasure. Bless what is given through PAR, Canada Helps,
e-transfers, and envelopes. Bless us as we strive to be your people in
trying times. May all that we have and all that we do be a part of the
building of your kingdom of peace and love. AMEN**

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn: Ride on! Ride On in Majesty VU 127

Commissioning (Responsive):

In a world of both immense beauty and terrible suffering, we have
taken this holy moment to open our hearts to the journey of Jesus,
**to journey with him from desert to palms, in solidarity with all
who struggle and strive, all those who suffer and grieve.**

As we go into the shadows of the coming week, into the silent
unknowing that is before us, may we carry in our hearts the crucified
Christ.

May our hearts open like a waiting tomb, a tender womb.

And in the sheltered silence may we cradle all that is wounded, all that
is broken, all that is touched by evil and violence, until,

**Until we feel the pulse of new life begin to stir again... for God
is not done with us yet.**

Benediction

Choral Closing: Walk with me VU 649

**Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build land that God has planned
where love shines through.**

Postlude