

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada**

**March 24, 2024**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

**Central Queens Mission Statement**

**Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people; celebrating the joy and sharing in pain. Through faith and fellowship, we are united by God's love to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.**

**Gathering for Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Welcome in the name of the Christ.

**Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the  
unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.**

Welcome to this place of retreat and refuge, worship and wonder.

**It is good to be here.**

It is indeed good to be together.

**Announcements**

**Birthdays & Special Occasions**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

There was a person who did such amazing things - said such wonderful things - that great crowds of people followed him everywhere. One day they ask him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am the light."

## **Quiet Preparation for Worship**

**Bible Presentation** (Bible is brought forward during the Introit)

**\*Introit** "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

VU #10

## **Call to Worship**

Who comes this way?

**I wonder who he is?**

They say he is the Christ.

That means Messiah,

**that means the Anointed One, the Saviour, the sovereign.**

Who comes this way?

**Is it really him? I want him to beat the Romans**

**and save us from poverty and hunger.**

Is he victorious? Is he powerful? Is he scary?

Where is he from? Greece? Rome? Jerusalem?

Hunter River?

**They say he comes from Bethlehem**

**and grew up in Nazareth and Galilee.**

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

**Who comes this way?**

Who is he? Why are we cheering him on?

Is he good or bad? He must be rich to get such praise.

I need a higher glimpse of him.  
I just want to see his face  
and then I will know who he is, let me see...

**Wait!**

Wait!

**It is only a man.**

And he is just on a donkey, no conquering steed.  
It is only a man, what is so great about him?

**Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!**

Hosanna means “save us” and “we pray”  
But who is this man that will save us?

**Who comes this way?**

**Procession of the Palms** (Parade around the church during the hymn)

**\*Hymn** “Sing it Hosanna”

**Prayer of Approach**

God of love and compassion,  
we celebrate your disruptive entry into Jerusalem.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

In that same way we anticipate,  
with expectant hearts,  
your presence in this place.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

We come, knowing your love has arrived  
and is made real in Jesus the Christ.

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

We come, prepared to be changed by the grace  
we receive in your love.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

We come, with our whole being to prepare the way  
for coming of love incarnate.

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Amen!**

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, which 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.**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29      VU #837 Parts 1, 3, & 4

**\*Hymn** “He Came Riding on a Donkey”      VU #124 vv. 1, 2

## **All God's Children**

**Hymn "He Came Riding on a Donkey"**

VU #124 v. 3

## **Call to Transformation and New Life**

## **Prayer of Transformation and New Life**

**Loving God,  
we have journeyed through  
the long Season of Lent  
in the hopes of drawing closer to you.  
Today, Jesus enters Jerusalem  
mocking the powers of oppression,  
but the week ahead  
will bring the full force of the Roman Empire  
where there will be torture, trial and death.  
God, we know there are times when we have  
betrayed you,  
denied you,  
and turned away from you.  
We recall the times when we have behaved  
like the crowd that shouts their praise today,  
but will shout "Crucify him" later this week.  
We humbly ask your forgiveness.**

*Silent reflection*

## **Words of Grace**

In the powerful events of Jesus' passion and death,  
God demonstrates that there are no limits  
to the love God has for us, no matter what we do.  
Remember the examples of love that  
Jesus gives,  
and be free to live fully.  
It is in that forgiveness and unconditional love  
we are able to proclaim our faith...

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Presentation of Our Gifts**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

### **Offertory**

#### **\*Presentation of Offering**

**\* Offertory** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" VU #149 v. 4

#### **\*Offertory Prayer**

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen.

## Listening for the Word

### Sacred Scripture

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,

‘Jesus 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 our  
God!

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.

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **Reflective Music**

### **Responding to the Word**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

On this Palm Sunday, as we reflect on Jesus's peaceful entry into Jerusalem, let us renew our commitment to fostering peace in our turbulent world. The need for peace is more pressing than ever, amidst global challenges and conflicts. As we remember Jesus's

message of love and reconciliation, let us pray for peace to permeate not only our hearts and homes but also every corner of our interconnected world.

Our prayer for peace extends beyond traditional boundaries. It encompasses not just the absence of conflict but also the promotion of social justice, equity, and environmental stewardship. Let us be inspired by Jesus's example to actively advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, working tirelessly to dismantle systems of injustice and inequality.

In this era of rapid technological advancement and interconnectedness, let us harness the power of the digital and social media to amplify the voices of those who are often unheard. Let us use our influence and resources to support initiatives that promote peacebuilding, dialogue, and understanding among diverse communities.

As we wave our symbolic palm branches, let us also wave the flag of compassion, empathy, and solidarity, all embodied in the life and work of Jesus. Let our actions speak louder than words as we strive to be instruments of peace in a world longing for healing and reconciliation.

May the spirit of Palm Sunday reignite our passion for justice and inspire us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, advocating for the flourishing of all God's kin-dom. Hosanna in the Highest!

**\*Hymn** "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

VU #127

## Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

See the **light is now changed**. It has taken on a different form.  
**But it is still here!** It's absorbed in you. It clings to you.  
Go cradle and share the **Light. Share** it to others as we go about  
your daily living. **Go and live in the light**, Carriers of the light.

### \*Benediction

Raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

\***Choral Benediction** “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”  
VU #108 v.1

### Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.