

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

**April 10, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Palm 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 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 & 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 is brought forward during the quiet time)

**Lenten Litany**

Will you follow Jesus with this final rock into death?

Will you follow Jesus to the cross and witness death?

Will you witness the oppression, pain and suffering that led Jesus to this place?

Will you bear witness to the oppression, pain and suffering of our own world?

*The fifth rock is placed*

The rock will not be moved.

**May God's spirit walk with us.**

**\*Introit** "Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

### **Introduction**

There was a time when Lent was a dangerous time for Jews. There was a time and still is a time when Christians were incited to hatred and violence against Jews. But there was a time before time, indeed the foundation of Christian time, when there were no Christians. At this time, a young, charismatic Jew named Yeshua (Ya-shu-a) came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Yeshua (Ya-shu-a), whose name we later changed to Jesus, drew large crowds as he popularized the teachings of the liberal, Jewish school of thought. Because of this, the conservative Jewish school was threatened. Jesus and his disciples, as Jews, were following one particular branch of Jewish thought which threatened some Jewish leaders. There was a time when Palm Sunday told a different story...

**Crowd Voice 1:** Did you hear? The Messiah is coming!

**Crowd voice 2:** Coming here?

**Crowd Voice 1:** Yes -- coming to Jerusalem, to celebrate the festival of unleavened bread!

**Crowd voice 2:** Well let's grab some palm branches and wave them high! Let's give the Messiah the best welcome we know!

### **Scripture Reading John 12:12-13a**

The next day the crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting:

**Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Peace in heaven! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

**\*Hymn** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

VU #123

### **Passing the Peace**

As we are greeting the coming Messiah, let us also greet one another with the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Opening Litany**

The Messiah, our hope for the future; the one who will set us free.

**Come, Messiah, come!**

The Messiah, the one who will overturn oppressive rulers and colonial powers.

**Come, Messiah, come!**

The Messiah, who shares our pain, who understands and comforts.

**Come, Messiah, come!**

The Messiah, who wipes all tears away and ushers in the peaceable Kin-dom.

**Come, Messiah, come!**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-8, 10-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

**Hymn** “like a child”

VU #366

**Crowd Voice 1:** I don't know about this. Something's making me feel a little uneasy.

**Crowd voice 2:** Yeah, I know what you mean. There's too much hype for my liking.

**Crowd voice 1:** Something always goes wrong when the crowds get too excited.

**Crowd voice 2:** And they are definitely excited!

**Leader voice 3:** Look at this guy -- he's attracting quite a following.

**Leader voice 4:** And have you heard about what he's teaching?

**Leader voice 3:** A bit... what have you heard?

**Leader voice 4:** He's shown blatant disregard for the Sabbath. He even encourages his disciples to work on the Sabbath.

**Leader voice 3:** He seems to mock the laws -- it's like he's making fun of Moses teachings.

**Leader voice 4:** He follows those liberal teachings of Hillel, you know.

**Leader voice 3:** Hillel?

**Leader voice 4:** You know --- the rabbi who summed up the whole Torah in one sentence.

**Leader voice 3:** Ha! Oh yeah, how did that go?

**Leader voice 4:** Hillel said, " What is hateful to you, do not unto your neighbour; this is the entire Torah, all the rest is commentary."

**Leader voice 3:** I think I heard Jesus say something like that.

**Leader voice 4:** Darn right. Jesus is spreading that nonsense. And attracting hordes of people. Look at how they're practically worshipping him! Talk about blasphemy!

**Leader voice 3:** It does seem to be getting pretty out of hand.

**Leader voice 4:** (shouting) Hey, Rabbi, order your disciples to stop.

## Scripture Reading: Luke 9:40

Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these people were silent the stones would shout out."

\*Hymn "Let All Things Now Living" VU #242

**Leader voice 3:** Well, I guess he put you in your place.

**Leader voice 4:** No one makes fun of me like that and gets away with it. These people need to know what it's really like. It's the only way they'll understand.

*(Pause)*

**Crowd voice 1:** Someone just told me that Jesus said you should hate your family!

**Crowd voice 2:** What?

**Crowd voice 1:** Yeah, apparently said to turn your back on your own family, spit in the dust, and shake your sandals and leave them if they don't give all they have to some beggar walking by.

**Crowd voice 2:** I guess there's another side to Jesus that isn't so angelic.

## Anthem

### Litany of Confession

In the confusion of voices, wondering who to believe,  
**forgive us, God, where we believe the worst in others.**

When we are weary and concerned,  
**forgive us, God, when we spread mistrust.**

When we hear rumours,  
**forgive us, God, when we are content with half-truths.**

When doubts come crashing down,

**give us peace, even in the confusion of faith.**

Give us grace, even in the confusion of voices.

**Give us hope, even in the confusion of fear. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Wait for the Lord"

VU #22

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

**Crowd voice 1:** Jesus is running into some serious trouble. I don't have a good feeling about this. He's being consistently challenged by the scribes who are trying to discredit him, and yet he's giving incredible wise responses.

**Crowd voice 2:** Yeah, today I heard Jesus summed up that by saying, "Love God with your whole being, and love your neighbour as yourself."

**Crowd voice 1:** Ha! As long as that neighbour is not a scribe!

**Crowd voice 2:** Maybe that was his point. How do we love someone who we totally disagree with?

**Crowd voice 1:** I dunno, but he sure ticked them off at the temple yesterday. He actually sat there and watched who put how much into the treasury! I'm sure glad he didn't watch while I put in. Anyway, all these highfalutin professionals came up and made it fairly obvious how much money they were putting in. Then, this widow, who had nothing, came up and put a couple of coppers in. Jesus then called a bunch of us over and said, "You see this poor woman? She gave more than the rest of them put together because she gave all she had."

**Crowd voice 2:** Gee, he's going to get himself killed! And I think he knows it. Wow. I'd give my life to stop that from happening!

**Crowd voice 1:** *(pause)* Honestly, *(Pause)* I don't know if I could do that..

### **Offertory Litany**

In times of stress, in times of worry, we don't know what to do.

**God, give us the courage to stay present with you and with our loved ones.**

In times of need within this world and this community, we feel overwhelmed.

In times of abundance, in times of poverty,

**guide us, God, and how we can give to this church, to the wider community, to our family and friends.**

Our many gifts will now be presented.

**\*Presentation of Offering** “Christ Has No Body Now But Yours”  
MV #171 (Chorus)

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**Scripture** Mark 11:12-19

Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’?  
But you have made it a den of robbers.”

And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

**Leader voice 4:** He's losing it! He's done for!

**Leader voice 3:** Yeah, can't believe he killed a tree. And just because it didn't have any figs on it. It's not even the season for figs!

**Leader voice 4:** And what he did in the temple! Whipping people and turning over their tables! They didn't know what had hit them!

**Leader voice 3:** What side of the bed did he get up on this morning?



