

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

April 2, 2023

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 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

Hymn "Sing It! Hosanna!"

Sing it! Ho-san-na!
Sing Ho-san-na! Sing Ho-san-na to our king!
Sing it! Ho-san-na! Sing it! Ho-san-na!
Sing ho-san-na, Jes is our King.

Sing al-le-lu-ia,
sing al-le-lu-la, al-le-lu-la, al-le-lu.
Sing al-le-lu-ia, sing al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Jesus lives again.

Procession of Palms

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)

Bible Presentation

Call to Worship

Right Side: **Open the gates, for on this side of Jerusalem, a grand parade of Rome brings the pomp and circumstance of power and prestige to the streets for the Passover Feast.**

Left Side: **Open the gates, for on the other side of Jerusalem, a humble procession enters the city among the lives of the Jewish poor and marginalized.**

Right Side: *(Facing left and stomping together)* **Entering through the gates, we ride in on horses with the powerful armour of Rome, a festal procession with power. Let the feast begin!**

Left Side: *(Facing right and waving palms)* Entering through the gates, Jesus comes riding on a donkey and the crowd is laying down palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna!”

All: *(Waving branches)* Open to us the gates of God and together we will proclaim, “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”

*Hymn “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

VU #123

Prayer of Approach

God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem today, open the gates of our hearts that we might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly, we pray.

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.**

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

VU# 837

***Hymn “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”**

VU# 357 vv. 1, 2, 3

All God’s Children

***Hymn “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”**

VU# 357 vv. 4, 5

Call to Transformation and New Life

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbour with our whole lives. At times we can enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, or a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbour. Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements or our obsessed with seeking the approval of others. Come and save us. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray.

**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.**

**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.**

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

Good folk, God is good, and God's steadfast love endures forever. Because of God's enduring love, we cherish and give thanks for every good gift in our lives. Today, on this day God has made, we come to share from our abundance. Let us give from the heart. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory

***Presentation of Offering**

*** Offertory “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” VU #149 v.4**

*** Offertory Prayer**

**O God of Welcome and Waving Palms, as the crowd offered to
you their praise and the palms on the road, so we share these**

gifts out of the abundance you have provided. May they be for the justice you are bringing about in the world through your unending love. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Scripture

Matthew 21:1–11

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 fulfil 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. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Anthem

Sermon

Reflective Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of courage and compassion,
as we follow Jesus toward the Cross this Holy Week,
we give you thanks that he faced his enemies with courage, not
violence.

We are grateful he loved us,
bearing every pain and sorrow others inflicted.

In Christ we trust that your love has power in every situation,
even the most troubling or tragic.

So hear us as we bring to you the people and places facing trouble
and tragedy this day:

We pray for all struggling with poverty, sickness, or grief,
and any feeling overwhelmed by things beyond their control.

(Silence)

Stay with them day by day and restore their hope and health:

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

We pray for people and places facing violence, war and corruption,

and all who fear for what this day may bring.

(Silence)

Grant them courage and protection, and restore their hope and peace:

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who challenge tyranny, brutality and injustice, and all who raise their voices for the vulnerable and victimized.

(Silence)

Give them strength and restore their hope and freedom:

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who face persecution because of racism, belief or identity,

and for each one who has been shamed or humiliated by someone more powerful.

(Silence)

Assure them of their value as your children and restore their hope and dignity:

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

Hear us as we pray to you in silence for those situations close to our hearts this day.

(Silence)

Bring your grace to restore hope and healing wherever they are needed.

Lord in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

God of courage and compassion, thank you for your love that never lets us go. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** “Ride On! Ride On Ride on in Majesty” VU# 127

***Blessing**

Right Side: *(Turning from the front to the back)* Having entered through the gates in power and prestige, this Jesus has called us to go out in love, compassion, and humility.

Left Side: *(Turning from the front to the back)* Having entered through the gates on donkeys and waving palms, this Jesus has come to save and now calls us to go out in hope, justice and love.

All: Together, we are embraced by an enduring and boundless love that forges us together in shouts of “Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!”

Friends, Go forth humbly to serve the God whose love endures forever.

Go forth in the name of the Christ who entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey.

Go forth in the strength of the Holy Spirit, that calls us to rejoice in this very day God has made. God's love endures forever.

All God's love endures forever. Amen!

***Choral Benediction** "What Wonderful Love is This" VU# 147 v. 1

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.