

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

*Palm Sunday – April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Prelude:** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” - by Christie Coatsworth

## **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to St. Andrew’s today as we celebrate Palm Sunday.

Our Maundy Thursday Service is at Charing Cross at 7 pm. Good Friday Service is at Talbot Street at 10:30 am. Come for Hot Cross Buns and coffee at 10 am. Easter morning SONRise Service is at Pardoville at 6:30 am, with breakfast to follow at St. Luke’s. Our Easter Services with Communions at regular times.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites – [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca) and [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca)

Thank you to our production crew; music by Christie Coatsworth, readings by Annette Skillings and the slides by Tracey Major. You make all the difference. Thank you!

## **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

### **Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** O God, Lent has been a long journey.

**People:** Now the long shadow of the cross and the footsteps of Jesus find us waiting at the gates of Jerusalem.

**Eric:** We have arrived.

**People:** Yet it seems the journey is still not complete; there is a deeper journey still to make.

**Eric:** This Lenten wandering has been just the beginning.

**People:** The greatest story is still to be told. Come let us gather at the gates of the city; the crowds are preparing to enter.

**Eric:** Come, let us gather in worship.

### **Opening Prayer:**

**People:** May we be your disciples today, O Jesus, where we know what we cry, where we take to heart the hosannas and to live them beyond the parade. May we be your supporters today, O Jesus, where we know the saviour you are, where we intend to follow you from gate to garden. May we be your voice today, O Jesus, where we cry out against the protests, where we stake our faith and lives on what you begin here today. Amen.

### **Opening Hymn:** VU 123 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” Emmanuel United Church Ottawa

Hosanna, loud hosanna  
the happy children sang;  
through pillared court and temple

the joyful anthem rang;  
to Jesus, who had blessed them  
close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed  
'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victory palm branch waving,  
and singing clear and loud;  
the Lord of earth and heaven  
rode on in lowly state,  
content that little children  
should on his bidding wait.

'Hosanna in the highest!'  
That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer;  
earth, let your anthems ring.  
O may we ever praise him  
with heart and life and voice,  
and in his humble presence  
eternally rejoice!

**Scripture: Luke 19: 28 - 40 “Welcome to Jerusalem” by Gail Pratt**

For many weeks Jesus had been journeying to Jerusalem. Friendly Pharisees had warned him not to go to the city where Herod ruled. Disciples had tried to keep him away. But Jesus knew it was God's will.

On the way, Jesus taught many people about God's love, and healed many people with God's love. Now the time had come to go into the city of Jerusalem.

When Jesus, and the disciples travelling with him, reached Bethany, they stopped at a place called the Mount of Olives. Jesus called two disciples over. “Go into the village. At the edge of the village you will find a colt that has never been ridden. Bring it to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, say ‘The Lord needs it.’”

With those instructions, the two disciples went to the village of Bethany. They found the colt, just as Jesus had told them. As they were untying it, they were asked, “What are you doing?” The disciples answered as Jesus told them, “The Lord needs it.”

They brought the colt to Jesus. Then they threw their cloaks over the colt and Jesus got on it.

A curious thing happened as they got closer to the city of Jerusalem. As Jesus rode along, the disciples spread their cloaks on the road.

You know how a gathering of people can draw more people? That is what happened, and soon a big crowd – a multitude of disciples – began to shout, “Praise to God!” “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!” “Peace on Earth!” “Glory in the highest heaven!”

In the crowd were some Pharisees. They were afraid that all this noise would get the attention of the Roman soldiers. One of them said, “Teacher, tell your disciples to be quiet.”

But Jesus answered, “If I tell them to stop and they stop shouting, the stones would shout out praises to God.”

**Jesus continued to the city. The people continued to shout praises to God.**

**Message: “Day of the Palms”**

Today is the day of the Palms or as most of us know it as Palm Sunday. The story today recalls the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, at a time of anticipating the celebration of the Passover or for Christians - Holy Week. Even in the celebration Jesus speaks truth to the power and continues to extend grace to sinners. Jesus is true to God’s mission – and Jesus knows where God’s mission is leading – to his very death.

In today’s story we are told that people spread their cloaks on the road and throngs of disciples shout triumphantly because of the deeds of power they have witnessed along their journey with Jesus. For the people, Jesus is their new king. Jesus knows that his kingship will be different from what the people are expecting. Jesus has shared that his kingship is revealed in his betrayal, death, and resurrection. All of that is yet to come. Today though we celebrate.

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey, recalling the messianic promise: “Your king comes to you...humble and riding on a donkey”, from Zechariah 9. Kings serve by ruling, but Jesus rules by serving. Jesus gives it all. The people are living in the destructive power of the Roman empire, so any person who could offer the hope of freedom from Roman rule were honoured and built up. The joy shown by the people today as they follow Jesus into Jerusalem is based on their hope not being held to the power of Rome. Their hope is based on what God will do as they have seen God’s power revealed in the life of Jesus.

If we could imagine that we were among the crowds greeting Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, what power would we hope for. Going against the political rulers of the day would mean probable hurt - even death. Yet would we also get caught up in all the hype of this event of triumphal entry into the City of God? As we imagine what might our experiences have been like, what emotions do you think you would have felt?

Where might we see similar parades in our world today? How about the Truckers Freedom Convoy in Ottawa. For 23 days starting in late January, downtown Ottawa served as a parking lot for hundreds of heavy-duty trucks, pickup trucks and other vehicles, operated by individuals who said they were fed up with the social restrictions and vaccine mandates meant to contain the spread of Covid-19. The Freedom convoy blocked downtown Ottawa for traffic and several businesses had to close during the Convoy. Of course, since so many truckers were in Ottawa, the

lack of shipments of auto parts shut down several Canadian Auto plants. On February 9<sup>th</sup>, another convoy shut down the border crossings from USA to Canada, causing even more shortages.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian police arrested 25 truckers and towed several vehicles and later that afternoon the crossings were reopened. The next day, our Prime Minister Trudeau declared a state of Emergency - that allowed the crossings to stay open and the ability to clear the truckers from downtown Ottawa. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Ottawa and the RCMP drove out the protesters. Over 200 people were arrested, and the blockade was officially over.

How does the Truckers Convoy relate to the Palm Sunday Parade? To start with there are several differences. The people of Jerusalem could not openly protest, so their protest is named the "Triumphant Entry in Jerusalem". We are told that the Pharisees told Jesus to quiet down the people, so their enthusiasm would not get the attention of the Roman Soldiers.

In Canada, there were people from our area in Southwestern Ontario who took weekend trips to Ottawa to show support for the truckers – none of them even being truckers. They share the enthusiasm of a peaceful protest and the amount of fun it was supporting the truckers. In the news, we heard of the anger and destruction of statues and store fronts. In any protest, we seem to get the ones who celebrate our ability to protest, and those who make trouble and destruction during what is to be a peaceful protest.

We in Canada have the ability to protest for events that are happening around the world – such as the Ukrainian War. We as the church in our local area collected \$2,660 to send to help those in Ukraine. Could that also be considered a peaceful protest? It definitely shows we want to help in helpful and tangible ways. It also shows the world that the church is attuned to its brothers and sisters and we wish to live out our ministry by helping those sufferings we see in the wider world. As we enter Holy Week we as the church reach out to trust that God continues to create in our world, even if we have no idea what will happen. That is what our Holy Week Journey is all about.

This Palm Sunday provides the entry point into the week called Holy Week. We journey through Holy Week knowing what is about to happen. Some of us can't wait to get to Easter. Others cherish these days, as they believe that even in Jesus' death and burial, God is not done with Jesus yet. We trust that if it can happen to Jesus – it can happen to us. That gives us a Palm Sunday type of hope. Hope in

God, versus hope in the world. The Holy Week stories beckon us to live with trust and in good - when all is well, and when all is not well. We may know the rest of this biblical story, but we don't know how God will work in our hearts this year to see the Passion of Jesus in a whole new light. Today we too celebrate - as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem, to witness his passion and trust, that we might in turn be faithful witnesses who trust God in word and deed, in life and in death. We do not do it alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 124 "He Came Riding On a Donkey" Strathroy United Church**

He came riding on a donkey,  
    he came riding into town;  
slow and easy kind of lowly  
    he came riding with the dawn.  
His disciples walked beside him,  
    staying close, a little shy;  
not too sure where he would guide them,  
    on to live or on to die.  
But all the morning sang his praises;  
    waking birds and dancing wind;  
here he is, the Son of David;  
    riding on to take his throne.

Then the children gathered, singing  
    shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;  
in the streets their song was ringing,  
    'Hosannas' filled the morning air.  
Timid adults strained to see him,  
    caught the Spirit, joined the song;  
spread their cloaks along before him,  
    branches flashing in the sun.  
So all the city sang his praises;  
    waking streets and dancing crowd;  
here he is, the Son of David;  
    our Messiah, Son of God.

In our fasting, and our feasting,  
    called to follow in his way;  
called to walk his road to Easter,  
    called to live his cross today.  
Hosanna to the Son of David,  
    hosanna in the heavens above;  
blessed is he who comes to save us,

blessed is he who brings his love.  
Let us join to sing his praises;  
open hearts and souls to God;  
he is with us, Son of David;  
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.

### **Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** Remember the words of Jesus who said: "Freely you have received, freely give".

### **Offertory: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom..."**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **Offertory Prayer:**

**People:** Save us from injustice, from hunger, from conflict and from indifference. Call us to works of justice, feeding the hungry, peacemaking in conflict and seeking the lost. And we will go - with you, beside you, because of you now. Amen.

### **Hymn: VU 377 "Holy Spirit, Hear Us"**

Holy Spirit, prompt us  
when we bow to pray;  
speak within and teach us  
what we ought to say.

### **Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:**

**Eric:** Among the crowds so busy caught up in the moment,

**People:** we hear those shouting hosanna, as they try to forget the lack of food for their table.

**Eric:** We pray for the hungry.

**People:** In the chaos of the people laying coats on the road busy in the moment,

**Eric:** we notice the ones who remains silent – in their loneliness - even in a crowd.

**People:** We pray for the lonely.

**Eric:** In the moving multitudes crying for salvation, busy in the moment,

**People:** we see the person whose home is that street.

**Eric:** We pray for the homeless.

**People:** In the sway of the masses, eager to see, yet busy in the moment,

**Eric:** we spot the one looking among the crowd for someone long gone.

**People:** We pray for those grieving.

**Eric:** In the movement of the pack caught up in hysteria, busy with the moment,

**People:** we recognize the one with wounds and hurt - from a different violence.

**Eric:** We pray for those in conflict.

**People:** In the baying of the mob - cheering without knowing why - busy in the moment,

**Eric:** will we notice the change from hosanna to crucify, and those who must suffer?

**People: We pray for ourselves and why we are here.**

**Eric:** We pray for Holy Week and our Lenten journey, as we pray Jesus' 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.*

**Closing Hymn: VU 122 "All Glory, Laud and Honour" – Peninsula United Church Surrey BC**

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

You are the King of Israel,  
and David's royal son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and blessed one.

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

The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.

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

To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.

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

Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,

great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious king.  
*All glory, laud and honour  
to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.*

**Blessing:**

**Eric:** As we walk among the voices of “hosanna” towards the voices of “crucify him”. May we share the journey with Jesus and listen for the moments where love wins. May the presence of God be with us, now and forever more.

**May the Blessing of God Be Upon You: VU 429**

May the blessing of God be upon you.  
May God's love light all your way.  
May the grace of Christ enfold you  
and peace around you stay.  
May the Spirit of God dwell within you.  
May you live in joy each day.

**Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Postlude:** “Alleluia” – Christie Coatsworth

**Prayers:** - Please include these people in your prayers this week.

We have offered prayer for these people each Sunday morning just before the Zoom Service. It was suggested to share these names with the total group – as “In the Spirit We Are One”.

Cancer:	Tom	
	Louise	Louise' Granddaughter - Blake
	Betty	Ingrid
	Alison	Brenda
	Nancy	Lisa
	Sarah	Larry
	Brian	Jack
	Zoe	Becky
	Barry/ Marsha	Francine
	Melissa	Karen
	Jenny	Michelle
	Heather	Ross
	Gary	Margaret
	Gus (Sick kids)	Dolly
	Chris	Ukraine – Allied and Canadian Forces
	Michelle	Glenna
	Ann	Barry
	Franko	