



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

Music as We Gather

Gathering

Introit: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

VU #123
vs. 1 & 3

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

We've lit candles during Lent:

For Love,
for Peace,
for Patience,
For Kindness,
For Mercy,
and today we light a candle for humility.

Even as the Christ-light shines, the world tries to downplay his humility, but we will not let that humility be hidden. May this Candle shine bright into our world, inspiring acts of amazing mercy by all, for all.

Welcome

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Recognition of the Land and Indigenous People

Blessing of the Palms

Call to Worship:

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.
AMEN.

Hymn: "He Came Riding on a Donkey" VU #124
vs. 1 & 2

Opening Prayer:

God of all creation, you are love.
In joyful times, in excited times...
in times of sadness, in times of fear...
you are the love that holds us.
Wherever we are in the crowd—
moving right beside Jesus,
waving and shouting from the sidelines,
or perched at the edge, wondering—
help us to know we are yours. We are loved. Amen.

Listening

**Children's Focus
& Song:** "Sing Hosanna" led by Thea Burton

Lord's Prayer

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

One: May God add to our understanding of these words.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Enter into the Drama of Holy Week

Solo: "On Humble Beast Now Rides the King"
performed by Nancy Handrigan

Poem: "The Way to Jerusalem is Cluttered"
By Ann Weems

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory Prayer:

We cast these gifts before you, O God, as palms were cast before Jesus long ago. We lay them before you in praise, thanksgiving, and joy. Receive them from our hands, that they may become a greater blessing in your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayers of the People

Poem: "From Hosanna to Horror,
the Only Road to Easter" *By Ann Weems*

Lenten Light Entering Again:

Our worries and fears are not what they were, but in some ways, they are still there.

When we can come together as a community, our lives are uplifted in the holy presence of our God, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the Spirit of our Faith, we light our Lenten Candle, showing that Jesus came to be our light, and through Jesus, who rises into our lives again and again and again, we are also called to be the light – to each other, and God's world.

Hymn: "Creator God You Gave Us Life" MV #27

Commissioning:

Go out into the deep shadows of this week...
Be aware...Important things have happened...
Even more important things are about to happen...
Will we be tempted to deny?
Will we think it was not worthwhile?
Can we believe that something good
can come out of something that feels so bad?
The mystery continues....

Benediction:

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God's love with all. Amen and amen!

Music as We Depart