



Sunday, April 2nd, 2023, 10:00 am

Music as We Gather

Blessing of the Palms

Be in these hands, wands of joy, to celebrate the One
coming in the name of the Lord;
 be here, instruments of faith,
beyond the common longing for our ways;
 be for us, the wave of abandon,
to God's way of the cross
 and the victory of love's
pure saving hope! Amen.

Palm Procession (wave your palm branches!)

*** Hymn:** “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” VU #123

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!

Gathering

Lighting the Christ Candle

This is the day the Lord has made.

**God has made the Lord's light shine upon us. Let
us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Recognition of the Land

Welcome and Announcements

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Call to Worship:

Jesus and his friends are ready to enter the city.

Come, let us follow Jesus, for Jerusalem is near.

In the air, there is a sense of wonder and mystery,
of the Word being fulfilled.

Jesus enters the city riding a colt and the crowds cry out,
**Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

A new kind of leader is welcomed into Jerusalem,
And is present amongst us now as we worship.

Opening Prayer

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

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.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you ask us to endure suffering for
your sake, but more often, we inflict it on others.
You offer us dignity, and yet we take it from our
neighbours. We reject the cornerstone as
worthless, failing to see the world you are building.
Help us to regain the mind of Christ, that we too
may empty ourselves and be filled with your Spirit.**

Affirmation

Hosanna to David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes in
God's name, not to judge us, but to forgive and save us.

**We humble ourselves in gratitude and in service to
others, even as Christ did. Hosanna in the highest.
Amen!**

Listening

Children's Time / Time for all Ages

The Lord's Prayer

*** Hymn:** "And on This Path"

MV #8

And on this path,

the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path,
the gates of holiness are open wide,
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gate are open wide!

So enter in
the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in
the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in
the gates of holiness are open wide,
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gate are open wide!

Scripture:

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

Sing a Loud Hosanna

M. Hates

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Message:

Parody Parade

Rev Don Sellsted

*** Hymn:**

“My Song is Love Unknown”

VU #143

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.

**O who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?**

He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ would
know.

**But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!**

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.

**Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!

**This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** "What Can I Do?" MV #191

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (Repeat x1)

*** Offertory Prayer:**

Creator God, in Jesus Christ you came, showing us that we achieve our greatest worth through service. Bless us and these offerings, symbols of our service, that your goodness may be more fully known through us and through them. May the food you provide be fully shared, that the earth and its Creator may be completely recognized, adored, and praised. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** Litany of Diminishing Light:**

We have now experienced the five Sundays of Lent. In that time, we have seen how God hears and accepts our laments... Today, we join a parade of celebration, one that will unfold much differently than we can imagine..

(the Palm Sunday purple candle is extinguished)

Even as the Christ-light shines, the world tries to hide the light of Love.

But we will not let our Love be hidden.

*** Hymn:** "All Glory, Laud and Honour" VU #122

Refrain:

**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. **R**

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

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

Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king. **R**

*** Commissioning**

*** Benediction**

The God of forgiveness bless you,
the grace of Christ keep you,
and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit strengthen you.
Let us go now in peace, to love and to serve.
And the people said ... **AMEN!**

***Hymn of Benediction: Amen**

VU #967

Offered by Orchard Valley United Church Choir

Postlude