

Reminder: There will be a Pancake Lunch following this Sunday's worship service. (Free-will offering)

Dunsford United Church

Palm Sunday March 24, 2024

Pulpit Presider: Rev. Dr. Mary Anne MacFarlane

†= stand as you are able

WELCOME AND CELEBRATIONS (Birthdays/Anniversaries, etc.)

† GATHERING HYMN VU #220 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (Joachim Neander)

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near, joining in glad adoration.
- 2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CANDLE

We light the Christ candle in thankfulness for the gift of Christ, who is the light of the world and the guide for our lives. We light the Truth and Reconciliation candle to remind us of our commitment to work for healing in our relationship to indigenous people.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LANDS (Unison)

We acknowledge, honour and respect this land and the Anishinaabe / Mississauga peoples with whom Treaty 20, Williams treaty, was signed, on the lands where we are. We acknowledge and give thanks for the lands and people of treaties and unceded territories of all who are worshiping. It is up to all of us to live into truth, respect and reconciliation with all our relations.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Jesus entered into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey, seeking to transform the people He loved.
People gathered from everywhere to wave palm branches and to praise Him with joy.
Jesus enters into our lives humbly, seeking to transform our hearts and our lives.
Let us worship together, and receive Jesus into our hearts. Hosanna in the highest!

† HYMN VU #123 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (Jennette Threlfall)

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 '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!

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, on this Palm Sunday we think again of your precious gift to the world, Jesus, and what He means for our lives and for our Church. We listen again to the Scriptures and hear the story of how Jesus entered Jerusalem and was celebrated by the people around Him. They spread their garments and palm branches along His way, and filled the air with cries of joy and expectation. Let that day be for all of us a sign of Christ's courage and love. We pray that we, who bear His name, may follow him boldly and show love and compassion to those around us. We thank you, God, for your ongoing presence and love. When our lives are crying out for strength, rebuild and revitalize us. Focus us again on your will for our lives. Be with us as we face new challenges and new questions. Strengthen us as we enter into this time of worship and reflection. Call us into new and courageous ways of being the church in this day and age, in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "Peace Be Still" Sylvia Van Belle, accompanied by Llew Sheppard

INVITATION TO GIVE

All that we have is a gift from God. God's faithful care surrounds us every day. We have the opportunity, through our offering, to participate in God's work. The gifts we offer today will touch many lives. Let us bring forward the offering.

† HYMN OF DEDICATION: VU #108 v. 1 (James Germainian)

Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way, where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Giver of all gifts. receive these gifts that we bring today. Bless them. We pray that they may be signs of your hope in the world. Through our gifts, we pray that others will be renewed, and come to know the comfort and rest of living in your presence. We pray that you will use our dedication and service for your purposes, for the sake of the world that you love. Amen.

STORY AND PRAYERS FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

“How Do You Say Hosanna?”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 New International Version (Read by Jim)

² In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading: Mark 11:1-11 Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,
“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JUNIOR CHURCH

† HYMN: MV #1 “Let Us Build A House” (Marty Haugen)

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood
and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known. Here the
outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

MESSAGE “When Jesus Rides Into Town”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S 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, for ever and ever. Amen

WE ARE SENT OUT IN FAITH TO SERVE

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

The Spirit's touch is upon us all.

Christ's spirit is alive in us and in the world.

So let us go into this world which God has created and which God loves.

Let us go boldly, confidently, and joyfully.

And let us go with hope, and healing, and peace.

Amen.

† CHORAL RESPONSE: "Go Now in Peace" (Words: D Besig and N Price)

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen, Amen, Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 29: Good Friday Service at 10 AM. Lisa Norman, LLWL is presiding.

March 31: Easter with Communion. Rev. Anne Hepburn is presiding.

Dust off your Easter Bonnets and Ties. There will be an egg hunt for the children.

April 7: Holy Humour Sunday with Rev. Anne. If you have church-clean jokes or anecdotes, bring them to share.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Vice Chair of the Board
- Spiritual Leadership Team
- Leadership Development Team Leader

For information or job descriptions, please speak to John, Board Chair

- Sunday School and/or Jr. Church leaders - Vulnerable Sector Police Checks are required. Speak with Abigail for more information.

Milk bag Mats: The group meets in the Church on Wednesdays at 10 AM. All are welcome to make mats and enjoy some fellowship.

February Financials

Income: \$4,009.00

Expenses: \$4,823.20

Net Loss: \$ 814.20

Stewardship Second: Your resources, your time, your abilities, your money - any of it or all of it: "The Lord needs it."

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

The Moderator's Easter Message: <https://youtu.be/DZJ0STmTg6A>

[10 Additional Ways to Work Towards Anti-Racism | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

United in Learning: Wait—Is this Racist? Webinar

Starting April 22, join a community of people from across the church who are exploring anti-racist practices! Together, and with themes from the book Wait—Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church, we will explore practical ways of co-creating anti-racist congregations. As part of the first session, Kerry Connelly, the author of the book will join us.

Come as a community of faith team:

Receive two copies of the book.

Work together as a group on action plans.

Create change in your congregation!

Register today, and find out more! [Wait -- Is this Racist? \(churchx.ca\)](#)

DUNSFORD UNITED CHURCH

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