

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH
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Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10, 2022

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The Liturgy of the Palms
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

(Distribution of Palms before service.)

Opening Hymn: *All Glory Laud & Honour (vs. 1-2)*

#181 HB

LITURGY OF THE PALMS:

Officiant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest.**

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross.

We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

(All remain standing for the Gospel)

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

GOSPEL: **Luke 19:28-40**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: *All Glory Laud & Honour (vs. 3, 4, 5)*

#181 HB

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Officiant: It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life, who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

COLLECT: **Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM: 118:1-2, 19-29

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many-- terror all around!-- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

People: Amen

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON – Doug Court

Sermon: *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna in the highest”*

How much pent-up emotion do you have? What controls do you put on your emotions?

Our culture or society tends to subtly pressure us to contain emotions, at least in public. When we witness people expressing overt anger, or exuberant joy or are very passionate about something, we tend to be wary around them or avoid them.

We develop around ourselves a “comfort zone” of behaviour. You could call it your “image”, how you wish to project yourself acceptable to others.

Have you ever stepped outside of that comfort zone? Ever have emotion take control; crying at a funeral, or tearing up at a sad movie. Ever laughed out loud or shout for joy over a situation? Ever blurted out your frustration at something? Hopefully you have, because, despite societal or personal pressure, we are emotional beings.

Because of our rather subdued society when it comes to emotions, I wondered what caused such an outburst of euphoria experienced by the crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This morning I am just going to focus on the reaction, and emotions of the people who were there.

For centuries the prophets had brought God’s word and promise to the people that He would be with and within them. His Laws would be written on their hearts and no longer need be written in stone – a personal relationship.

We fast forward to Jesus’ time. It had been over 500 years since Isaiah and Jerimiah had told of God’s promise, and approximately 300 years since the last great prophet, Malachi, had brought the people God’s word. Many people had lost faith, others perceived God as oppressive because of the rules imposed by the Sadducees and Pharisees on believers, others lived with guilt because they, individually and collectively believed they had done something wrong for God to desert them and let Roman conquest rule their land. The society into which Jesus came was one of feelings of desertion and oppression and guilt. Where was “hope”?

Since we are looking at emotions this morning, what would your life be like, emotionally, living in that society? Beaten down by religious rules you were expected to follow, believer or not and enforced by the Pharisees and Sadducees interpretation of the Law. Roman rule of obedience or severe punishment. Where is “hope”?

What do you think, or how would you feel in that society, when along comes John the Baptist proclaiming the *‘the Kingdom of God is at hand’*? It is like the opening act at a concert that warms up the crowd for the main attraction – in this case, anticipation, “hope”! That sense of hope is seen in the crowds that flocked to John to hear his words, and repent and prepare themselves to receive the Messiah.

Social media was a little different 2000 years ago. But news spread quickly even without the Internet, facetime, texts, etc. The area in which Jesus lived and taught, (exception to time as an infant spent in Egypt), was approx. the size of Simcoe County, although longer and narrower in shape, dotted with villages that acted as a communication network.

The people in Jerusalem knew much about Jesus before his arrival. For 3 years his fame had spread about his teachings and deeds. His message was one of hope, love, and the presence of God coming into their lives. The message lifted the oppressive concept of God perpetuated by the religious authorities of the day. Jesus’ message was, for many, a message from God himself.

Jesus spoke with authority, authority that diminished the power from the Sadducees and Pharisees, authority that brought hope for salvation. Jesus spoke of the relationship the prophets foretold.

He told them and us today how to address God: Our Father ... – a caring, protective, loving parent.

He told them and us who we are in the sight of God: Blessed! Each one of us are blessed.

Blessed are the “poor in spirit”; those who humbly recognize a need for God in their lives , - theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

Blessed are the merciful – they will obtain mercy

Blessed are the peacemakers – they will be called the children of God

Blessed are the pure in heart – they will see God

Jesus tells them and us – Love fulfills the intention of the Law, Love God, Love one another.

This message has been passed through the centuries as a message to us. A message needed 2000 years ago and today.

The people of Jerusalem 2000 years ago knew the power of Jesus as reports of his miracles of healing, knowledge of scripture, hundreds of followers, thousands gathering to hear him, restoring life to the dead. His message was freedom, freedom from those feelings of oppression, desertion, and guilt.

That message is ours today. Yet in our subdued culture we fail to welcome Jesus with the enthusiasm and emotion that is his due. During our service each week we say: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna in the highest”.

The people of Jerusalem, on that “first Palm Sunday”, shouted it. It was their prayer, their praise to God. Did they truly understand what it was all about, probably not. But their emotions of joy, love, hope overruled an understanding.

Mother Madeleine Barat, a 19th century nun (may be familiar to you if you are participating in Lent Madness), said “Let your heart be more attentive than your head, for the Holy Spirit is love, and to take hold of her, it is more important to love than to understand”.

I think that is what likely overcame the crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem. It was a release of, or freeing themselves, from all the societal and religious oppression, guilt, and for the moment, there was an overwhelming sense of hope and love that took control. Jesus; King of Kings, healer, miracle worker, prophet, Son of

Righteousness, Son of God, Superstar, - the one who, “comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna in the highest”. Ignoring the fear of the Roman rules for gatherings, and the pleas and threats of the Pharisees, this was their moment of “freedom”. Freedom from their own self-control that had been brought on by doubt, oppression, guilt and fear.

Do we get excited when, every week as we gather, in person or online, to praise God for his gift to us? As Jesus went through the Gate into Jerusalem, to bring salvation and redemption to the people for all time, he comes to us every day. Everyday our prayer should be filled with love and hope as we hear the words,

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna in the highest”. A crowd whose words have echoed throughout the centuries.

Let our prayer and praise this morning be, *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna in the highest”*.

Say it with me now. Now let go of the “control zone” you put around yourself and let your heart join that crowd in Jerusalem 2000 years ago! Say with me;

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna in the highest! Repeat

Let us pray:

Lord, the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with the words, *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna in the highest”*, let us welcome Him into our hearts today and every day, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

People: Amen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Prayer of the People: Litany 8

Officiant: By your incarnation and your birth in poverty, by your baptism, your fasting, and your trials in the desert, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy).**

Officiant: By your agony in the garden, by your cross and passion, by your death and burial, by your resurrection and ascension, and by the gift of your Holy Spirit, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Officiant: In times of trouble and in times of well-being, at the hour we die and on the day of your glory, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Officiant: Deliver us from war and violence, from hardness of heart and from contempt of your love and your promises; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Officiant: Enlighten our lives with your word, that in it we may find our way and our hope; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Officiant: Assist your people in every land, govern them in peace and justice, defend them from the enemies of life; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Officiant: Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servants, Dave Fulcher and Kathy Cassin. Acknowledge, we pray, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

(Silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn: *Hosanna*

#181 HB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

Gracious God, the suffering and death of Jesus, your only Son, makes us pleasing in your sight. Alone we can do nothing, but through his sacrifice, may we receive your love and mercy. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #3:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this break and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unit us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People: 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.

Officiant: Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it is for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.



Assisting Father Alex Hewitt today:

Celebrant: Rev. Alex Hewitt
 Preacher: Doug Court
 First Reading: Jim Blogg
 Second Reading: Kevin Hamann
 Prayers: Lorraine Chew
 Gospel: Beth Steffler
 Sidespersons: Bill Goodyer, Kevin Hamann
 A/V: David Paradis
 Music: Craig Snider

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

Lorraine Whitwell & Family; Celeste & parents; Winnie Fulcher & Family; Stephanie; Alvin Maynard; Nova; Colleen; Irene; John; Kayla; Dorothy McIlravey & husband Chuck; Kim Middaugh; Lorraine W; Wilma; Sally; Steve & Jade; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd.

The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:

Martin Bertelsen; Stephen Bertelsen; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Daniel Leibovich; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; Cecilia Mowat & Tanya Bowskill; Donna & Ray Wilson; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Marco Romita & Rose; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Sheila Green; Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Garn Mennell; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair and mom; Jane & Ron Lewis; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Church of North India

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Palm Sunday