



Covenant

The United Church of Canada

a safe place for all people to worship

Ministers: the people

14 April 2019
Palm Sunday ^C.

Gathering

ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION

The gong is sounded three times

LITURGY OF THE BRANCHES

INTRODUCTION

For the past five weeks of the Season of Lent we have been on a journey remembering the story of Jesus' journey.

Now we're one week from the season called Easter!

Today is what has traditionally been called 'Palm Sunday'. But you won't hear about 'palms' in this story from Luke. That's in the story as told by John.

And Mark and Matthew mention only 'leafy branches'.

Anyway... This is the day on which, our tradition tells us, Jesus entered Jerusalem, and just days before his death. So I invite you to reflect on some of the feelings associated with Holy Week.

(Pause)

HYMN: THIS IS THE DAY

MV 122

Let's imagine we too have come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

TRADITIONAL GOSPEL

Luke 19:28-40 (NRSV/adapted)

SILENCE

The gong is sounded

Reflection 1

Jesus dared to live God's way
in the midst of all the 'ups' and 'downs' of life.
We too are called to proclaim our faith faithfully
by the way we live, and treat one another.

Silence

The gong is sounded a second time

Reflection 2

Jesus wanted his disciples to live passionate,
justice seeking, God centred lives.

Silence

The gong is sounded a third time

Reflection 3

Jesus, as human face of God, shared his life
that others might sense the new signs of hope
in their everyday lives.

Silence

The gong is sounded a fourth time

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

The Community Candle is lit

The light waits –
Who will keep the light burning in our day?
Who will take the light into the world?
Who will carry the light into a new year?
**Who will carry the light in this our city,
if we do not?**

ACT OF AWARENESS

It is good to be alive!
To share life with each other
in this wonder-filled and evolving universe.
We are most grateful.
May wisdom dawn in us so we may see all things in clarity.

Centering

Silence and Music of Reflection

Exploring

READINGS FROM OUR BROAD RELIGIOUS TRADITION

Let us continue to listen to some Palm Sunday readings
from our broad religious tradition.

The World Around us: (i) "Donkey Day"
By Janet Lees. **Let Justice Roll Down**/129.

(ii) "Tough faith":
By Bruce Prewer. **More Australian Psalms**/86.

(iii) "Waving the Palms"
By David O Rankin. **UUA Worship Web**

CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION

HYMN: TELL ME THE STORIES

VU 357

Affirming & Celebrating

A PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION: TWENTY CENTURIES PAST

The people stand as they are able

Twenty centuries past, what city has not heard of your coming?
From Beijing to Berlin, from Jerusalem to Johannesburg,
from New York to New Delhi. Surely the word has spread that
you've come in peace, not violence to enrich, renew, transform
our lives and bring us to shalom?

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Twenty centuries past, what city has not heard of your church?
From Catholic, Orthodox, Uniting or Anglican, Evangelical,
Progressive or Pentecostal surely the message of acceptance,
healing, confidence in your royal advent, has been passed on
through faithful living?

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Twenty centuries past, what city has not rejected you?
From penthouse to tenement, from factory to leisure centre,
from theme park to concert hall, surely the news is that this life is
for taking, not giving and what stands in the way of this lifestyle
must now be removed?

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Twenty centuries past, what city does the Christ seek to enter?
From leafy suburb to shanty town, from housing estate
to West-End flat, from salon to slum, surely the sign of the
church free from pride, united in deed, must be the welcome the
Christ longs for as he enters our city?

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.** *(JYoung/adapted/ljrd)*

PRAYERS

OUR OFFERINGS

WE GIVE OUR THANKS

MV 187

PRESENTATION

Scattering

HYMN: HE CAME RIDING ON A DONKEY

VU 124

PARTING WORDS

As we prepare to leave this sacred space
where we have celebrated life together,
let us return to our work enlivened and renewed...

The Community Candle is extinguished

And now may the rhythms of our coming together:
the melodies of our worship, and the harmonies of our farewells,
All Make musical our living, soothing our spirits
and uplifting our souls

This day

and into the beckoning future.

WORDS OF BLESSING

Go in peace.

And may the Holy God surprise you on the way,

Jesus the Sage be your company

and the Spirit lift up your life.

Amen. May it be so!

SUNG RESPONSE: SANNA, SANNANINA,

VU 128

Bulletin Covers in memory of
