



# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*  
a safe place for all people to worship  
Ministers: Rev. Bill Jones

5 April 2020  
PALM SUNDAY

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Hosanna to the Son of David

**Hosanna in the Highest**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest**

*(Desperate Preacher' Website April 5/20)*

## ENTRY INTO CELEBRATION

The morning comes and now is!

Greet the day with gladness,  
and welcome the evening with praise.

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

*(The Rex Hunt Website April 5/20)*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The candle is lit

## GATHERING PRAYER

Almighty God, on this day, your son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread garments and palm branches along his way. Let those branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. In his name, we pray. Amen.

*(Desperate Preachers Website April 5/20)*

## HYMN: ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOUR

VU 122

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Lord God, Creator: We come before you humbly today knowing that you knew very well what was going to happen to you this week. O Lord even though we know the sacrifice that you made for us, we still go against your will and your hope for the way in which we will work for you and the kingdom. We ask you to give us the peace that will help us to praise you as those who waved palm branches praised you as you entered Jerusalem so long ago. AMEN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Good News for us is that if we ask forgiveness for those things that we have done, O God, that are not for your glorification, and if we are truly repentant, our sins and actions will be forgiven.

## HYMN: HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

VU 123

## *Centering*

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

### **Planting a Path to Reconciliation**

Twenty-eight years ago when it was founded, Faith United Church in Kingston, Ontario, bought land near Highway 15 with the vision of creating a church building. Meeting in a local high school, they eventually decided to put their energy into being a caring community rather than into a building. Then, during the last year, Faith United began a time of discernment around the land. The members of the congregation felt inspired to walk a path of peace and offer the land as a place of healing.

The church and the Indigenous peoples of Kingston are currently in conversation as they collaborate on how to create a space where all can find healing. Talking over tea and shared meals, they are exchanging ideas on how to come together in friendship. Currently they are

considering creating a garden for reflection and reconciliation that contains Indigenous sacred medicine plants.

Thanks to a grant from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund, supported by your gifts for Mission & Service, the Indigenous peoples of Kingston and Faith United Church members are able to move forward. “We open our eyes now,” the Elders and congregation members shared in a report on the initiative. “We aren’t blinded by hopefulness and naïveté: we know our vision for this piece of land is grand in size and workload. We also know that when we walk together in a good way, when we root the process in ceremony and healing, we are acknowledging we aren’t walking this path alone. Together we can. Together we will. One step along the path of peace.” May it be so! If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

### SCRIPTURES

**Isaiah 50: 4-9a** The suffering servant struck and insulted

**Psalms 118: 1-3, 19-29** The stone the builders rejected

**Philippians 2: 5-11** Let the same mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus

**Matthew 21: 1-11** Jesus enters Jerusalem

### SERMON

**HYMN: Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!**

**VU 127**

### OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God: The gift, that you gave us in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, has so lifted us up that we sing praise to you. We feel so blessed that we come before you today, bringing you gifts of service, talent and money to help with the work of the kingdom. O Lord use us as you will. AMEN

### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**HYMN: WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS**

**VU 147**

### COMMISSIONING

Go from this place with a new understanding of how God’s love for us has manifested itself in the life of Christ

### THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

For it is through Christ that we are blessed and encouraged to look further and reach further than we have ever reached before. It is before Christ that we fulfil all the things that we have promised you our God throughout our years.

### BENEDICTION

We ask all things through:

The love of God

The grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

**AMEN**

### GO NOW IN PEACE

The liturgy for this service came in part from the Rex Hunt Website and the Desperate Preacher’s website

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