

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**April 2, 2023**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Lester Scott & Donald Eddy  
**Greeters** Margaret Payne-Chénard & Mike Kierstead

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-5 John 20:1-18
<b><i>The potted mums in the sanctuary are in memory of deceased family members placed by Elna Scott</i></b>	

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...*

**GATHERING**

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Jini Palmer*

[Based on] Matthew 21:1-11

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** - "Come Into The Streets With Me"

Come into the streets with me!  
Come to where the crowds will be,  
see a strange and gentle king  
on a donkey traveling.

*Refrain*

*Come and follow my leader,  
come and follow my leader,  
Jesus Christ is riding by,  
come and follow my leader!*

All the people shout his name,  
waving branches, sing his fame,  
throw their coats upon his road,  
glad to praise the Son of God.

*Refrain*

If the soldiers draw their swords,  
will we dare to sing these words,  
be his friends for just a day,  
cheer him on, then run away?

*Refrain*

Jesus goes where things are rough,  
Jesus knows when life is tough,  
always comes to us, his friends,  
so his story never ends.

*Refrain*

**SCRIPTURE READING** (*cont'd*)

*Jini Palmer*

[Based on] Matthew 21:1-11

**\*WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** (*in unison*)

**As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territory of the original peoples, the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.**

## **LENTEN CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER** *(responsively)*

...Today we take one step further on our Lenten journey, travelling in the shadow of our teacher, hoping to follow faithfully in his Way.

**We keep our senses attuned, attentive to God's Child, the Beloved. Even when what we experience makes us uncomfortable or afraid, we don't turn away.**

*Six Lenten Candles are lit.*

### **CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** - "Hold us in your grace"

***Hold us in your grace, O God,  
hold us in your grace.  
Hold us in your grace, O God,  
hold us in your grace.***

***Hold us,  
hold us in your grace.  
Hold us,  
hold us in your grace.***

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING 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!

### **LENTEN TENEBRAE** *(responsively)*

*(Speakers – Alexa Chamberlain & Chelsey MacLaggan)  
(Candle Lighters/Extinguisher – Katie, Grace & Avery Scott)*

*...One Candle is lit, as well as the Christ Candle...*

One: Crowds of people lined streets to welcome Jesus from Nazareth riding into town on a donkey.

Two: On the other side of Jerusalem, some others went to see a proper Roman military parade.

One: They watched Pontius Pilate riding on a war horse accompanied by battle-hardened foot soldiers with their swords, shields, helmets, and war drums.

Two: They were the enemy. They were impressive and fearful.

One: At Jesus' parade, the people were shouting, "Hosanna, save us, we pray."

Two: Save us from the tyranny of the Romans who rule over us.

One: Save us, so that we may live in peace.

Two: Save us, so that we can live with our dignity.

One: Save us, so that we can live as ones created in God's image.

Two: We shout. We pray. And we wait.

One: When will the day of God, the kingdom of God, come?

*The sixth candle is extinguished...*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – “Don’t Be Afraid” - MV #90

***Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.***

Two: Let us pray.

**Holy One,  
who rules over the universe,  
please don’t let the fools of this world destroy it.  
Don’t let them gloat over you and us.  
Don’t let them have the last say or the last laugh.  
May your will be done.  
May justice and peace prevail.  
May we truly know we live and move and have our being in  
and through you.  
Amen**

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

...The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SHARING A STORY** (*with those of all ages*)

*Mya Brewster, Addison MacLaggan & Chelsey MacLaggan*

Matthew 21:7-8

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Come, Dare to Be”

Come dare to be all that you are in Christ;  
be what his loving, be what his thinking  
see in your person:  
you are eternal light.

All that you have, he gave to you at first;  
challenge and courage, will and commitment,  
spring from one fountain:  
so you will never thirst.

From yoke or bond  
his love has set you free;  
free to love others, praising and serving  
Christ who is present  
in human lives we see.

Even today  
you are what you will be;  
judged and forgiven, from death arisen,  
take up life’s fulness,  
for Christ has made you free!

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “It Is Well with My Soul”

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Anne Wilson*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**\*OFFERING HYMN** – “These Gifts We Bring”

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.  
Gather us in grace, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth  
to share Your love in all we do.***

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** (*responsively*)

The palm branches are symbols of all we have to celebrate with as we  
welcome Jesus, God’s just and caring one, to Jerusalem.

## **Our gifts are celebration gifts.**

They remind us of the suffering and sacrifice, as Jesus, God's faithful one, refused to take the easy way out.

## **Our gifts symbolize our renewed faithfulness.**

**Amen**

## **SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CLOSING 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.

*(Refrain)*

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

*(Refrain)*

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

*(Refrain)*

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

*(Refrain)*

## **\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING** – VU #182 *(Verse 1)*  
"Stay With Us through the Night"

***Stay with us through the night.  
Stay with us through the pain.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger  
till the morning breaks again.***

*(The Christ Candle, Lenten Tenebrae & Lenten candles are extinguished.)*

## **POSTLUDE**

# Church News

This Week at First United – April 3 <sup>rd</sup> to April 7 <sup>th</sup>		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir practice
Friday	10:00 AM	Good Friday Worship Service
Friday	Office Closed – Good Friday	

**Church office hours** – Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please note the office **will be closed** on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> in observance of Good Friday and Easter Monday.

**Peanut Butter** – Once again this year we are setting a goal of **900 jars** of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to March 30<sup>th</sup> we have collected 246 jars.

**Prayer Request Box** - If someone has a prayer request you can write the request at church or do it at home and put it in the box when you arrive on Sunday morning. The box will be brought to Rev. Neal when the offering is brought forward. What is in the box will be seen by Rev. Neal only.

### **Thank you to our volunteers in March:**

**Counters** – Edie Gammon and Gary Branch; **Greeters** – Julie & Harvey Spence; **Minute for Mission** – Anne Wilson, Clint Ronalds, Pat MacIntosh and Martha Vickers; **Scripture Readers** – Helen Knowles, Isabel MacLaggan, Jennifer Olive and Judy Losier; **Sharing a Story** – Margaret Payne-Chénard & Gayle Ferron and Julie Spence & Jini Palmer; **Sound System** – Lester Scott and Ralph Jamieson and **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

**LIVESTREAM AND SOUND VOLUNTEERS** - First United Church is in need of several individuals who would like to assist with the live stream and sound ministry. This ministry provides members of our faith community the ability to connect with our services when they cannot attend in-person. The time commitment is small and flexible. Training and support in the use of the equipment is provided. In order to consistently offer this important service we require your assistance.

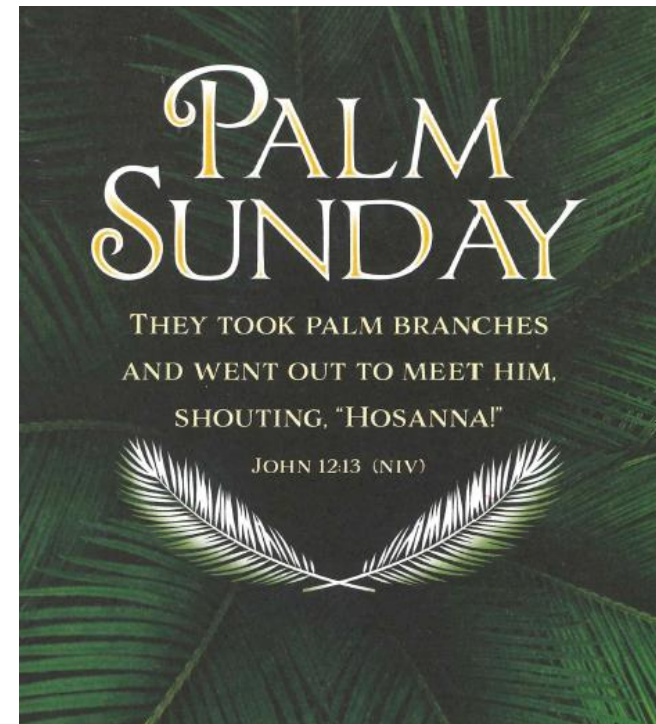
# Church News

**Thank You:** The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Take-Out Roast Pork Supper. Because of the generous sponsorship of Kent & White Insurance, the Ways and Means team realized a profit of approximately \$4,000. The next Ways and Means team event will be held Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> - **a Take-Out Ham & Scallop Potato Supper.**

Please note the date for the Ham & Scallop Potato Supper has been updated from what was originally indicated in the Easter newsletter.

# Community News

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 am.** Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.



**SCRIPTURE READING** [Based on] Matthew 21:1-11

It was a special day in Jerusalem. Once a year, the Roman governor would come to town with lots of pomp and ceremony. There would be a big parade, and people would shout and wave.

It's not that they necessarily *wanted* to do that, but they knew they were *supposed* to do that. The Roman governor wanted to know that people were happy to see him, even though most of the people - if you asked them - would tell you they were *not* happy to see him.

The Romans had conquered this land and ruled it in a mean way. They told people to look out only for themselves and not care a lot for others. They didn't care about the poorest people, disabled or unemployed, women who had no husbands, and children who had no parents. No, the Romans pretty much only cared about themselves. People didn't like the governor, but they knew they should wave and shout and let the governor think they liked him. It was always a good idea to stay on his good side.

But this particular day, hardly anyone was there to welcome the governor when he rode into town. He had soldiers with him, chariots, and many important-looking people, but only a few people were there to wave and shout.

Most people were on the other side of Jerusalem, where someone else was riding into town on the very same day. Unlike the Roman emperor, this person didn't have horses and chariots - he was riding on a donkey! And he didn't have soldiers and important-looking people with him; he had children and poor people!

This was Jesus, and the people were so excited to see him that they flocked to the streets and shouted happy things. They took branches off the trees to wave because they wanted to wave something and celebrate that Jesus was there.

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** - "Come Into The Streets With Me"

*(while waving palms and dancing)*

**SCRIPTURE READING** [Based on] Matthew 21:1-11 *(cont'd)*

Unlike the Romans, Jesus told them how they should love one another and care for one another. Jesus reminded the people that God loved them; because of that, they should love each other. If

someone was in need, you shouldn't turn away from them. You should offer them whatever you can and let them know God loves them.

How excited the people were that Jesus was coming into town! They weren't quite sure what would happen next, but they were excited because what Jesus taught made a lot more sense than what the Romans said.

Back on the other side of town, though, the Roman governor was not happy. "I wonder who's stealing my thunder?" he muttered to some with him. "We must find out. And we must *do* something about it."

*May God bless to our understanding this significant part of our Christian story...*