

“The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’”

Welcome All

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook 

† Special requests may be made through Facebook 

[Contact Us](#)

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
- Our church building is closed but our Congregation remains open and active in a Ministry of Prayer and Care
- Church business will be conducted remotely as much as possible
- Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook and our WebPage

Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - as of 1 April 2020 -

Hello Folks,

Thank you for your continued work in this important Ministry.

Thank you too for your initiative.

- From your work and feedback, we have new names on our Phone Tree
- New names of folk for whom to pray when we unite in prayer on Wednesday afternoons and
- Folk who benefit from closer followup are receiving more frequent calls.

Please convey the essential message contained in our template; as written or in your own words, and feel free to add time and conversation that is more social, like a visit. Minister as you feel led, as you feel comfortable and as it conveys care.

Continue to add the names and numbers of folk you believe should be included. This list was not designed for this purpose and will, for that reason, be incomplete -

1 April 2020 -

○ Comfort

O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear.

Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected.

Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together,

working to control and eliminate the coronavirus.

Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases,

malaria, dengue, HIV & AIDS, and others that create suffering and often result in death

for many people.

Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession:

care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families.

Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine.

Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to

shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions...
protect and guard all those who must travel.

Guide the leaders of the nations that they speak the truth, halt the spread of misinformation and act with justice so that all your family may know healing.

Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace.

Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day.
Comfort their loved ones in their despair.

Remember all your family, the entire human race, and all your creation, in your love.

Amen!

Adapted from the Lutheran World Federation - Intercessory Prayer in the midst of the spread of COVID-19

- Communication
 - Trinity United Church News and Updates -
 - Trinity United Church is closed
 - Worship Services will be recorded and replayed
 - On COGECO - Your TV at the regularly scheduled time
 - On the Trinity United Church Web Page and FaceBook

- This Sunday is Palm Sunday... It was a day of rejoicing, after which nothing turned out the way the crowd expected... Perhaps this feels familiar.
- If you are on FaceBook, a TUC FaceBook group has been created. You may wish to join and check in from time to time.
- Trinity has entered a collaboration with a group of Teachers from the Smiths Falls and District Collegiate Institute. This Team of volunteers will enable us to extend our program to Saturdays while maintaining our Tuesday work.
- If you wish to make a donation of Bread and Sandwich filling for our Food Distribution efforts on Tuesday and Saturday, please send the bread and fixings unopened and unprepared. Under Health Unit advice, all food must be prepared and put together in the church kitchen. The church kitchen is now government inspected and all volunteers are screened. Please contact Betty Lou Kempt at 613-291-0701

○ **Do you have any questions?**

- *Answer what you know and offer to find out what you do not*
- *Remid folk that this is new for all of us, the situation is changing so there will be gaps but we will do the best we can.*

○ **Connection**

- The Healing Pathway Team and others are actively praying together from 1:00 - 1:30 pm every Wednesday. We would love to include your names and concerns.
- This week, we have been asked to pray for
 - Mary Helen Kelford, who is receiving palliative care from her daughter.
 - Cynthia's niece, who is a Nurse Practitioner amid the COVID-19 crisis.
 - Let us pray for Cynthia, her Teams and the Caring Ministries she leads in this unprecedented time.
 - Let us pray for Cindy Olson's Brother In Law, Lloyd Willoughby, who has recently learned that he has cancer.

○ **Care**

- How are you doing?
- Are you alone?
- Is somebody regularly checking in?
- Would you like somebody to pick up a prescription or other small errand?
- Would you like to volunteer to run small errands for others from time to time?
- We will be part of your support as best we can and as circumstances permit

If you want to be contacted regularly by phone, contact the church and let us know - the church office number is - 613 283 4444

COVID-19 Community Meal Distribution Points

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Monday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican - Upstairs Hall 2 George St	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday	Trinity United Church - Brown Bag & Blessing Front Foyer - 41 Market Street	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Wednesday	St Francis de Sales - St. Vincent de Paul Society 4 McGill St (Hanley Hall)	12:00 - 12:30 pm
Thursday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican - Upstairs Hall 2 George St	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday	St. John the Evangelist Anglican - Upstairs Hall 2 George St	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Saturday	Trinity United Church - Volunteers from - SFDCI Front Foyer - 41 Market Street	11:30 am - 1:30 pm



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals that are being offered during this State of Emergency are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program

We are also grateful for the gracious gift of volunteers from Smiths Falls and District Collegiate Institute who make meals on Saturdays possible.

People who prepare and people who serve have been confirmed to be of low risk for infection / transmission.

Conditions under which the food is prepared is consistent with best practices respecting COVID-19.

If you have been engaged in high risk activities - air travel, attendance at conferences, hospital / healthcare workers; you should not assist in the Community Meal Program(s).

The Outreach Team seeks donations for Brown Bags and Blessings -

- **Sandwich and Box Lunch Supplies** - Tuesday Morning

Let Betty Lou Kempt know at 613-291-0701

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Interlude "Hosanna!" (Lloyd Webber)

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made,

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Jesus is coming.

Hosanna!

He comes to us, riding on a donkey.

Hosanna!

Open wide the gates!

Hosanna!

Let us welcome him with waving branches and open hearts.

Hosanna!

Jesus is coming!

Hosanna to the King of kings!

Prayer of Gathering

God of all people and all places,

God in all situations and every time:

you are the light of the minds that know you;

you are the strength of those who serve you;

you are the welcome and rest of those who go in search of you.

We come this day and pause from our work and responsibilities;

we rest from our play and preoccupations

to listen for your voice,

to follow your story,

and worship you as the Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 124 "He Came Riding On A Donkey"

He came riding on a donkey, he came riding into town,
slow and easy kind of lowly he came riding with the dawn.
His disciples walked beside him, staying close, a little shy;
not too sure where he would guide them, onto live or on to die.
But all the morning sang his praises; waking birds and dancing wind;
here he is, the Son of David, riding on to take his throne.

Then the children gathered, singing shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;
in the streets their song was ringing, "Hosannas" filled the morning
air. Timed adults strained to see him, caught the Spirit, joined the song;
spread their cloaks along before him, branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises, waking streets and dancing crowd.
Here he is, the Son of David, our Messiah.

In our fasting and our feasting, called to follow in his way
called to walk his road to Easter, called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David, hosanna in the heavens above,
blessed is he who comes to save us, blessed is he who brings his love!
Let us join to sing his praises; open hearts and souls to God;
he is with us, Son of David; God's Messiah, Christ the Lord

Learning with Children Unspoken Rules

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

Our days are spent in isolation, even when we are with family.

We wonder if you are with us. We stand behind the stones of anxiety
that have been rolled over the opening of our hearts,
leaving us in the shadows.

Yet, the good news is that you are indeed with us.

Yet, the good news is that you have come,
to roll away those stones,
to call us into life.

Yet, the good news is that you cradle us in your peace,
opening our eyes to the grace of each morning;
filling us with the love and hope we can share with others.

Yet, the good news is still good news,
and so may we trust, believe, hope, and live as your people.

Amen.

Scripture Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (VU837); Matthew 21:1-11

Hal - le - lu - jah! hal - le - lu - jah!

Part One (1-4)

Let Israel now say:

"God's love endures for ever."

Let the house of Aaron say:

"God's love endures for ever."

Let those who fear God say:

"God's love endures for ever." R

Part Three (19–24)

Open to me the gates of the temple, that I may enter and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of God; through it the righteous shall enter.

I thank you for you have answered me; you have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it! R

Part Four (25–29)

Save us, O God, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;

with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will extol you.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Hymn 122 "All Glory, Laud, and Honour"

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

Reflection Different Than We Planned

In the grocery store this week, I was quite comfortable waiting in line

for an open cashier. It was my second line at the same store. There was a line up to get in. Spaces were carefully painted on the walkway to indicate two meters of separation. I stood in the middle of my box while the person forward stood in the front of his and the person behind stood in the rear of hers. That makes three meters of separation for me. **I was all the more comforted.**

Shopping was an orderly experience. There was no waiting in the aisles behind folk who stopped with their carts side by side blocking passage while they engaged in an impromptu Grocery Store visit, catching up on the events of the week.

My grocery list was complete. I was careful to make sure one trip would get everything we needed and paused in each grocery department to make sure I picked up everything and did not have to backtrack. Canned and dried goods, soaps and detergents, toilet paper first, refrigerated items second, bread and fragile items third, and frozen last. Thence to the line up for a cashier. ... another box made out of tape, ensuring a safe distance from others.

Quite satisfied with the whole process, I turned to the woman behind me and said, “I understand that for some this may seem awkward, but **I quite like the orderliness of it all,**” whereupon I was given the nod to proceed to the checkout.

Most folk were even exercising Social Distancing with respect to their parking habits. An automobile was positioned in every second space. It was so much easier to park and to back out.

Planning and order. It was almost restful.

Today is Palm Sunday, the first Sunday of Holy week. These days are the culmination of Christ’s work and teachings. Everything that Jesus taught and did for the three years of his Ministry leads to this week. It should come as no surprise that the events of Holy Week were very likely carefully planned, organized and orchestrated.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the

village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

It is hard to believe that Jesus left his last days to accident. Everything he does during this week has meaning and refers back to ancient teaching or is intended to reflect the events and traditions of the day. Everything is set up to place Jesus in the right place at the right time to fulfill his intent... Everything from the Donkey, to the meeting with the Authorities, Jesus is sending a carefully prepared message.

I mentioned a few weeks ago that Jesus' friend, Lazarus, lived in the same place that Jesus sent his disciples for the Donkey. It is hard to imagine that Jesus sent his disciples to a random home to gather up the essential symbol that was the Donkey. It is hard to believe that Jesus and his disciples just hoped that supporters would be present, palm fronds in hand. It is hard to believe that during this time of festival, that Jesus found an upper room prepared so he and his friends could celebrate the Passover. Anybody who has ever planned an event in such circumstances will know that reservations have to be made months in advance. Unlike the events of his birth, Jesus made sure there was room for him in the Inn.

It was *necessary* that Jesus be taken to the authorities. Jesus spoke about this often. Even this would have to be planned. Surely during the most important Jewish Religious festival, Jewish Religious Authorities are otherwise engaged. Impromptu meetings would be problematic. The fact that a meeting was arranged and Judas arranged it is not surprising. Judas was Jesus' principal administrator ... Who else would Jesus send? What else would Judas do?

Everything was planned and everything was in order. The whole thing may have seemed odd to the Disciples. Doubtless circumstances and the underlying tension were not what they were used to. However, Jesus could have turned to his disciples in the Garden or Upper Room and said, “I understand that for some this may seem awkward, but **I quite like the orderliness of it all.**”

While this may have been an anxious, even dangerous time, there were constraints in place that should have greatly reduced the danger.

“the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

Matthew 26:3-5

Jesus should have been safe. The authorities had good reason to fear the people. On Palm Sunday they would have seen the procession or certainly would have been told about it. Jesus was too popular with the people to commit any grievous ill against him. The display on Palm Sunday would give pause to any evil intent... a display that was likely very carefully planned and executed. As long as the authorities were afraid of the crowd, Jesus was safe. He could meet with them in the Garden just like he met Nicodemous. Tense, perhaps. Caution would be wise, but the situation did not have to be necessarily dangerous.

That said, everything was about to come off the rails.

What happened?

Why did the authorities suddenly think it was safe to arrest Jesus? Why did the authorities suddenly cease fearing the crowd? Why, indeed, did they think or ***come to know that they could even turn the crowd against Jesus?*** Why were they suddenly emboldened?

Judas may have been sent by Jesus to arrange a meeting. This is not a betrayal. However, Judas does not simply arrange a meeting, Judas accepts 30 pieces of silver, some would say, “The price of a slave.” *Judas yields to greed... This changes everything.*

Even if meeting the authorities was part of Jesus' plan. Even if Judas was *sent* to arrange a meeting, accepting 30 pieces of silver sends a signal to the Authorities. **Even amongst Jesus' closest disciples, loyalty can be bought... and loyalty that is for sale is not loyalty at all.** In this single act, the Authorities learn that they might not need to fear the crowd after all.

While Jesus is before the High Priest, Peter denies him three times. From this, those who oppose Jesus and fear the crowd learn that **even amongst Jesus' closest disciples, fear paralyzes protest.** Those who were once constrained for fear of the crowd learn that its leaders are too afraid to act. They would have also learned that most of the followers were scattered and faithless.

The constraint that once limited the Authorities, fear of a riot in support of Jesus has evaporated. That which would have kept Jesus safe even in a tense and anxious time is shattered *by Greed, Fear and Disbelief.* No amount of careful planning can withstand the damage. The hope and jubilation of Palm Sunday is crushed *by Greed, Fear and Disbelief.* Those who oppose Jesus are free to act.

This Palm Sunday, this Holy Week is different than any in our memory. The Coronavirus, COVID-19, places us in an anxious and unfamiliar circumstance. Just like that first Holy Week, everything around us reflects a high level of planning and order. We may protest from time to time, living as we are is not what we are used to. However, we may think, “I understand that for some this may seem awkward, but **I quite like the orderliness of it all.**”

While this may be an anxious, even dangerous time, there are

constraints in place that should greatly reduce the threat. A virus, any virus follows a set of rules. A virus, any virus, is only able to live and spread according to a certain set of conditions. Once we know what those conditions are and *everybody* respects them, we are relatively safe. Epidemiologists work hard to learn what rules the virus follows and advises on public policy so that we know what the rules are and in following them, we are safe. However, just like the rules that constrained those who would harm Jesus, Health guidance, public policy, careful planning all erode when they are compromised by ***Greed, Fear and Disbelief.***

Greed - Hoarding, when resources become scarce because a few try to grab more than their share, others are forced to hunt for what they need... going from place to place, which greatly increases their risk of exposure.

Looking for that perfect avocado and touching every single one to determine optimum ripeness is like holding hands with the previous person who did the same thing.

Fear - Heading for the hills, the cottage in the woods... is placing greater pressure on limited resources in remote areas.

Disbelief - Walking up to your friends or neighbours on the sidewalk or sticking your head in their car window, or craning your neck around the plexiglass to say that you think this whole thing is overblown ... compromises every precaution.

When you break the rules that constrain the virus, you undo everything. That which may have been tense or uncomfortable now becomes dangerous.

The Religious Authorities in Jesus' day were very much constrained by a set of rules. Jesus was safe as long as they, the Religious Authorities, and the followers of Jesus respected them. For Jesus, it was the allegiance of the people that kept him safe, even while danger lurked around him. This constraint was removed by ***Greed, Fear and Disbelief.***

For us the rules that keep us safe are maintaining Physical Distance, Hygiene, keeping our hands away from our eyes, nose and mouth, coughing or sneezing in our arms, using hand sanitizer, limiting travel...

Please look them up. Refuse to allow Greed, Fear or Disbelief to lead you to take short cuts or act in such a way that your neighbours or friends are compromised. A week that started in jubilation ended in sorrow, heartache and regret because of his follower's *Greed, Fear and Disbelief*. This Holy Week of 2020, let us prepare and pray for a different outcome.

Amen.

Hymn 123 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Hosanna, loud hosanna the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely 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!

We Respond to God's Word Offering Ourselves For The Work And Witness Of The Church

Invitation to Offering

Today we are reminded that Christ offered his life on the Cross for our sakes.

Now it's our turn to offer God our gifts in gratitude. Let us present to God our tithes and offerings.

Trinity Needs Your Help

During these trying times, Trinity's life and work continues in many ways. While our Sunday services and many other things in our lives are on hold until further notice, and our building is closed, our staff and members are still active and operational costs continue.

There will be no opportunity for the regular collection of offerings each week, so Trinity needs you to share your gifts in a different way. We have 4 options:

1. Please visit the www.trinityunitedsf.ca and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to CanadaHelps.org where you can make a safe and secure, one time or monthly donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is attached to this post and can be printed off and mailed to the church office at 41 Market St. Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca . Password not required. Please note your envelope number.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

If you require assistance or have any questions about making donations, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-283-4444 or by email at secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca.

Thank you.

Offertory "The Apostles' Song" (Lloyd Webber)

***Offering Hymn** 120 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" vs. 1

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
not wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

***Offering Prayer**

Gracious God, what difference can our gifts make?

The story of Jesus tells us:

five loaves and two fish can feed a multitude;
a man who dies on a cross becomes Living Bread for a hungry world.
Accept our small gifts and bless them with your goodness so that the
miracle of Jesus' love continues to amaze the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty and wonder,
yet we see hurt and betrayal.

We trust that your love has power in all situations,
even the most troubling or tragic.

So hear us as we bring to you our concerns for the people and places
on our hearts this day:

We pray for people who struggle with poverty, sickness, or grief.
Touch them in their pain and restore their hope and health.

We pray for people and communities burdened by the weight of
war, greed, hostility or jealousy.
Lift burdens and restore hope and peace.

We pray for people who challenge regimes marked by
tyranny, domination, and brutality.
Liberate their lives and restore their hope and freedom.

We pray for people who are persecuted for
their race or creed, or for the truth they tell;
and for those who are not treated with respect or decency.
Rescue them from discrimination and restore their hope and
dignity.

Hear us as we pray to you in silence for those situations close to our
hearts.

Bring your grace to restore hope and healing where they are needed.

Prayers conclude with:

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever
Amen

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn "The Old Rugged Cross"

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

*And I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
And they'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share

*And I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

*I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

Benediction

During this time,
may Faithful Folk be a sign of
Hope,
Comfort and
Love to all

Be with us, Lord.
Grant peace.
Grant comfort.
Grant healing.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Were You There?" (Young)