



Liturgy of the Palms - B  
March 28, 2021

Key Scripture - Mark 11:9

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"



Theme - Faithful or Fickle?

## Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
  - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Region has moved into the RED - Control Level and a Class 22 Order has been issued to owners and operators of public and private facilities in the Town of Perth and Smiths Falls. Council has decided not to meet in person for worship unless and until the Control Level is reduced and the Class 22 Order is suspended.

## † Stewardship Update

- May - Annual Geranium Sale
  - Purchase Orders will be taken in April for delivery scheduled for Saturday, May 29. We will follow health regulations and have the pick up in the parking lot.
- May 15, Compost sale at REAL
  - A Fundraiser is planned for the sale of compost from the parking lot at REAL on **Saturday, May 15**. That weekend precedes the May long weekend which all gardeners

prepare to plant. **SAVE THE DATE** and plan to pick up a bag or two of compost.

- **30 litre bags for \$10.00**

Trinity has been honoured and blessed to be able to conduct Brown Bags and Blessings during this long, Pandemic time. **The time has come when this phase of our Ministry will conclude. Tuesday, 30 March, will be the last Brown Bag and Blessing encounter.** What we may become in the future is unknown right now but we will continue to listen for God's guidance and Grace.

We hope to continue as many of our Lunch Deliveries as possible. Our Christian Community Team is developing a plan.



We are grateful for our volunteers and supporters. We are also grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals have been subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program. We are also supported through the kindness of individual benefactors.

Two Guys for Lunch have been faithful partners.

### **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

**Introit** 123 "Hosanna! Loud Hosanna" vs. 1 & 2

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.

**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 branches and songs of praise.

**Jesus is coming. Hosanna to the King of kings!**

## Opening Prayer

God of all people and all places,  
God of all situations and all times,  
you are the light of the minds that know you,  
and the strength of those  
who serve you in times of challenge and times of joy.

We come to worship you this day,  
setting aside our work and responsibilities,  
our relaxation and pastimes,  
to listen for your voice  
and reflect on the wisdom and courage we witness in Jesus.  
As tension mounts for him and for us,  
we turn to you  
for hope and healing,  
for courage and compassion,  
in the name of Christ, our Lord.

**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 -**

*All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

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

**Refrain -**

***All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

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

**Refrain -**

***All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

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

**Refrain -**

***All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

## **Time With Children**

This morning, I am pretty excited because I can colour an Easter Card. Well, I coloured it already. I have 24 crayons but when I was a boy crayons came in a package of eight ... So I did what I was used to. You are younger and are used to 64 or 120 in a package. How do you choose? How do you put them back in order? ...

Anyhow, on the cover of the card is a butterfly. We love talking about butterflies in the Easter Season because they change from a caterpillar to a butterfly. It is quite amazing because both the caterpillar and the butterfly are the same creature but they look so different. They act differently too. And the change happens when the caterpillar spins a cocoon ... While it is in the cocoon, it looks dead. If you pick at it, well, that turns out to be pretty bad news. If you let it rest in the cocoon, it comes out later as a butterfly.

While we speak of butterflies, lots of other insects do the same thing. Potato bugs, June bugs, Cicadas and Moths. Butterflies are pretty though ... So we like to talk about them ... The cocoon part can look pretty creepy and ugly, so we do not spend a lot of time adoring them either. Creepy, lifeless looking or not ... It is part of the life cycle. The cocoon looks dead but it is not. When the caterpillar starts to weave its cocoon it looks like the beginning of the end but it is the beginning of the beginning of a Butterfly.

Palm Sunday brings us to Holy week. Holy week is the week before Easter. This week, things happen that look ugly and sad and horrible. By Good Friday, it looks like the end of Jesus but it is more like the beginning of the beginning. ... and it really looks horrible and it is horrible.

We are still apart. This Service is recorded because of COVID. Our whole world looks like something we do not want. We do not want to talk about it much. We prefer to think about how wonderful it will be. We prefer to look away from the parts we do not like. But here we are, living like we are in a cocoon. We are not like Butterflies yet ... or even June Bugs ...

I do not know what it is like for a Butterfly, but this in between time is hard for some people. Perhaps after you colour your card or make your crafts, you can share it with somebody else as kind of a sign of trust even in the cocoon ... or tomb ... we will become something beautiful. Even more beautiful than we were before.

### **Children's Prayer**

Dear God,

In the cocoon time, help us trust that change will come and we will be free. Help us to be encouraged and to be an encouragement.

### **Prayer of Reconciliation**

God of compassion,

When we prefer darkness to your light, and our ways to yours.

When we prefer what is easy rather than what is right.

When we have been dishonest with ourselves and each other.  
Forgive our fleeting enthusiasms and shallow commitments.  
As we witness again the story of Jesus confronting his enemies,  
strengthen our desire to follow him and serve you with  
courage like his.

### **Assurance of Blessing**

John records Jesus' words: I do not call you servants any longer, but I have called you friends. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Jesus laid down his life for us and invites us to love one another as he has loved us.

Rejoice in his redeeming love and share it with each other day by day.

**Scripture**      Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (VU 837 Parts One, Three and Four);  
Mark 11:1-11

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (VU 837 Parts One, Three and Four)

### ***Refrain -***

***Hallelujah, hallelujah!***

Let Israel say:

**“God’s love endures forever”**

Let the House of Aaron say:

**“God’s love endures forever”**

Let those who fear God say:

**“God’s love endures forever”**

*Refrain -*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

God is my strength and my song. God has become my salvation.

**There are shouts of joy and deliverance in the tents of the righteous**

The right hand of God does mighty things, the right hand of God raises up

**The right hand of God does mighty things**

I shall not die, but live, and I shall proclaim what God has done

**God indeed punished me, but did not give me over to death.**

*Refrain -*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

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 cornerstone**

This is God's doing, marvelous in our eyes

**This is the day that God has made**

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Refrain -*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Save us, O GOD, we pray

**God, we pray, give us success**

Blessed is the one who come 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**

*Refrain -*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**Meditation** "The Apostles' song" (Lloyd Webber)

**Reflection** Faithful or Fickle?

Our Gospel lesson today reminds us of the crowds that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem with shouts of Hosanna and less than a week later joined in shouts of Crucify. The title of the Reflection, Faithful or Fickle?, reflects the judgement that is often placed on the crowd. What lack of faith. What weakness. What failure of conviction.

However, the rhythm of the crowd matches the rhythm of life, death and new life in the glorified form of Jesus. Hosanna means, "Please Save Us!" This is not a song of praise but an expectation. Hosannah, Please save us, is an expression of an expectation based on what people knew or were capable of expecting. This was the best they had. It was an expression of an expectation within the confines of their only known experience or possible point of reference. This was the best they could ever be. Unless something changed ... and not just around them but in them. The change required was so great that it could not happen in degrees, the old did not simply need to become better, it had to become something new altogether. The Hope of "Hosannah" is as different from the Hope of Pentecost as Jesus riding a Donkey is as different as Jesus emerging from the Tomb Glorified. To shout Crucify is not to become fickle, it is the death of Hosanna. It is important to know the difference. The death of Hosanna and the silence of betrayal the shouts of Crucify are no more the end of faith than a cocoon is the end of a caterpillar. Ugly, seemingly lifeless, unpleasant, ... but somehow necessary ... just like the Tomb.

Another Holy Week apart. A sanctuary seemingly lifeless. Unpleasant, unwelcome, still, silent, cold. Perhaps it feels like a loss of hope or a yielding to fear. What we are to become we continue to wait.

Normally, we would not celebrate Communion without communion bizarre in any other circumstance reminds us of the words of Jesus -

"I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer;

for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

So the table is set, we prepare, but we shall not eat until we emerge from this tomb. When our Honnah has died and been reborn as, "Hallelujah."

## **Communion**

The God who opens the gates of Grace is with you.

Let us empty ourselves of pride and power,

so that God can fill our hearts with humility.

Let us learn songs of praise,

so that we rejoice in God's steadfast love morning by morning.

God of Grace and Mercy,

You sent Word and Spirit to gather up chaos,  
they said, "God has need of it."

You transformed it into creation,

colts to carry kings and servants,

palms to sway in breezes and wave in hands,

stones to be used as foundations for homes,

as well as for kin-doms.

You shaped humanity in your image,

inviting us to enter through the gate of love,

but we longed to be filled with power and privilege,

and turned our cry from "Hosanna" to "Crucify!"

Prophets came morning to awaken us to your call

to be sustained by your love,

yet we continued to embrace temptations

which delighted us.

So, you sent Jesus,  
not in power and wealth,  
but as a Teacher of steadfast love and unfailing hope.

With those who open their hearts in welcome,  
with those who struggle with doubts,

we join in songs of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Author of salvation.  
All creation joins in recognizing this moment of grace.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who is peace and glory for us.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Setting aside privilege and power,  
your Child, our Brother, chose to be made in our image,  
so we might see you face to face.

He chose to teach us compassion  
because that was what was in his heart.

He chose to listen to our stories,  
to listen to our hearts.

He turned towards what awaited him  
in that place where people would reject him,  
friends would betray and deny him,  
the powers would condemn him, and  
death would claim victory over him  
until you raised him to resurrection life.

As we seek to follow in the coming days,  
as we remember all he said and did,

we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

Jesus died, willing to suffer for others;  
Jesus was raised, exalted by God for his faithfulness;  
Jesus will come, so we may once again shout,  
‘blessed is the One who comes in peace and glory!’

Here at this Table, the weary are sustained,  
the broken are offered healing,  
the ignored are welcomed as family,  
and the simple gifts of the bread and cup  
are transformed into treasures  
as you pour out your Spirit in these moments.

As the bread whose brokenness reminds us  
of the One who was willing to suffer for all,  
may we be reminded that the Lord needs us  
to worship with the outcast as well as the privileged,  
to work with the hopeless as well as the arrogant,  
in every place we can, in every word we speak.

As the cup of grace is offered to us, may we remember  
the One emptied himself for those around him,  
and calls us to serve,  
to seek justice for the oppressed,  
to cradle the heart-broken  
to hear the stories of old folk and children.

And when we are gathered by the One  
who will come in peace and glory  
to bring us to the Table of grace,  
we will sing of that name above all other names,  
forever praising you for your steadfast love,

God in Community, Holy in One. 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

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

**Invitation to the Offering**

As we begin our journey through Holy Week, we remember how the crowd cheered him one day and called for his death by week's end. Close friends betrayed him and ran away. In our offering, we declare our love and loyalty to Jesus and his ministry in the world God loves. Let us show our faithfulness to him in the gifts we offer today.

**Offering Prayer**

Compared with the gift you gave for our sakes, what we offer seems small. Bless our gifts with your love so that they have power to accomplish more than we can even imagine for your sake. Receive our humble thanks and bless our lives, too, so that what we do and say will show we have the commitment to follow you, whatever the cost. Amen.

**Hymn** 211 "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise.

His reign shall know no end; and round his piercèd feet  
fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me:  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

### **Prayers of the People**

Creator of the Universe, Redeemer of all Creation,  
You made the world in beauty.  
We trust that you are at work in all situations,  
restoring and renewing all things.

The courage of Jesus is inspiring  
so we pray that those in need will find courage,  
as your gift to face challenges.

Hear us as we bring to you our concerns,  
and send your redeeming power to touch our lives and your  
world.

Wherever people are oppressed by the powers of poverty, sickness or  
grief,  
ease pain and restore wholeness.

Wherever people challenge regimes or systems marked by tyranny  
and brutality,  
encourage with your Spirit and lead to liberty.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Wherever people are burdened by hostility, greed or jealousy,  
restore strength to resist and find hope.

Wherever people are persecuted because of race or creed,  
or for the truth they tell;  
let your truth and justice prevail.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Wherever the earth suffers because people consume too much,  
wherever care for the ground and water,  
for endangered climate and  
endangered species  
defies human carelessness,  
let your love for the goodness of creation move the hearts of  
your people.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church in every place,  
whether it be fragile or strong,  
tired or energized.

Inspire us with your Spirit to offer ourselves in gratitude  
for the gift of Jesus,  
serving creatively and courageously in his name:

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

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

In your grace and love, restore all things.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray as Jesus taught us to pray -

*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**

**We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** "The Old Rugged Cross" vs 1 and 2

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.

**Refrain -**

*So 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.*

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me,  
For the dear lamb of god, left his glory above,  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

*Refrain -*

*So 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.*

**Benediction**

Now we will set aside our palm branches,  
**to go and serve at God's side.**

Now we will pick up our cloaks  
**and follow Jesus wherever he leads,  
to learn from those the world ignores,  
to be touched by the grace within them.**

Now we will sing songs of wonder,  
**as we work alongside the Spirit,  
sustaining the weary with peace and hope.**

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "Were You There?" (arr. Young)