

Order of Service 5/4/20 Palm Sunday

Opening verse on screen

'You are my God and I will give thanks to you' Psalm 118:28

Gathering and Call to Worship

Kirsty

Come to worship God!
Find a place wherever you may be, and prepare.
Open your Bible.
Listen for the sound of the crowds gathering.
Listen for the sound of Jesus approaching.
Lay your cloak down ready for him.
Join in the cry 'Hosanna to the Son of David!'
And sing together, 'This is the day that God has made'.

Song

NCH 84 This is the day the Lord has made, verse 1 only

1. This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

SONG: [This is the day](#), first stanza Leslie Garrett, from [New Century Hymnal](#), Pilgrim Press. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Acknowledgement of Country

Coath family

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional custodians of this land since time immemorial.
We are learning that the land is not ours to own, but to look after; and that if we listen, we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.
Responding to this call, we commit ourselves to work for justice, reconciliation, and care of the earth.

Welcome and Introduction

Kirsty

Welcome to worship this Palm Sunday morning.
Welcome if you usually come to BUC,
if you are joining us from another congregation, or
if you are joining us for the first time.
My name is Kirsty, and I'm one of the liturgists here.

Everything has been pre-recorded this week - no one is in our worship space now.
We are all in separate places which is a new experience for us all.
But we are gathering. We will continue to gather.
We are still connected with one another, just in a different way.
Connected with people we know, and are getting to know through this stream.
Please, use our web site to get in touch and be a part of our community at this time.

In today's service we will hear 3 short reflections from our minister Valentina.

They will be interspersed with music that Elaine and our musicians have either recorded themselves or sourced, and you will hear readings from Bridie and Julie. Geoff will lead us in the prayers of the people.

The worship pages on our website say:

‘Our doors are closed, but our hearts are open.

We remain committed to worshipping our steadfast loving God in community.’

Today we will reflect on being a gathered community of faith, called to rejoice although we are in uncertain times.

We are heading to new places with few instructions.

Who is this that invites us into unknown territories, and what does this mean for us as we enter into Holy Week?

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Kirsty

As we have throughout this season of Lent, let us begin our prayers of Adoration and Confession by praying together a Kyrie, an ancient Greek invocation, a call for God to have mercy on us. Let us pray:

Song

Kyrie TiS 734

[Kyrie eleison](#), [Kyrie](#), [eleison](#), [Kyrie eleison](#), [Kyrie eleison](#)

SONG: [Kyrie eleison](#), from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, copyright unknown
Translation – Lord have mercy upon us

Steadfast God,
Your love endures forever.
You hear our cries.
When we have been rejected by others
you take us into the centre and connect us.
You give us the Light.

Jesus, Son of David,
You come to meet us,
as we are standing on the side of the road.
You do not seek out the trappings of power,
but come in humility among us.
You show us the Way.

Holy Spirit of life,
You move among us,
Inspiring us to lift up our branches,
And spread out our cloaks,
Guiding us to open our hearts,
Encouraging us to open our doors wide.
You are present.

We adore you.

Forgive us steadfast God when we doubt your love,
and wonder if we are being heard,
when we do not take the place you prepare for us,
and do not see your light.

Forgive us Son of David when we do not see you coming to us,
when we are bewitched by the status symbols of power,
when we do not value humility,
when we do not follow your Way.

Forgive us Holy Spirit when we do not welcome you,
when we do not lift up our branches in praise,
when our hearts are closed
and our doors shut to the needs of others.

Song: TIS 734 Kyrie Eleison

[Kyrie eleison, Kyrie, eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison](#)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Kirsty

God's steadfast love endures forever.
In Christ,
through Christ,
Because of Christ
Our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Bible Readings-Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Bridie

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
² Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures forever.' ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of
righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
²⁰ this is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² the stone that
the builder's rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This is the Lord's doing; it is
marvellous in our eyes. ²⁴ this is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in
it. ²⁵ save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. * We bless you from the house of the
Lord. ²⁷ The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.*
²⁸ you are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
²⁹ O give thanks to the Lord; for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

Reflection

Valentina

Song

TiS 753 You are holy you are whole (Per Harling)

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near; blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy. you are wholeness,
you are present, let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, our Lord!

SONG: [You are holy](#), by Per Gunnar Harling, from [Together in Song](#),
Harper Collins Religious, Copyright uncertain

With the Children

Dave

A message from Dave, CYYA pastor, followed by

- artwork still shots by Harriet and Clementine,
- Lego stop motion by Greta and Rowan
- still shots by Patrick and Clara
- Lego stop motion by Oscar and Hamish

Bible Readings-Matthew 21:1-8

Julie P

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.'⁴ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵'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.'⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd^{*} spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Valentina

Song

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord (Godspell)

Prepare ye the way of the Lord (repeated)

Bible Readings-Matthew 21:9-11

Julie P

⁹The 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!' ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' ¹¹The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Valentina

Offering

Kirsty

At this time in the service we make our offering, an offering of our time, our gifts and our money for the work of our community, the church, and the world. Please continue to do this in whatever way you are able. Let us reflect on what we can offer as we give to God in song.

Song

MV187 We give our thanks / Reamo leboga

*Reamo leboga, reamo leboga,
reamo leboga, modimo wa rona*

1. We give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God.

SONG: [We give our thanks](#), 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music, from [More Voices](#), published by United Church Publishing house and Wood Lake Publishing 2007, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENSE # 604502

Prayers of the People

Geoff Thompson

Song

TIS 714 Eat This bread (refrain only)

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in him and you will not thirst.*

SONG: [Eat this bread](#), Taize Community, Ateliers et Presses de Taize Ltd, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious* WORD OF LIFE

Holy Communion

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Please exchange a sign of the peace (if with others) by placing your hand on your hearts and a short bow or a nod as able, or using the words 'Christ's peace be with you.'

The Institution of the Lord's Supper (based on 1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26)

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread,
and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup
you proclaim the death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Sharing

In this empty plate
we choose to see the world's hunger.
We remember that millions of people, this day,
lack bread for Communion, bread for breakfast, bread for life.
We acknowledge that we ourselves hunger, this day,
in ways that no earthly bread can satisfy.

Hospitable God,
**meet us in our unmet hungers –
and help us to put our abundance
at the service of the poor.**

In this empty cup
we choose to see the world's thirst.

We remember that millions of people, this day,
lack wine for Communion, fruit for juicing, water for life.
We acknowledge that we ourselves thirst, this day,
in ways that no earthly cup can quench.

Hospitable God,
**meet us in our unmet thirsts –
and help us to put our fullness
at the service of the empty.**

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.’ (Matthew 5:6)
In the name of Christ, Amen.

Invocation

Pour out the Holy Spirit on this empty plate/basket, this empty cup,
that they may be for us – even in their emptiness – the body and blood of Christ.
... so that we may take his Life into our lives,
and be taken and blessed, broken and given for the world.

LORD’S PRAYER

**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**

Empty PLATE and Empty CUP

We hold up the empty plate...
It is Christ who is the bread of life,
Who satisfies the hungry heart.

We hold up the empty cup...
It is Christ who is the cup of hope,
Who revives the thirsty.

The plate and cup are placed on the table...
The gifts of God
for the people of God.

In faith and hope, we hold out our empty hands...
**In these empty vessels and in our empty hands,
we celebrate the mystery and wonder of the empty tomb.**

Prayer after Communion

God our creator,
You are our bread of life
You are our cup of hope
Sustain us on our journey
Until hunger and thirst are no more
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Notices

Sending Song

MV008 And on this path (Linnea Good)

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide, the gates are open wide!

So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide, the gates are open wide!

SONG: [And on this path](#), from the poetry of Lynn Baumen, setting by Linnea Good,
from [More Voices](#), United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc.
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Blessing and Sending

Kirsty

At the conclusion of our service I invite you to

- place a branch on the path outside your place, on your fence, in your backyard, or place some leaves on your balcony or on your table as we welcome Jesus
- open your front gate, front door, door to the room. For a moment, or for the day, and remember that the gates of holiness are open wide
- Give someone a call and share morning tea with them

And as we enter into Holy Week,

Know that we will be together as we walk this path and pray,
a gathered community, as the Spirit moves among us all.

May we find a way to rejoice in these uncertain times,
knowing God's steadfast love endures forever.

May we welcome Jesus, embracing the unexpected,
confident that we will receive the instructions we need for the journey ahead.

And may the blessing of God, the Holy Trinity of love, be upon us all.
In the name of Christ, Amen.

Closing verse on screen

'Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord' Matthew 21:9b