

Opening verse

“Open to me the gates of righteousness...” Psalm 118: 19

Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Dave

Hear the words of the Psalmist: “Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.”

God, may you open the gates of our hearts and minds today, that we may enter through, and give thanks to you.

Song: *And on this path*

Bible carried in during song

*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. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #604502

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Dave

Welcome to Brunswick Uniting Church on this Palm Sunday. A very warm welcome to our ecumenical sisters and brothers from the Baptist Church and Salvation Army. At 10am we will gather out the front where our Anglican sisters and brothers will also be joining us, along with Francesca, the real-live, reliable and sturdy donkey.

Welcome if you are joining us here on the live-stream, which will continue on the procession.
Welcome if you worship here often, or if it is your first time.

Today our worship will continue to be inspired by God's covenant... with the signs of God's promise all around us: the rainbow of Noah, the stars of Abraham, the stones of the ten commandments. The snakeskins of Moses' day, from death emerges new life, and the heart – God's commitment written on our hearts – I will be your God and you shall be my people.

As we enter in to Holy Week, Jesus' eyes are firmly fixed on the gate, and what lies beyond. The gateway in through the holy city, and the new Jerusalem which is here, right now, and still to come.

So, as this new, holy week opens before us, you are invited in to a spirit of openness before God.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Dave

Let's pray

Loving God,

We breathe deeply now, focussing in on our breath. The breath of life. Chest slowly rising and falling...heart beating... feeling our mind relaxing, our jaw unclenching, our shoulders lengthening... the world can wait... those trivial things clamouring for our attention... they can wait...

This is our time with you, o God. We breathe deeply...of your grace... and our minds turn towards Bethpage and Bethany... dusty villages outside Jerusalem... Our minds turn to you, Jesus, holy One. With your mind now turned toward Jerusalem...

Surely you don't want to go there, Jesus, holy One. Not to Jerusalem... not that path... not through that gate...

*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!*

You've been walking so long, Jesus, holy One. Walking so many paths... opening so many gates... changing so many lives with your love... open wide.

We confess, O God, that we resist your wide open love. There must be a catch... surely this is not for us... we walk tentatively along this path... looking for a side-track... a diversion... a different path...

*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!*

Word of Grace

Dave

Hear again Christ's word of grace to us...

"My arms are open wide"

Your sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Children's time first bit

Dave

Invite the children down the front. Bring any branches and coats that you might have. Listen out for any animals mentioned in this Bible reading.

Bible Reading: Zechariah 9: 9-10

Bridie Turner

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

With the Children

Dave and Ian

Did anyone hear the animals mentioned? A colt, yes, a young donkey. And a war-horse... So, Jesus comes in through the gates of Jerusalem riding a donkey... Doesn't sound like much of a king, not very mighty... Surely he needs a warhorse...?! Can anyone think of any famous leaders who rode a horse...? Rode a warhorse?! Might need some adults to shout out here, too!

(Adults to shout out here)

(Then scroll through slides at this point: Alexander the Great, on a war-horse, Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius – also on a big horse), William the Conqueror – also on a horse, Genghis Khan, on an even bigger horse, or Maharana Pratap from India, also on a warhorse, Joan of Arc, also on a horse, or Napoleon, also on a horse!)

Bit of a theme emerging here Ian?
Surely Jesus needs a big strong horse, as he's about to go in to battle in Jerusalem...

Ian: well, no Dave, it's a donkey he needs, a young colt. Whenever an important person was riding a donkey, it was a sign that they came in peace. Donkeys aren't much good in war – they are pretty peaceful animals...

Dave: So Jesus sends a message: I come in peace.

Ian: Yeah, and the crowds LOVE him – at least at this point. They grab whatever they can to make it clear he is super-special. Branches off trees, coats.

Dave: So, we've got a real live donkey coming soon, but I thought we could have a bit of a trial run. Grab the donkey head, and an adult to volunteer. Lie coats and branches down to create a path...

Sing Hosanna, which means: Save us.

Song: Hosanna TIS724

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Lord we lift up Your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Glory, Glory
Glory to the King of Kings!
Glory, Glory,
Glory to the King of Kings!*

*Lord we lift up Your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Glory to the King of Kings!*

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Lord we lift up Your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!*

SONG: [Hosanna](#), by Carl Tuttle, © 1985, Shadow Spring Music (admin. Music Services). From [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*. Reproduced with permission CCLI license no. 247623

Offering

Ian to introduce

Reflective Song during offering: Musicians choice – maybe Sanna sannanina

Offering Dedication

Ian

Welcomers bring offering bowls forward.

Please join in the response at the end of this dedication.

We long for the time
when the meek shall inherit the earth
and all who hunger and thirst after justice
shall be satisfied,
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,
now is always the time
when more good can be done

and we can make a difference.

***May it be so, through the offering of these gifts
and the offering of our lives. Amen.***

Procession and Ecumenical Liturgy

Congregation moves out the front at this point, joins with Anglicans.

Re-gathering in the church.

Musicians to "play us in" with whatever they like

Welcome back and introduction to what follows

Ian or Dave

Prayers of the People

Helen Burnham & a reader from BBC

Reader 1 - Baptist Church

Reader 2 - BUC

READER 2

Talk about taper lighting after the prayer.

Let us pray.

READER 1

Hosanna, Hosanna,

READER 2

save, save.

READER1

God of our past, present and future,

We are good at the good stuff! We love waving flags and singing songs, shouting and supporting a team. We're good at Christmas. At Angels singing, a baby in the manger and giving gifts.

READER 2

But it's too easy when our team is losing for us to leave before the siren blows, and at Easter to look away so we don't see the blood and the pain, Jesus on the cross.

READER 1

See our world and the growing crisis of flood and drought, storms and fires, that are happening before our eyes.

READER2

See the people around us, the suffering caused by COVID. Illness, age, and mental health.

READER 1

See Unemployment, homelessness, see the bigotry behind racial intolerance and the denigration of women and the LGBTQI community.

READER 2

See the inhumanity we inflict or ignore, of greed, and the power hungry, of war and the Refugees who flee persecution. Of religious conviction of whatever brand, that moves into terrorism.

READER 1

Jesus, God's only Son,
you knew, as you rode the donkey that the people waving the palms and shouting Hosanna, would
turn their backs on you.

READER 2

If we turn our backs or refuse to see, we can do nothing to change these things, we can only look
on. We are the custodians of your continuing creation, and we pray for the strength to look, to see,
and to do.

READER 1

Your kingdom come,
your will be done in the world.

READER 2

In the name of Jesus, the one who rides on the donkey.

BOTH

Hosanna, Hosanna, Save, Save.

Amen

Notices

Dave

- Short, sharp and shiny. Brunswick Baptists and Salvos very welcome to share any of your notices here, too.
- Tea and Coffee in the hall after the service (building up to food).

Ian:

- Baptism and Confirmation group being formed soon. And Book Group.

Song: Brother

led by Phil Hudson

Brother, o brother, you carry so much pain
I could never fathom the dark places you have been
(Ooh) They tried to beat you at their cruel game
You've been fighting back so long
Brother, o brother, please know
Together we are strong x 2
Ooh, ooh, ooh x 2

Brother, o brother, you worry for your land
Guns and hate seem to win, hard to look, hard to understand
(Ooh) But faith and courage still resist, small steps one by one
Brother, o brother, you know
Love will overcome, love will overcome
Ooh, ooh, ooh x 2

Brother, o brother, we're standing here with you
I hope that you can lean on us, 'cos you give us strength too
(Ooh) You're our inspiration, on the road to liberty
Brother, o brother, please know
One day you'll walk free x 2
Brother, one day you'll walk free

Brother o brother
Ooh, ooh, ooh (repeat)
Brother, **love will overcome!**

Words & Music by Phil Hudson 2021
For Don and all of my other courageous refugee brothers who are still denied their freedom

Blessing and Sending

Ian, Mark & Paul

BUC: receive this blessing written by Brooke Prentis, a Wakka Wakka Woman and CEO of the Common Grace movement.

BBC: May the God of all wonder who set the stars in the sky,
bless you with relentless unsettledness –
that drives you to seek truth.

SALVOS: May the God of all justice who gave motion to the rivers,
bless you with righteous anger –
that drives you to seek freedom for all.

BUC: May the God of all love who placed laughter in the kookaburra,
bless you with the friendship –
that looks like the love where one lays down their life for another.

BBC: May the God of all comfort who determined the height of the mountains,
bless you with tears from shared pain and mourning –
that shows you hope.

SALVOS: Now with wonder, righteous anger, sacrifice, and lament –

BUC: Go in truth, justice, love, and hope –

BBC: to Change the Heart of Australia.

ALL TOGETHER: In the name of the Holy Three,
Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus. Amen

Blessing Song: Freedom is coming

1. *Freedom is coming, freedom is coming,
freedom is coming, oh yes I know.*

*Oh yes I know, oh yes I know,
oh yes I know, oh yes I know.*

2. *Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming,
Jesus is coming – oh yes I know.*

SONG: [Freedom is coming](#), South African, © The Iona Community, from [All together okay](#), Openbook Publishers, ;
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THANKYOU

Liturgist:
Dave Hall

Children's time
Dave Hall
(CYVA Pastor)
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Salvation Army Captain:
Paul Trotter

Brunswick Baptist Pastor:
Mark Payne

Bible readings:
Bridie Turner

Prayers of the People:
Helen Burnham

Musicians:
Elaine Potter (Coordinator)
Andrew Dickinson
Mikul Denison
Joel Hallinan
Kate Scull
Miriam Siddel

Also
Phil Hudson

Flowers:
Helen Burnham

Welcoming:
Bridie Turner
Glenice Cook
Linda Wannan

Production:
Jane Allardice
Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Ben Hon
Jamie Thom
Shawn Whelan

Closing Verse on Screen:

"I may enter through the gates and give thanks to the Lord." Psalm 118: 19.