

Kincardine United Church

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 12th, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Bold print in the bulletin invites you to say the words.

Kincardine United Church

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PRELUDE He Came Riding on a Donkey *Arr. David Hamilton*

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation.

The People of the Three Fires

known as Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomie Nations.

We further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash –now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation –as the traditional keepers of this land.

Our thanks compel us to live fully into our journey of reconciliation – a seven-generation process of intentional listening and learning.

We seek to live together in respect, friendship and peace.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to follow Jesus' calling us into the world, loving one another as we are loved by God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT I'm Gonna shout *arr. David Hamilton*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

LENTEN LITURGY

1st Reader: A Shared Journey of Faith

Week after week, we gather here, united in our search for a deeper faith and a richer experience of the divine. Never doubt the meaning of Lent. It may have happened long ago, but it *happened*. Jesus walked this earth. His presence was real, his mission undeniable. I invite you now to close your eyes, to set aside distractions and worries, and to be fully present in this moment.

2nd Reader: The Approach to Jerusalem

Jesus practiced a ministry of radical inclusivity, drawing in those who were despised and rejected. He lived what he taught—a life of justice, love, and profound compassion. His way of living was fully aligned with you, O God, a life that embodied your will.

His death unsettles us because it reveals a hard truth: the world is deeply invested in its own ways and resists change. Those who commit themselves fully to God's way—just as Jesus did—will often find themselves at odds with the world, paying a price for their faithfulness.

3rd Reader: Our Place in the Story

Listen! The time is drawing near. Jesus is preparing to enter Jerusalem. How will we welcome him? Will we walk with him all the way to the Cross? Jesus lived what he taught, even when it led to suffering and death. He carried an abiding awareness of God's presence, shining God's light in all he said and did.

But that light was too much for the world. Just as in ancient Judea, there are forces today that seek to extinguish it. Where do we stand in this unfolding story? What are we willing to risk to follow Jesus? As we move toward the Cross, may we find the courage to walk in his footsteps.

(Silent time.)

Person 3: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

HYMN VU 508 Just As I Am

Let us pray.

Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
King of the Universe, In Jesus Christ, you rule and reign,
Not as a tyrant, but as a humble servant
Riding on a donkey, washing feet, suffering from injustice
Open our hearts this day, take your throne
Open our lips this day with shouts of praise.

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

HYMN MV #183 I'm Gonna Shout, Shout,

Second verse "I'm gonna raise, raise up my hands for Jesus, for Jesus!"

Third verse "I'm gonna dance, dance, dance all around for Jesus, for Jesus!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We sing Hosanna before You, Jesus – Blessed are You who come in the name of the Lord our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

You are the Healer of our wounds, our hurts and our broken hearts.

We cry: Hosanna!

You are the Light in our dark moments.

We cry: Hosanna!

You are the Shepherd who seeks and finds us when we've wandered and are lost.

We cry: Hosanna!

You are the Bread of Life who feeds our famished souls, and who gives our parched spirits the Living Water.

We cry: Hosanna!

Yet, like the people of old – we confess that our “Hosannas” are often replaced with an embarrassed silence when the cost is high to follow you.

You call us by name – but we are shy in naming Yours.

You give us all things so we can bless others – but we keep them for ourselves.

You call us to love you a lot – but we love you little, others some, and ourselves a lot.

Forgive our timidity, our selfishness and our unbelief, as we now confess to you those things we are too shamed to say aloud before others. Hear, now, our quiet confessions to You.

(Silent moment)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SHARING TIME Taking Time to Offer God a Few Things

THE LORD'S PRAYER VU#959

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day 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 forever.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: Lord, open our hearts and minds as we hear Your Word today. Illuminate the scriptures with Your wisdom and understanding. May Your Holy Spirit guide us, revealing the truth You have for us, and strengthen our faith to live according to Your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS (CEV):

Psalm 118:1 & 19 – 29 ¹Tell the LORD how thankful you are, because he is kind and always merciful. ¹⁹ Open the gates of justice! I will enter and tell the LORD how thankful I am. ²⁰ Here is the gate of the LORD! Everyone who does right may enter this gate. ²¹ I praise the LORD for answering my prayers and saving me. ²² The stone that the builders tossed aside has now become the most important stone.

²³ The LORD has done this, and it is amazing to us. ²⁴ This day belongs to the LORD! Let's celebrate and be glad today. ²⁵ We'll ask the LORD to save us! We'll sincerely ask the LORD to let us win. ²⁶ God bless the one who comes in the name of the LORD! We praise you from here in the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is our God, and he has given us light! Start the celebration! March with palm branches all the way to the altar. ²⁸ The LORD is my God! I will praise him and tell him how thankful I am. ²⁹ Tell the LORD how thankful you are, because he is kind and always merciful.

HYMN: VU 124 He Came Riding on a Donkey

Luke 19:28-40 ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying all this, he went on toward Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he was getting near Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples on ahead. ³⁰ He told them, "Go into the next village, where you will find a young donkey that has

never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks why you are doing this, just say, 'The Lord needs it.' "

³² They went off and found everything just as Jesus had said. ³³ While they were untying the donkey, its owners asked, "Why are you doing that?"

³⁴ They answered, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ Then they led the donkey to Jesus. They put some of their clothes on its back and helped Jesus get on. ³⁶ And as he rode along, the people spread clothes on the road in front of him. ³⁷ When Jesus started down the Mount of Olives, his large crowd of disciples were happy and praised God because of all the miracles they had seen. ³⁸ They shouted, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God."

³⁹ Some Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, make your disciples stop shouting!" ⁴⁰ But Jesus answered, "If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting."

DOXOLOGY MV 104 (sung 2X) "Know That God Is Good"

**Know that God is good, know that God is good,
know that God is good, God is good, God is good.**

MEDITATION Shouts from the Side of the Road (Based on Monologue by Charleen Jongejan Hareder)

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM Everywhere I Go *Spiritual*

OFFERTORY INVITATION & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God,

In both times of grief and moments of joy, we come before You with hearts full of faith and hope, trusting in Your unwavering presence. We offer these gifts as a sign of our trust in Your faithfulness, knowing that You are our source of hope and strength, bringing healing and renewal. May our

offerings reflect our commitment to walk together in faith, offering comfort and strength to those in need. Bless these gifts and use them to further Your work of restoration and grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN VU 126 Ride On, Ride On, the Time is Right

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT VU #964 (sung 2X)
"Go Now in Peace"

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell