



Kincardine United Church

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28, 2021 10:30 a.m.

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

*An asterisk in the bulletin indicates you may sit or stand.

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PRELUDE Ah, Holy Jesus. How Hast Thou Offended?

Paul Fey

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.

**We, thus, 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

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT There is a Green Hill Far Away

Paul Fey

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Mark 11:1-10 from the paraphrase The Message)*

As we gather digitally on this Palm/Passion Sunday,

let us share the good news of Jesus' arrival through a parade of palms.

When they were nearing Jerusalem,

at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives,

Jesus sent off two of the disciples with instructions:

"Go to the village across from you.

As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden.

Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say,

'The Master needs him and will return him right away.'"

They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it.

Some of those standing there said,

"What are you doing untying that colt?"

The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them,

and the people let them alone.

They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted.

The people gave him a wonderful welcome,

some throwing their coats on the street,

others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields.

Running ahead and following after, they were calling out,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in highest heaven!

***VOICES UNITED 123** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

(including Mark 11:11 from the paraphrase The Message)

As the crowds celebrating the parade faded into the normal life of the city,

Jesus dismounted the colt so the disciples could return it to its village owner.

He entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple.

He looked around, taking it all in.

But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.

In the following days,

Jesus confronted many with the promise of God's abundant grace.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Let us join together in prayer that we may be receptive to God's grace:

It's hard to understand, even to believe, that you love us so deeply, God.
 We struggle to get our minds around the idea that we are truly worthy.
 Yet you keep giving of yourself, patiently, powerfully and provocatively.
 Like a mother fiercely protecting her children,
 or a father cradling his children in the warmth of his embrace,
 you persistently teach us by showing us your unconditional love.
 We come, now, to experience the scriptural story of your love –
 with both joy and sorrow – in worship while Zooming together. Amen.

TEMPLE PIGEON MERCHANT

NICODEMUS

POOR WIDOW

WOMAN WHO ANOINTED JESUS

DOXOLOGY Sing Your Praise to God Eternal #244 *Voices United* (verse 1 only)
Sing your praise to God eternal, sing your praise to God the Son,
sing your praise to God the Spirit, living and forever One.
God has made us, God has blessed us, God has called us to be true.
God rules over all creation, daily making all things new.

GOD INVITES US TO TABLE

BIBLE READING Mark 14:12-16 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

¹²On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the day they prepare the Passover sacrifice, his disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations so you can eat the Passover meal?" ¹³⁻¹⁵He directed two of his disciples, "Go into the city. A man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him. Ask the owner of whichever house he enters, 'The Teacher wants to know, where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will show you a spacious second-story room, swept and ready. Prepare for us there." ¹⁶The disciples left, came to the city, found everything just as he had told them, and prepared the Passover meal.

MAN CARRYING THE WATER JUG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is often hard to encompass the breadth of your love, O God,
 so we take the time in silent prayer to open ourselves fully and humbly,
 welcoming Spirit breath to blow away the cobwebs of our preconceptions,
 opening each of us to new life, to renewed hope and to sacrificial love.
(silent prayer)

INVITATION

The table has been prepared for each of us and for all of us.
We come in humility and in anticipation, though the story is all too familiar.
 As we gather separately yet as one, know that *everyone* is welcome to this table.
We come live streamed or through YouTube,
 flawed yet loving, invited by the Christ who transforms us all,

to learn once more the story of self-giving.

We come as we sing.

***VOICES UNITED 457 verse 1 only** As We Gather at Your Table

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

Let us give God our thanks and our praise.

It is right to give God our thanks and our praise.

The overwhelming scriptural story shared through our faith is about grace.

Even when Jesus sat at the Passover table with his disciples,

he was truthful and to the point, willing to face conflict among friends.

BIBLE READING Mark 14:17-21 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ After sunset he came with the Twelve. As they were at the supper table eating, Jesus said, “I have something hard but important to say to you: One of you is going to hand me over to the conspirators, one who at this moment is eating with me.”

¹⁹ Stunned, they started asking, one after another, “It isn’t me, is it?”

²⁰⁻²¹ He said, “It’s one of the Twelve, one who eats with me out of the same bowl. In one sense, it turns out that the Son of Man is entering into a way of treachery well-marked by the Scriptures—no surprises here. In another sense, the man who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man—better never to have been born than do this!”

***VOICES UNITED 457 verse 2 only** As We Gather at Your Table

BIBLE READING Mark 14:22-25 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

²² In the course of their meal, having taken and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them.

Then he said,

Take, this is my body.

²³⁻²⁴ Taking the chalice, he gave it to them, thanking God, and they all drank from it. He said,

This is my blood,

God’s new covenant,

Poured out for many people.

²⁵ “I’ll not be drinking wine again until the new day when I drink it in the kingdom of God.”

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT’S BLESSING

Bless, O Spirit, what we remember, what we say and what we do here this morning.

May the words we now sing convey our unity within God’s boundless promise.

***VOICES UNITED 457 verse 3 only** As We Gather at Your Table

PARTAKING

Please take your bread and beverage you have prepared and partake.

If you have others with you, serve one another in love.

As you partake, remember the Way of Jesus as our own path of becoming.

BIBLE READING Mark 14:27-31 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

²⁷⁻²⁸ Jesus told them, “You’re all going to feel that your world is falling apart and that it’s my fault. There’s a Scripture that says,

I will strike the shepherd;

The sheep will scatter.

“But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee.”

²⁹ Peter blurted out, “Even if everyone else is ashamed of you when things fall to pieces, I won’t be.”

³⁰ Jesus said, “Don’t be so sure. Today, this very night in fact, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

³¹ He blustered in protest, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.” All the others said the same thing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

So often our best intentions melt away in the face of mortal fear.

Even when the communion elements nourish us from within,
we also depend upon God’s strength, courage and daring,
encouraging and enabling us to follow the Way of Jesus.

Let us repeat these paraphrased words of the prayer of Jesus,
speaking these words as our source of boldness,
a map leading us to actively transform the world for self-giving love.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**God within us, God beyond us, God among us,
may the Mystery always be named and known
among all peoples and in all times.**

May Creation give way to the rule of love and the power of life.

Satisfy our hunger, granting us a hunger to see the whole world fed.

Restore us to right relationship

with you, with Creation, with others, with ourselves.

Strengthen us to reject all that would lead us away from you.

Come to us when we choose death over life.

Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.

For in your love we find the only power,

the only home, the only honour we will ever need,

in this life and the life to come. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Mark 14:32-42 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

³²⁻³⁴ They came to an area called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James, and John with him. He sank into a pit of suffocating darkness. He told them, “I feel bad enough right now to die. Stay here and keep vigil with me.”

³⁵⁻³⁶ Going a little ahead, he fell to the ground and prayed for a way out: “Papa, Father, you can—can’t you?—get me out of this. Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want—what do *you* want?”

³⁷⁻³⁸ He came back and found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, you went to sleep on me? Can’t you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don’t enter the

danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naive. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ He then went back and prayed the same prayer. Returning, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open, and they didn't have a plausible excuse.

⁴¹⁻⁴² He came back a third time and said, "Are you going to sleep all night? No—you've slept long enough. Time's up. The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's get going. My betrayer has arrived."

***VOICES UNITED 133 verse 1 only** Go to Dark Gethsemane

BIBLE READING Mark 14:43-54 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

⁴³⁻⁴⁷ No sooner were the words out of his mouth when Judas, the one out of the Twelve, showed up, and with him a bunch of thugs, sent by the high priests, religion scholars, and leaders, brandishing swords and clubs. The betrayer had worked out a signal with them: "The one I kiss, that's the one—seize him. Make sure he doesn't get away." He went straight to Jesus and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The others then grabbed him and roughed him up. One of the men standing there unsheathed his sword, swung, and came down on the Chief Priest's servant, lopping off the man's ear. ⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰ Jesus said to them, "What is this, coming after me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day I've been sitting in the Temple teaching, and you never so much as lifted a hand against me. What you in fact have done is confirm the prophetic writings." All the disciples bailed on him.

⁵¹⁻⁵² A young man was following along. All he had on was a bedsheet. Some of the men grabbed him but he got away, running off naked, leaving them holding the sheet. ⁵³⁻⁵⁴ They led Jesus to the Chief Priest, where the high priests, religious leaders, and scholars had gathered together. Peter followed at a safe distance until they got to the Chief Priest's courtyard, where he mingled with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

***VOICES UNITED 133 verse 2 only** Go to Dark Gethsemane

BIBLE READING Mark 14:55-65 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

⁵⁵⁻⁵⁹ The high priests conspiring with the Jewish Council looked high and low for evidence against Jesus by which they could sentence him to death. They found nothing. Plenty of people were willing to bring in false charges, but nothing added up, and they ended up canceling each other out. Then a few of them stood up and lied: "We heard him say, 'I am going to tear down this Temple, built by hard labor, and in three days build another without lifting a hand.'" But even they couldn't agree exactly. ⁶⁰⁻⁶¹ In the middle of this, the Chief Priest stood up and asked Jesus, "What do you have to say to the accusation?" Jesus was silent. He said nothing.

The Chief Priest tried again, this time asking, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed?"

⁶² Jesus said, "Yes, I am, and you'll see it yourself:

The Son of Man seated

At the right hand of the Mighty One,
Arriving on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³⁻⁶⁴ The Chief Priest lost his temper. Ripping his clothes, he yelled, "Did you hear that? After that do we need witnesses? You heard the blasphemy. Are you going to stand for it?"

They condemned him, one and all. The sentence: death.

⁶⁵ Some of them started spitting at him. They blindfolded his eyes, then hit him, saying, "Who hit you? Prophecy!" The guards, punching and slapping, took him away.

***VOICES UNITED 133 verse 3 only** Go to Dark Gethsemane

BIBLE READING Mark 15:16-20 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

¹⁶⁻²⁰ The soldiers took Jesus into the palace (called Praetorium) and called together the entire brigade. They dressed him up in purple and put a crown plaited from a thornbush on his head. Then they began their mockery: "Bravo, King of the Jews!" They banged on his head with a club, spit on him, and knelt down in mock worship. After they had had their fun, they took off the purple cape and put his own clothes back on him. Then they marched out to nail him to the cross.

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM He Became a Lamb *Mary Kay Beall*

*He became a lamb, he became a lamb,
when the Father needed a sacrifice, he sent his Son and he became a lamb. Scarred, bruised,
suff'ring for sins not his own, for sins not his own.
Scarred, bruised, willing to give up his throne
(willing to give up his heavenly throne).
God so loved the world (he became a lamb),
God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son to pay the price,
a sacrifice, a lamb, a lamb.*

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

We offer ourselves, O God, just as Jesus offered himself.

We offer these gifts that you may bless them for your mission.

May they – and we –

**be transformed for justice, for kindness and for humble love,
fostering relationships that make a difference in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 135** Beneath the Cross of Jesus

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT 298 When You Walk from Here

**When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.**

POSTLUDE My Song is Love Unknown

Paul Fey