

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

LLWL Heather King

Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week. It is a time of extraordinary importance for Christians. With its climax of Good Friday and Easter Sunday for many it is the week of most sacred events and time of the Christian Year.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN INTROIT (choir)

Blessed is He that cometh in the name, in the name of the Lord!

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

One: We have now experienced the five Sundays of Lent.

Two: **In that time, we have seen how God hears and accepts our laments, and how tests in the form of temptations can become a time to build resilience.**

One: We have seen a God who offers both forgiveness and abundance when we have the courage to let go and trust.

Two: **Today, we join a parade of celebration, one that will unfold much differently than we can imagine.** (*Extinguish the sixth candle.*)

GATHERING HYMN: Hosanna Loud Hosanna VU # 123
(**Palm Parade** – you are invited to bring your palms to the alter)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Jesus is riding into Jerusalem

All: **It is a time of public celebration**

One: We are walking beside him

All: **We are the disciples, we are the crowds, and we are the Children of God!**

One: We are who we are, Children of God with joys, sorrows, strengths and fears.

All: **We come to celebrate God's wisdom, Christ's love and the Spirit's presence, now and forevermore!**

PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY (*together*) VU #125

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN He Came Riding on a Donkey VU # 124

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*together*)

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen

SCRIPTURES

read by Carol Goff

1st SCRIPTURE: Psalm 118

VU #837

2nd SCRIPTURE: Luke 19: 28 – 40

MUSIC MINISTRY: Welcome, Christ the King!

MESSAGE: Two Parades

HYMN: All Glory Laud and Honour VU # 122

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING: Today we are reminded that Christ offered his life on the Cross for our sakes. Now it's our turn to offer God our gifts in gratitude, trusting God to use them to create new life in Jesus' name.

Offertory: We Praise You, O God (vs. 1) VU #218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayer of Dedication: *(together)*

Gracious God, when we remember Jesus gave his life for us, our offering seems so small. Yet Jesus shows us five loaves and two fish can feed a multitude; a man dying on a cross becomes Living Bread for a hungry world. Bless these small gifts with your goodness so that the miracle of Jesus' love continues to amaze the world. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

WE ARE SENT FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus VU # 357

BENEDICTION:

SUNG BLESSING: Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of everyday
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true
Know He will guide you in all you do
Go now in Love and show you believe
Reach out to others, so all the world can see
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen, Amen, Amen.

**PALM SUNDAY DEVOTIONAL
Debra Leedman**

As we hear the story of Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem, we can think of ourselves as participants both in the crowd that waves branches and as Jesus [or riding behind Jesus]. As people who wave branches, we cheer Jesus as the goat [greatest of all time], and as people who ride with Jesus, we experience things differently. Both experience the element of hope in different ways: the hope of the crowd welcoming Jesus was a hope that celebrated triumph because of what they knew. The hope of Jesus was not a feeling for himself, but a commitment to ministry. The story itself presents a paradox that can be difficult to reconcile. As we search for the lesson, we have to search with a hope of faith. Sometimes, it is most difficult to sing with hope. And yet, our faith commands us to sing as soon as we are able. #73 in More Voices is a hymn we sing at certain times in life, as we pray to "restore my hope again."

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
April 13, 2025**

**Worship Leader: LLWL Heather King
Music: Chris Savory**



Palm Sunday

Today we are gathered in the traditional territories of several indigenous nations with gratitude. As settlers, we take on the responsibility of learning about historic and current relationships, and our desire to engage in building right relations. We are also mindful of broken covenant, and the need to commit ourselves to deep reconciliation and healing.

The Waterford United Church is a place where everyone is welcome regardless of their ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation.

Church Phone: 519-443-5261
Church Webpage: www.waterfordunitedchurch.org
Office Administrator, Diane Holden wucsecretary@bellnet.ca
Treasurer, Kimberly Holden wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca
Church Bookings, Cori Angus 519-443-8212 or 519-802-2401



THANK YOU to LLWL Heather King
for leading in Worship today.

We have received notice that as appointed by Horseshoe Falls Region, **REV. HEATHER LEFFLER** has agreed to offer **PASTORAL CARE** to members of WUC who feel they need it specifically in relation to the review process. Please contact her at hleffler@rogers.com or via cell 519-573-9642.

FOR ALL OTHER PASTORAL CARE needs, contact the office for an appointment.

HALDIMAND-NORFOLK HOSPICE FUNDRAISER – Blooms for a Cause hanging basket sale. Order plants by April 30 by calling 519-410-0881. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

LADIES DAY AWAY is an opportunity to gather and be inspired at Grace United Church, Port Dover on Saturday April 26, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Guest speakers are Jocelyn Bell, Editor of Broadview Magazine, and Executive Director Rev. Trisha Elliott. A delicious lunch will be served, music and a selection of books to view and purchase from the Grand River Book Store. Tickets are \$25.00 each and are on sale until April 22. Please contact Heather King at 226-931-9434 for a ticket or more information. See bulletin board for more information.

A SPAGHETTI DINNER is being served at Colborne Village United Church on Sunday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m. and includes musical entertainment. See bulletin board for more information.



GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18 service at 10:30 a.m. Prayers and music will tell the Easter story. Led by Chris Savory.

EASTER SUNRISE

Sunday, April 20 Sunrise Service in the Golden Pond parking lot at the north end of St. James Street at 7 a.m. led by Wayne Kennington. Breakfast at the church.

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Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m. led by Rev. Joe Calverley



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