

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday April 14, 2019, 10:45 a.m.
Palm / Passion Sunday
Lent 6: God reaches out with open arms

Focus Statement: When our shouts of joy turn to derision and rejection, even in anguish God's steadfast love endures forever. We are called to follow Jesus.

Gathering hymn:

HWB (blue) #48 All creatures of our God... (vs.1,2,3,4,7)

Welcome, Announcements and Introductions

Palm Branches Processional

Hymn: HWB (blue) #238 Hosanna, loud hosanna

Hymn: STS (purple) #74 Hosanna! Hosanna!

Call to worship (*based on Psalms 63 and 118*)

Leader: O God, you are our God. We seek you.

People: Our souls thirst for you
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.

Leader: We thank you for being our salvation,
for being our chief cornerstone.

People: We bless you as we bind the festal
procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar!

All: O God, you satisfy our souls
as with a rich feast.
In the shadow of your wings,
we sing for joy, and you uphold us.

Congregational Prayer

Hymn: HWB (blue) #150 Wonderful grace of Jesus

Children's Time

Offering and Offertory

Scripture reading: Luke 19:28-40

(see insert)

Hymn: Love the Lord Your God

(see insert)

Sermon “*What in Heaven’s name happened that day?*”

Hymn of Response: STS (purple) #14 Prepare the way...

Confession and Reconciliation

Leader: (reading *Philippians 2:5-11*)

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Who will confess Jesus as Lord today?

People: We will confess Jesus as Lord today.

Leader: We are all invited to confess Jesus as Lord today.
Let us bring ourselves to God in prayer.

**People: Living God, give us the courage
to confess your Son, Jesus, as our Lord.**

Leader: When earthly powers claim supremacy,
we will confess Jesus as Lord.

**People: When others vie for our loyalty,
we will confess Jesus as Lord.**

Leader: When our souls hunger for reality and truth,
we will confess Jesus as Lord.

**People: In the morning and in the evening,
we will confess Jesus as Lord.**

Leader: Our generous God has provided for us.

Hymn: HWB (blue) #239 Ride on...

(Entrance of the cross)

Benediction

With gratitude and respect, we recognize that we are worshipping on the traditional land that once belonged to the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples.

We regret the lack of respect given to the Indigenous people in the past, and pledge to work for justice and reconciliation.

Headsets for hearing assistance are available from the ushers.

Childcare (infants to age 4): The nursery is located next to the sanctuary. Infant change table is located in washroom next to nursery. Ushers can direct you.

Children's Worship Binder, an instrument to help children through the worship service, is available by the sanctuary entrance.

Offering Thank you to those who contribute electronically. Offering cards are available (or use loose change/cash) so that you can participate in the giving of offering worship experience.

Welcome Visitors We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If you would like to learn more about our church and our ministries, including our care groups, education opportunities, seniors group or youth groups, and if you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact the church office or one of the ministers.

Hymn: Love the Lord Your God

Love the Lord your God with all your
Heart and all your soul and all your
Mind, and love all humankind
as you would love yourself.

Love the Lord your God
With all your heart,
And all your soul and mind and
love humankind.

We've got Christian lives to live,
We've got Jesus' love to give,
We've got nothing to hide,
Because in God we abide.
(last time only) Love

Traditional version.

Similar version by Mona Bagasao Crane, c1987, Songs and Creation, Inc.

Scripture reading: Luke 19:28-40 (NIV)

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Questions for your consideration

- 1) If you were on the Mount of Olives 2,000 years ago, who would you be in the story? Who resonates with you?
 - a) Would you be like the disciples and drop everything to follow Jesus? Would you try to follow his rules? Would you be a joyful follower, blessing Jesus, who comes in the name of the Lord?
 - b) Do you have sympathy for the Pharisees? How would you act like they did?
- 2) How do you interpret scripture? Are you “flexible in scriptural interpretation in the face of changing historical circumstances” or are you more a “letter of the law” kind of person?
- 3) Would God ever call you a hypocrite? Why?
- 4) Do you ever act as God’s calling card? What do you do?
- 5) What does it mean to set your face toward Jerusalem today?
- 6) Are you ready to save Jesus on Good Friday? What does that mean for you?
- 7) Are you ready to follow the risen Christ after Easter Sunday? What does that mean for you?

