



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leaders: Rev. Glenda Wert

Pianist:

Reader:

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Refrain: Spirit Come

Spirit come (spirit come),
Spirit come (spirit come),
Open our eyes Open our hearts
Come, Spirit, come. (x2)

Land Acknowledgement

We gather on Treaty 7 land, the traditional territories of the Blackfoot people. We extend our gratitude for their enduring presence and care of the land, that sustained all our ancestors and sustains all of us now. We move together with All Our Relations in a Spirit of reconciliation.

Call to Worship

We are called here by our holy God,
who calls us each by name and gathers us here in the unity of Jesus the Christ.

From classroom and kitchen and carpool,
we are called to experience God's presence.

Young and old and middle aged, individuals and families. Soft-spoken and outspoken,
we hear our names being called to join in worship.

This house of worship is a place to pursue God's vision for all people:
unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts. Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

As we gather before you, Holy God,
encircle us with your love.
Bless us with your sustaining presence,
surround us with your grace.
Draw us 'round your living Word,
and bind us together as disciples of Jesus,
whose Spirit is in our midst. Amen

Palm Sunday – The Candle of Unity

One candle plus the Christ candle is lit.

On this sixth Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, we light a candle to bring us together in a spirit of unity. We rest in the glow of that candle now.

(a moment of silence)

As we ponder how fractured and divided we can be as a people, it can be hard to trust that we will ever be brought together in a real and lasting way. We grieve how unforgiving we can be to each other and how much harm and hurt we can cause to one another by allowing our differences to keep us apart.

As we move with Jesus into Jerusalem this Palm Sunday, we extinguish our candle of unity, just for today, as we seek to learn new ways of respecting our differences and respecting each other so that we can be together as one.

All sing: MV 85 Take, O Take Me as I Am (x2)

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Mark 11. 8-10

⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Minute for Mission

Credit: Christie Neufeldt

The Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES), a Mission and Service partner, is located in an area of Central America that is very vulnerable to climate change. This hot, dry region regularly experiences drought. Mining projects have also negatively affected the environment and the people in the region. ADES and other community organizations decided to act to protect the community's right to a healthy environment.

An example of how ADES has responded is a three-year agroecology project co-funded by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and The United Church of Canada Foundation, along with Mission and Service. Agroecology benefits the land and water because it recycles nutrients back into the soil. It also reduces production costs, lessening the financial burden on rural farmers.

In this project, ADES works closely with the community to grow food in a rural region of El Salvador, promoting sustainable agriculture that protects biodiversity, maintains the integrity of the land, and upholds rural culture.

At the centre of the project is the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm, where rural families, mainly led by women, learn about agroecology. The school provides training, technical expertise, and seeds indigenous to the region. It focuses on preserving the surrounding environment and on upholding gender and human rights as part of its approach to food security.

Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) help support ADES' agroecology project. Thank you for your generosity!

Mission Prayer: from Song of Faith

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving. Amen

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 118 19-29

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷ The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Hymn # 124 VU

He Came Riding on a Donkey

Christian Scripture: Luke 19. 28-40

28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this: “The Lord needs it.”’ ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ ³⁴They said, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’ ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’ ⁴⁰He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.’

Message

Offertory Hymn# 540 VU

Grant Us, God, the Grace

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Offering Prayer

Hymn # 194 MV

Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

Communion

Listen: For a Lenten Communion

Listen. Pay attention. In the hustle and bustle, in the chatter and cacophony of chaos, in the pauses between our words, God is here among us. Let us open our senses and hearts to God.

We open them to God, to one another, and to all of creation.

Let us take a moment and a breath to give thanks to God.

And we breathe out in gratitude, praising God.

We pause and give thanks, to you, Creator of us all. From the very beginning, you spoke, and out of your words, you made the world, a world filled with creatures shrieking, roaring, gurgling, hissing, purring, clicking, and each in our own way, joining with nature in an orchestra of sound singing the song of life.

When we forget the song and how to harmonize with all those who are with us, those who came before us and who will continue the song onward, you call to us until we respond. When we turn away from you and the rest of creation, you patiently wait for us to run out of steam, to stop and listen in the silence for your whisper of hope. And in the whisper, we remember:

We remember the cry of a baby born in a stable. We remember the gasps of the shepherds and the song of the angels reminding them and us that you, Immanuel, are with us. Your gurgles and babbles as a wee baby invite us back into relationship with one another and creation.

And as we remember this baby growing, we are reminded how the love song of his living deepened with the sounds of love and compassion. We remember the cries of despair and the sobbing that echoed in the emptiness as Jesus met folks in pain with cries of his own. We remember the sighs of relief and the shouts of amazement as Jesus travelled along the world, his footsteps walking with the beat of creation as he revealed your love, Holy Creator.

Yet the message of love was silenced through the pounding of nails to a cross, reverberating the sounds of betrayal with its staccato beat. And

when all was silent, with grace, you lifted Jesus from the cross and restored him to life, so that our hearts may sing and our lives may resonate with your love forevermore. Therefore, we pause and listen, breathing deeply and remembering that we belong. We belong in this sacred story. We belong in the love song of creation. We belong just as we are—holy and beloved, beautiful and broken.

(Pause in silence.)

We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”

(Break the bread in silence.)

That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying, “Drink. This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

(Pour the wine in silence.)

We remember Jesus’ death and celebrate his resurrection. We await with hope his coming again to bring the song of peace and justice to the earth.

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and a love song to one another and to the world. Amen.

God of all great transformation, in our lament, we cry out to you.

God of all healing power, in our pain, we call your name.

God of all life, in our hope, we come before you in humble prayer.

We pray that all your children may once again sing

and dance the songs planted in their hearts since time immemorial.

We pray for those who have come before us, the knowledge passed on for those ways of life that brought abundance and joy to this pilgrimage on earth.

We pray for the children's health and wholeness;
may they reconnect with your unending love
that they may once again know who they are,
their giftedness and their value.

We pray for parents and extended family. May their homes once again
ring out with laughter and hope.
May their communities reflect the joy of their presence. May they come
together to work toward reclaiming and healing minds, bodies,
emotions, and spirits.
And finally, we pray that one day this world, your world, will be a place
where people are no longer harmed and all will live in peace.
Through, with, and in Jesus,
united in love by the Holy Spirit,
we offer all glory to you, Creator, Source of Love,
now and always.
We turn to you, as to a loving parent, as we pray the words taught by
your son,

Our Father...

Amen.

Communion is Served

Prayer after Communion

**Journeying God, may your vibrations of life transform and enliven us,
that we may proclaim lives of thanksgiving. May we listen for your
ever-present love among us, a love that invites us into a yearning that
will never be satisfied until everyone knows that they are a part of
your glorious creation, a melody of grace that reflects your beloved
word.**

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Blessing: MV 215 w/3 fold Amen

Peace be with you, peace forever,
peace be with you, my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you.
We are one.

Amen, amen, amen.