

Melville United Church
Sunday, March 20, 2016
Palm Sunday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion & Rev. Osborne

Prelude: Improvisation

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 9:9 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

Rejoice in heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness,
daughter of Jerusalem!

Look! your ruler comes to you: victorious and triumphant, humble,
riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Call to Worship

Open the gates!

Love has come! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!

Open the gates!

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Open the gates!

This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice in it!

Open the gates!

Give thanks to God! God's steadfast love endures forever.

Open the gates!

Love has come!

***Hymn:** Palm Parade

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord (from the musical Godspell)

Opening Prayer (Unison)

**Love has burst through the gates of Jerusalem. We welcome the
humble and persistent love of God into our lives on this Palm Sunday.**

**Fill our hearts with this love as we walk with the one who has taught
us how to love one another as we work for justice.**

Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Rev. Robin Osborne
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
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Liturgy of the Rock

Will you follow Jesus with that final rock into death? Will you follow Jesus to the cross and witness death? Will you witness the pain and oppression and suffering that led Jesus to this place? Will you bear witness to the pain, oppression and suffering of our own world? *(The fifth rock is paced)* The rock that will not be moved?

May God's Spirit walk with me.

Chorus: Don't Be Afraid **MV 90**

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near. (Repeat)**

Hymn: Hosanna Loud Hosanna **VU 123**

Prayer of Healing

Words of Affirmation

Theme Conversation: The Sistuhs Tell the Story

Hymn: He Came Riding **VU 124**
(Children are invited to work at a craft)

Scripture:

Isaiah 50: 4-9 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

Exalted YHWH has given me a skilled and well-trained tongue, so that I can sustain the weary with a timely word. God awakens me morning after morning -- wakens my ear, to listen like a student. Exalted YHWH opened my ears and I have obeyed, I did not turn away. I offered my back to those beating me, offered my cheeks to those who would humiliate me. I did not hide my face from insults or spitting. Because Exalted YHWH helps me, insults cannot wound me, for I have set my face like flint, because I know I will not be put to shame. My vindicator is at my side. Who would dare accuse me. Let us confront each other! Whom are my adversaries? Let them accuse me!

It is Exalted YHWH who helps me. Who will judge me guilty? All of them will wear out like a piece of clothing; moths will devour them.

Philippians 2:5-11 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God, didn't deem equality with God something to be clung to --

but instead became completely empty and took on the image of oppressed humankind: born into the human condition, found in the likeness of a human being.

Jesus was thus humbled -- obediently accepting death, even death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted Christ and gave to Jesus the name above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God: Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

Luke 19:28-40 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

Having said this, Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem.

Approaching Bethphage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions:

"Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back.

If anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it.'"

They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said. As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you doing that?'

They explained that the Rabbi needed it.

Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount.

People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along.

As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!”
 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”
 Jesus replied, “I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!”

Message: Hellos and Good-byes **Jen Auger**

***Hymn:** And on This Path **MV 8**

Announcements

Offering

Ministry of Music: On Humble Beast Now Rides the Kin -H. H. Hopson

Offering Hymn: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow **VU 541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures high and low;
 give thanks to God in love made known:
 Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

*Offertory Prayer:

**Generous and loving God, we see in Jesus your love poured out for us.
 Jesus became like a hollow reed, a channel setting aside his ego, so all could see love.
 He trusted that nothing, not even death could separate him from you.
 In honor of him we offer our whole lives to you. Together we will build your dream. Amen**

Joys and Concerns

Prayer Prelude: Take, O Take Me as I Am **MV 85**

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

Prayers of the People:

(at the pauses, please respond “**The stones will cry out!**”)

The Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Go to Dark Gethsemene **VU 133**

Invitation and Grace:

Postlude: H. Purcel - Rondeau

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Mennonite Church
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Palmerston
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Graeme Chalmers, Bob Zirk,
 Larry Broome, Eleanor Brown

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Kaillie Rawn