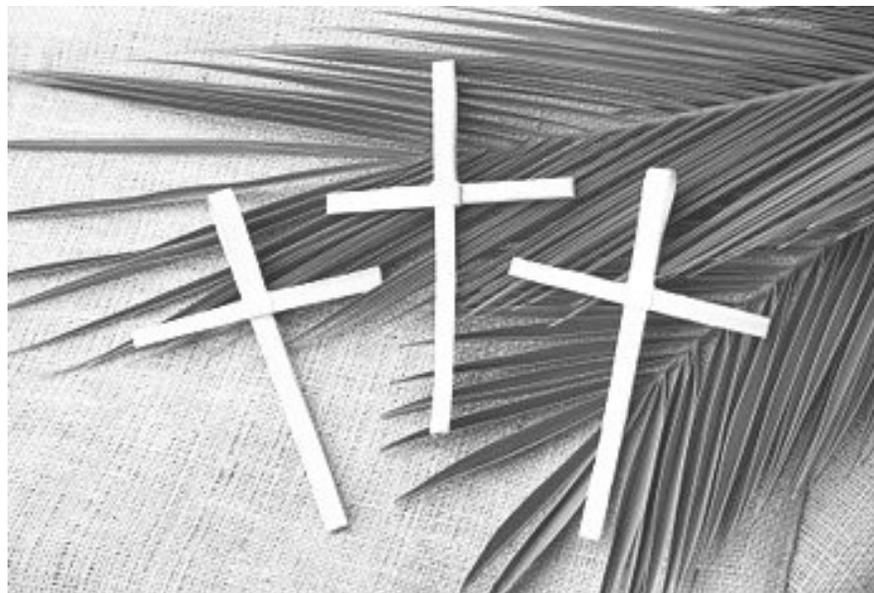


**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, April 9, 2017**  
**Palm Sunday**



*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

**Palm Parade**

**Hymn:** Prepare the Way of the Lord

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Prelude/Centering Time** - Improvisation

**Call to Worship:**

Let us give thanks to God, for God is good.

**God's love lasts forever.**

Let all the people proclaim it aloud:

**God's love lasts forever!**

Let us open up and feel Spirit's presence.

**God's love is in us.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

**\*Hymn:** He Came Riding on a Donkey

**VU 124**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Hosanna God, we wave our palms and sing our praise as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. May your spirit enter the heart of our worship this day, giving us the strength to endure the journey which is ahead. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

On his last journey, the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus was acclaimed with joy.

**When our worship lacks joy and enthusiasm, O God, forgive us.**

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	Jen Auger
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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">Web Site:</a>	<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">www.melvilleunited.com</a>
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On his last journey, the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus was confronting evil and self-serving powers and groups.

**When we compromise with evil, and seek to control the vulnerable and powerless, O God, forgive us.**

Jesus followed his heart and the Spirit of God that lived in him all the way to the cross.

**When we forget that your Spirit lives in us, too, O God, forgive us. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

Holy Oneness, your love reaches the heavens;

**your faithfulness extends to the skies.**

Your justice is like the depths of the sea.

**All creation is in your care.**

How precious, O God, is your constant love!

**God is the source of all life and we give thanks. Amen.**

**Chorus: Catch the Light!**

-Bruce Harding

**Catch the light, catch the light:**

**God's love growing in you and me.**

**Catch the light, catch the light:**

**God's love growing in you and me.**

**Catch the light, catch the light:**

**God's love growing in you and me.**

**Catch the light, catch the light:**

**God's love growing in you and me.**

**God's love growing, God's love growing,**

**God's love growing: feel it growing in you and me!**

**Catch the light, catch the light:**

**God's love growing in you and me.**

**Catch the light, catch the light:**

**God's love growing in you and me.**

**Theme Conversation:**

**Hymn: And on this Path**

**MV 8**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11** (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, "Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, 'The Rabbi needs them.' Then they will let them go at once."

This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Your Sovereign comes to you without display, riding on a donkey, on a colt - the foal of a beast of burden.'"

So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered. They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. The crowds - those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed - were all shouting,

"Hosanna to the Heir to the House of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High! Hosanna in the highest!"

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, "Who is this?"

And the crowd kept answering, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!"

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 118**

**VU 837**

(The stone the builders rejected)

**Reader: Robert Foster**

**Scripture Reading: selected passages**

**John 4:23-24**

Jesus said " Yet the hour is coming - and is already here - when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom Abba God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."

**Romans 8:5**

Those who live according to the flesh have their mind set on the things of the flesh; those who live by the spirit, on things of the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 6:19**

You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy spirit, who is within you - the Spirit you have received from God. You are not your own.

**2 Corinthians 3:5-6**

Our sole credit is from God, who made us qualified ministers of a new Covenant, a covenant not of a written Law but of spirit. The written Law kills, but the spirit gives life.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against these sorts of things there is no law!

**1 Thessalonians 5:19**

Don't stifle the Spirit; don't despise the prophetic gift.

**Message:** Spirituality vs Religion

**\*Hymn:** Seek Ye First the Kingdom **VU 356**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** Sing to the Lord Hosanna - G. F. Handel

**Offering Song:** Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands (vs 1) **VU 537**

**Your work, O God, needs many hands  
to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve  
unless our gifts we share.**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**Accept these, our gifts this day, Holy Presence. Take them as tokens  
of our thanks and our commitment. Let them become instruments**

**of compassion and service. Bless these, our offerings, and bless us as  
we strive each day to live in Spirit. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Be Still and Know **MV 77**  
**Be still and know that I am God.**  
**Be still and know that I am God.**

**Be still and know that I am God.**  
**Be still and know that I am God.**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** O Jesus, I Have Promised **VU 120**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go from here with the sound of hosannas ringing in your ears.

**Filled with God's Spirit we will take heart.**

The palms are waved, the sights of celebration are around you.

**Rejoicing in Spirit's presence we are prepared for the week ahead.**

There is a cross on the hill in the distance.

**We will travel with courage knowing the story is not finished.**

Go, knowing that God's Spirit lives in you and will support and guide you  
- always.

**Amen!**

**\*Parting Song:** Sent Out in Jesus' Name **MV 212**

**Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now  
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.**  
**Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now  
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.**

**The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.**

**The task is ours to do, to set it really free.**

**O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.**

**Postlude:** The Holy City - Sung by Susanne Schmidt-McQuillan

**Prayer of the Week:**

God, we are held by your awesome beauty. Above, below, within and surrounding us is the constant presence of Life. It calls to us, urges us beyond our own understandings of ourselves. We see, in the life of Jesus, reflections of our own and know that the same Spirit that motivated him lives in and motivates us. May we be open to it and respond to it in loving and thoughtful ways. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Grand River Community Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Pine River

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Linda and Norm Porritt  
Dorothy Collin

**Counters:**

Art Russell, David Ogilvie