



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

**Ministers:** All the People – wherever and however they gather

**Minister of Word & Sacrament:** Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Reader:** Beth Moore

**March 24, 2024**

**Palm Sunday**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

In times of struggle, wonder and anticipation ...

**You, O God, are the light in our world.**

*The candle is lit.*

**Land Acknowledgement**

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. It has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. This land is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas River.

**We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.**

**Opening Hymn**

**Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

**VU 123**

Hosanna, loud hosanna the happy children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;  
to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victory palm branch waving, and singing clear and loud;  
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
content that little children should on his bidding wait.

'Hosanna in the highest!' That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer; earth, let your anthems ring.

O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his humble presence eternally rejoice!

### **Call to Worship**

Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

**Blessed is God's reign of love and peace! Hosanna in the highest!**

### **Life and Work**

**Eh, Jesus ... Yes, Peter ...**

### **Opening Prayer**

During Lent, God of ages, we come seeking strength and guidance for our journey.

**Lent is a time of seeking change. Give us the courage to look at the things we need to examine. Give us hope that we can change. Give us your vision of a new way. Amen.**

## **RECEIVING GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture     Psalm 31:9-16**

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

**<sup>10</sup> For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

<sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror<sup>[b]</sup> to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

**<sup>12</sup> I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.**

<sup>13</sup> For I hear the whispering of many - terror all around! -  
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

**<sup>14</sup> But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."**

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

**<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.**

**Mark 11:1-11             Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King**

**11** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

<sup>4</sup> They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, <sup>5</sup> some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" <sup>6</sup> They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. <sup>7</sup> When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others

spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” <sup>10</sup> “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup> Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**He Came Riding On a Donkey**

**VU 124**

1 He came riding on a donkey,  
he came riding into town;  
slow and easy kind of lowly  
he came riding with the dawn.

His disciples walked beside him,  
staying close, a little shy;  
not too sure where he would guide them,  
on to live or on to die.

But all the morning sang his praises;  
waking birds and dancing wind;  
here he is, the Son of David;  
riding on to take his throne.

2 Then the children gathered, singing  
shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;  
in the streets their song was ringing,  
'Hosannas' filled the morning air.

Timid adults strained to see him,  
caught the Spirit, joined the song;  
spread their cloaks along before him,  
branches flashing in the sun.

So all the city sang his praises;  
waking streets and dancing crowd;  
here he is, the Son of David;  
our Messiah, Son of God.

3 In our fasting, and our feasting,  
called to follow in his way;  
called to walk his road to Easter,  
called to live his cross today.

Hosanna to the Son of David,  
hosanna in the heavens above;  
blessed is he who comes to save us,  
blessed is he who brings his love.

Let us join to sing his praises;  
open hearts and souls to God;  
he is with us, Son of David;  
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.

**Sermon**      **It's A Team Effort**

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn**

#### **Filled With Excitement**

Filled with excitement all the happy throng  
Spread cloaks and branches on the city streets  
There in the distance they begin to see  
Riding on a donkey comes the Son of God

From every corner a thousand voices sing  
Praises to Him who comes in the Name of God  
With one great shout of acclamation  
loud triumphant song breaks forth:

Hosanna, hosanna to the King  
Hosanna, hosanna to the King  
Hosanna, hosanna to the King  
Hosanna, hosanna to the King

As in that entrance to Jerusalem  
We sing hosannas to the Christ, our king  
To our redeemer who still calls today  
Asking us to follow him with love and faith.

From every corner a thousand voices sing  
Praises to Him who comes in the Name of God  
With one great shout of acclamation  
loud triumphant song breaks forth:

Hosanna, hosanna to the King  
Hosanna, hosanna to the King  
Hosanna, hosanna to the King  
Hosanna, hosanna to the King

(repeat)

## Offering

O God, we gather to give thanks for all of your gifts to us.

**You have poured out your love for us in his life, death and resurrection. We offer our gifts in your name as a sign of our commitment to your work in this world.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

God of all glory ...

**We come with grateful hearts for all you have done and continue to do. Let the rocks shout! Let the ocean waves join in the chorus with their roaring praise until we all sing together: Hosanna! Glory to you, O God...**

*Moment of silence*

**Our rock, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

## BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

And On This Path

MV 8

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide (x3)  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide (x3)  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide (x3)  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

## Commissioning and Benediction

We go into this Holy Week trusting in the grace of God.

**Mat we find the courage to turn towards the cross and serve with compassion.**

**Amen.**

**Choral Benediction**

**May the God of Hope Go with Us**

**VU424**

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with hope and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working, for a world that's new,  
Faithful, when we hear Christ's call.

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working, for a world that's new,  
Faithful, when we hear Christ's call.

**Postlude**

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