



# West River United Church

*... seeking, sharing, celebrating abundant life in Christ*



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

Andrea Rogers

and all members of West River United Church

  
*Palm Sunday*

April 14, 2019

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CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

ENTRANCE INTO SANCTUARY – CHILDREN WAVING PALMS, ALL JOIN IN

♪ **'He Came Riding on a Donkey'** VU 124 (*projected*)

PALM SUNDAY

ONE: We have now experienced the five Sundays of Lent. In that time, we have seen how God hears and accepts our laments, how tests in the form of temptations can become times of building resilience. We have seen a God who offers both forgiveness and abundance when we have the courage to let go and trust. Today we join a parade of celebration, one which will unfold much differently than we can imagine. (*Extinguish Christ Candle*)

♪ **'Christ be our Light'** (*projected*)

CALL TO WORSHIP *please stand, as you are able*\*\*

ONE: Wave the palms! Sing out loud! This is the day!

ALL: **This Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' arrival.**

ONE: We celebrate his arrival in Jerusalem. We take our part in the excited crowd.

ALL: **We bow before the King, riding on a donkey.**

ONE: Wave branches! Sing out loud! Worship today!

ALL: **Blessed is he who comes in God's name.**

ONE: Rejoice with the disciples, that God's Anointed One has courageously chosen to enter the city.

ALL: **Blessed indeed! "God's Kingdom is close, Hosanna in the Highest.**

♪ 'God of the Bible' – MV 28 vs 1 & 2 (*projected*)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER\*\*\* (*in unison*)

**ALL: Blessed One, bless our worship this day.**

**Bless us through the power of your holy name,  
that we may be faithful disciples  
and attentive listeners.**

**Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit,  
that we may be ever wakeful, ever alert—  
as we worship,**

**as we live,**

**and as we follow where you lead.**

**In your blessed name, we pray. Amen**

**Together we pray the words that Jesus taught us saying,**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed by thy name**

**thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil;**

**for thine is the kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING\*\*\*

ONE: If anyone asks why. Why Church, why God, why Jesus? Tell them the Lord needs us: to give, to care, to serve. Let us bring to God our gifts.

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

♪ 'Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary'— MV 18 (*projected*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*in unison*)

**ALL: Like palms of rejoicing, like cloaks on the ground, we bring these gifts and offer them here. Let both gifts and givers be lifted up, blessed, and sent forth to do your will. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ 'Like a Rock' – MV 92 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\*\* (*in unison*)

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.  
Where depression lingers,  
grant us hope.  
Where fear threatens,  
grant us comfort.  
Where strength fails,  
give us courage.  
Where faithfulness wanes,  
grant us endurance.  
Where sin invades,  
grant us forgiveness.  
Shine upon us with your love and grace, O God.  
In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE\*\*\*

**ONE: Look! The Lord will help you,  
for God's faithful love lasts forever.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**PSALM 118 PART 1 & PART 3 VU 837**

♪ **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**ONE: Let Israel now say:**

**ALL: "God's love endures for ever."**

**ONE: Let the house of Aaron say:**

**ALL: "God's love endures for ever."**

**ONE: Let those who fear God say:**

**ALL: "God's love endures for ever."**

♪ **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

ONE: Open to me the gates of the temple, that I may enter and give thanks to God.

ALL: **This is the gate of God; through it the righteous shall enter.**

ONE: I thank you for you have answered me; you have become my salvation.

ALL: **The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

ONE: This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

ALL: **This is the day that God has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

♪ **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**LUKE 19:28-40** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "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. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this, "The Lord needs it." <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them.

<sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As 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, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

**HYMN VU 123 'Hosanna, Loud Hosanna' (projected)**

♪ **'In You There Is a Refuge' – MV 84 (projected)**

**HYMN VU 122 'All Glory, Laud and Honour' (projected)**

BENEDICTION\*\*\*\*

ONE: On the back of a donkey,

ALL: **Jesus came to bless us.**

ONE: With a love that did not count the cost,

ALL: **Jesus came to heal us.**

ONE: From hopelessness and despair,

ALL: **Jesus came to free us.**

ONE: With the power of the Holy Spirit,

ALL: **Jesus came to make us well and whole. Amen.**

♪ **'Amen' – VU 967 (projected)**

*\*L/E Gathering 2019 pg. 66, S. Browning., \*\*Whole People of God, 2019, Lent., \*\*\* The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2019.*