



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, April 9, 2017
Reflection: “Personal Palm Sunday”
Rev. Meg Grieve

LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

This morning we thank Annette Dekker for her art and wisdom.

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Light and Shadow

Prelude: “Holy, Holy, Holy!” *arr. Lloyd Larson*

Ministry of Music: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” *arr. Mary Kay Parrish*
(Cast in Bronze; John Watson & Lee McWebb, percussion)

Welcome

One: Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus’ coming to Jerusalem for his last week. The shadow of fear and chaos falls over the city and everyone who has come to celebrate Passover.

And yet, amid the threat of reprisal from Rome, there is celebration of Israel's liberation from Egypt and the beginning of its journey to the Promised Land.

We enter the mystery with Jesus, the mystery of death that love overcomes, and the mystery of the shadow that is lifted by love's light.

One of the shadows we live with is the shadow that falls over our relationship with First People. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the Six Nations tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home. We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we face the greatest unknown, and with the hope of spring, we share the confidence that no matter how hidden we are in the shadow, love is stronger than death.

Joys, Concerns, and Greeting One Another

Today, as we continue our Lenten journey, we will pass peace to one another. Please remain seated. Those sitting on the aisle will receive the blessing of peace by holding their hands as if in prayer. The one passing the peace will place his/her hands around the “prayer” hands and say, “the blessing of peace be to you.” The person who has received the blessing will turn to the person sitting next in the pew, hold his/her hands and offer the same words of blessing. In this way, the peace will travel down each row and touch each of our spirits.

★ Introit: “He Came Riding on a Donkey” 🎵 VU #124

Children’s Palm Parade

Story Time: a Special Meeting

Following the story time, the children/youth will leave for their own learning time. Learn lots!

For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space at the back of the sanctuary. Each week, there will be an adult present so that the children can play and be cared for and parents can worship. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

Ministry of Music: “Fanfare Jubilee” *by Jason Krug*
(Cast in Bronze)

Opening Our Hearts

Focus on Annette Dekker’s photograph of “Shadow” at the front of the church. What do you see?

Today we remember Palm Sunday and the beginning of the end of the beginning. It is a day when Rome shows its power and Jesus shows his vulnerability. It is a day when Rome speaks its truth about trusting in violence, and Jesus shows his truth about trusting in love.

We are challenged to remain faithful to the power of love, even when we feel deeply afraid. When have you been able to trust in love's power? Have you ever been too afraid to do that and have you chosen power-over another instead? This may be the power of your position, the power of your abundant resources over another's poverty, the power of age and family role, the power of experience over another's inexperience. Have you ever been like Rome? Have you ever been like Jesus?

Prayer by Meg

★ Hymn: (*sung 3x*) "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.**

Shadow and Light

Ministry of Music: "We Praise Thee, O God" *by G.F. Handel*
(Voices United Choir; Gail Harper & Bob Hudgins, accompanists)

Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11 (NT, pg. 23)

About Scripture

Today is Palm Sunday and our scripture is called "The Triumphal Entry." Jesus comes to Jerusalem for his last work, the work of facing power, the work of speaking love's truth, and the work of death and resurrection. It is a big week.

The Jews are celebrating Passover, the time when they escaped slavery in Egypt and were saved from Pharaoh when the Red Sea opened up and the Romans are acutely aware that they, like Pharaoh, are oppressors of the Jews and thoughts of liberation are on the minds of many. If God saved the people once, surely God can do the same again.

Rome did not want to take a chance on any sort of revolutionary activity so they brought their troops to Jerusalem in a demonstration of power. Up the west side of the Temple Mount marched Rome's legions: soldiers in leather armour, chariots, horses, spears and other weapons. The not-so-subtle message was "Don't mess with us."

Up the east side of the Temple Mount came another parade. This parade had Jesus, riding on a donkey, followed by his disciples and friends. Crowds gathered and shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name!" No armour, just vulnerability, no weapons, just love. This story is a study in contrasts.

It leaves large questions for us. With whom do we side? Which parade, Rome's or Jesus', hooks our shadow? Which parade draws us to the face of love?

Reflection: "Personal Palm Sunday"

★ Hymn: "Love Knocks and Waits" 🎵 MV #94

Facing the Shadow and Seeking the Light

Offertory: "That Same Old Obsession" *by Gordon Lightfoot*
(adapted by John Watson; Lee McWebb, soloist)

Dedication: "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours" 🎵 MV #171, v.4

Offering Prayer, said by ***all:***

We are grateful for the power of love that can seem small, but mysteriously renews and empowers us. We are grateful for love that speaks the truth to power and works for justice and peace. We give our gifts of time and resources to enable love's work of transformation to change our world. Our gifts are our gratitude and our prayer for a healed world.

Prayers with Our Palms

★ Hymn: “Will You Come and Follow Me” 🎵 VU #567

Today, this is a Palm Sunday hymn, a call to be faithful in the tough time ahead.

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Benediction

Peace I leave.

My peace I give you,

not the peace the world can offer.

In each storm, in each confusion, I'll be with you.

Postlude: “Arrival of the Queen of Sheba” *by G.F. Handel*

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:

Ushers: Peter&Mary McLean, Laura Hamilton, Ted Harris

Greeter:..... Ruth Farley

Lay Reader: Pat Harris

Counters:..... Ron & Colleen Usaty

Art: Annette Dekker

Musicians: Lee McWebb, John Watson, Cast in Bronze,
..... Voices United Choir, Neil Murray

Coffee Hour & Dessert: Marion Mutton

The Ministry of Parkminster: All of us

Ministry of Word & Sacrament (Interim):..... Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)

Ministry of Pastoral Care (Interim):..... Rev. Elaine Beattie (ext. 22)

Ministry of Christian Education: Kelly Moores (ext. 24)

Music Director:..... Neil Murray (ext. 25)

Office Administrator:..... Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)

Custodian: Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

House Group Meeting Today: HG# 5 will meet after church in the Family Room to coordinate the Sunday services for the month of May.

Pastoral Care – Rev. Meg & Rev. Elaine: Elaine can be reached at **519-504-0935 (note tel # change)** or by email at elainebeattie8@hotmail.com. Meg can be reached at the church 519-885-0935 ext. 23 or by email at rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com

Congregational Meeting in May: There will be a Congregational Meeting after church on **Sunday, May 7**, to learn about and discuss the United Church's proposed Remits (changes to the constitution) as well as revisions to our governance structure.

The Remits aim to improve how the church operates. Council must vote on (1) The Three Council Model (2) Elimination of Transfer & Settlement, (3) Office of Vocation and (4) Funding a New Model by June 30th. Remit 6, One Order of Ministry, must be voted on by February 2018. Check them out at **GC42.ca/Remits**.

Council votes on remits but we need input from the congregation. As you will recall, we voted in the spring of 2016 to make changes to our governance structure. The trial period has gone well with some tweaking over the past few months. We are ready to bring those changes back to the congregation for a vote to make these trial changes more permanent.

We will need quorum at the congregational meeting to make these changes possible.

Maedith Radlein, Council Chair

Message from the Memorial Garden Committee: Would you be interested in learning more about Parkminster's Memorial Garden? Perhaps you are thinking that this might be the place where your loved ones might remember you once you have moved on to the Community of Saints. If there is enough interest, the Committee will arrange for an information session sometime this Spring. The Memorial Garden committee is made up of Pat Harris, Swain Van Camp, John Rule, Wendy Ridgway and Jim Bowman.

We have recently decided to increase the cost of a subscription as of July 1 from \$1100 to \$1200 due to the increased cost of engraving. This is the first increase in 4 years. Speak to any of the members of the committee if you need more information.

We are also looking for people who might be interested in helping with upkeep of the garden. The pay is not so great but we can promise that you'll have fun in spades!

Jim Bowman & Swain Van Camp, Co-Chairs

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