



WILMOT UNITED CHURCH
PALM SUNDAY SERVICE OF REFLECTION
April 9, 2017

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked * - those who are able are invited to stand.
Presider: Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin

Prelude: Hosanna (Dubois)

Welcome to the Church

FIVE DAYS BEFORE FRIDAY

“A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare, And hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air. They laid their garments in the road and spread his path with palms and vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and psalms. - Thomas H. Troeger

*** Hymn:** All Glory, Laud and Honour VU #122

Time for the Young and Young at Heart Ellen Beirsto
[Palm branches or local equivalents, and fabric representing cloaks are carried by an all-age group down the aisle and laid on the steps.]

Palm Sunday Reading: Luke 19:29-40 Ellen Beirsto
Leader: We stand of the threshold of Holy Week. Before contemplating the Love unfolding in the events of Holy Week, we re-visit significant moments in the life of Jesus and hold them in our hearts until we are seeing through the eyes of Love.

BIRTH

Reading: Luke 2:1-8

Jamie Heard

At the end of the reading, the reader picks up a palm branch and places it in a vase.

Leader: O for wonder and surprise.

O for hope and delight.

O for the breaking in of God among us.

As the poet says

“He is not standing afar off waiting for us to draw
nigh,

but is a God who sought us out,

striving ever to enter,

trying doors, strategically planning

making himself as small as a child

and lying down on the doorstep of the world.”

- Walt Whitman

The Mystery of Christmas breaks in with Love.

***Hymn:** Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope

MV #33

The children leave for Sunday School

BAPTISM & BLESSING

Reading: Luke 3: 21-23

Lynn MacKinnon

At the end of the reading, the reader picks up a palm branch and places it in a vase.

Leader: God is not out there.

God is here among us

God enters the world in one Child, and in every child.

God's presence is enfolded into every element of life. Luke gives us this picture of the Spirit of God funnelled into the universe in the form of a dove, the most ordinary of birds.

And we have the words that claimed and cherished Jesus "You are my Own, my beloved."

God is not out there.

God is "the beat behind the being of all things" as the poet Malcom Guite writes.

God is not out there.

God is with us.

We are close to the heartbeat of Life

Listen closely and this week you will surely hear:

You are my beloved. You are my delight.

A moment of silent prayer for listening.

CALL

Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Jilanna Eagles

At the end of the reading, the reader picks up a palm branch and places it in a vase.

Leader: That 30-year-old young adult who went public in a splash of light and love, still calls disciples to a path of compassion and love.

Compassion is to be moved inwardly.

It is a "quivering of the heart" or a stirring in the gut.

“Whatever God does, the first outburst is always compassion.”

This is the insight of the 12th century mystic Meister Eckhart.

The practice of compassion is never easy. It is a commitment, but it often takes us where we don't want to go, or claims space we don't want to give, or costs more than we'd like.

Compassion is a commitment.
How do we follow?

***Hymn:** Will You Come and Follow Me VU #567

HEALER

Reading: Luke 6: 6-12 Sue Short

At the end of the reading, the reader picks up a palm branch and places it in a vase.

Leader: And on a Sabbath, the disciples are with Jesus in the synagogue.

The watchers are here.

Also present is a man suffering with a withered hand.

Facing controversy head on, Jesus asks:

“Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?”

And he calls to the man and commands: Stretch out your hand.

And his hand was restored.

Human need, suffering, takes priority over sacred ritual.

Jesus doesn't condemn Sabbath practice. The tradition is important. He upholds this. He does redefine what is most important. People. Human need. Real Encounter.

This week as we find ourselves standing in the midst of human need, real encounters, we know we are created for such a time as this.

***Hymn:** When I Needed a Neighbour VU #600

PARABLE-MAKER

Reading: Luke 13: 18-22 Steve MacKenzie
At the end of the reading, the reader picks up a palm branch and places it in a vase.

Leader: Jesus was always talking about the kingdom of God that is here now, yet not fully here, especially in his parables. It was a way of inviting us to use our imaginations to imagine what God's beloved community might look like so we would recognize it — right here in our own lives. Parables help us glimpse the Kingdom of God that is beyond us, within us, among us - yet not fully here.

We may think of the Kingdom of God as a place we go to after we die, if we have been good. Perhaps it is. I believe, along with the mystic teacher Cynthia

Bourgault, that the kingdom of God is “not a place you go to, but a place you come from.”

“It’s a whole new way of looking at the world, a transformed awareness that literally turns the world into a different place.” - Cynthia Bourgault

Imagine. We come from the Kingdom of God, God’s beloved community, and we are born into this world. Perhaps the memory of this “place”, this consciousness remains in us: That’s how we know beauty and love when we see it, that’s how the Kingdom of God is among us because we are fragments of God’s beloved community.

Maybe the kingdom of God is a like a kaleidoscope, made of beautifully coloured fragments that twist and turn into patterns that allow us to glimpse Love beyond us, Love among us, Love between us, Love within us.

***Hymn:** I Danced in the Morning VU #352 v. 1-3

ON THE ROAD: FIERCELY LOVED

Luke 13:31-35

Shirley Cleave

At the end of the reading, the Reader picks up a Palm Branch and places it in a vase.

Leader: Jesus calls Herod a fox. It's an acknowledgement that the world is not always a safe place. Bad things happen. There is suffering, calamity and tragedy. There is illness, heartache and death. Jesus response is lament. And he offers one of the most beautiful images in scripture.

How often have I longed to gather my children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

He didn't exactly pick a big strong bird to counter a fox! (A hen? Really!)

Jesus means what he says. It's all about Love. His wasn't a random death. He steadfastly faced Jerusalem, lamenting and in love.

We are loved with a Love that will never let go; a love that re-makes us not because we did anything wrong, but because God's deepest desire is for us to know our own belovedness.

Christ the Mother loves us fiercely, fully and completely.

Anthem: Hosanna in the Highest Sing (Mengel)

The Offering is received and brought forward

Reading: “Coming to the City Nearest You” written by contemporary Canadian poet Carol Penner.

Choir members

Jesus comes to Jerusalem, the city nearest you.
Jesus comes to the gate, to the synagogue,
to houses prepared for wedding parties,
to the pools where people wait to be healed,
to the temple where lambs are sold,
to gardens, beautiful in the moonlight.
He comes to the governor’s palace.

Jesus comes to Jerusalem, the city nearest you,
to new subdivisions and trailer parks,
to penthouses and basement apartments,
to the factory, the hospital and the Cineplex,
to the big box outlet centre and to churches,
with the same old same old message, unchanged from the
beginning of time.

Jesus comes to Jerusalem, the city nearest you with his
Good News and...
Hope erupts! Joy springs forth!
The very stones cry out,
“Hosanna in the highest,
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
The crowds jostle and push,
they can’t get close enough!
People running alongside flinging down their coats before
him!

Jesus, the parade marshal, waving, smiling.
The paparazzi elbow for room,
looking for that perfect picture for the headline,
“The Man Who Would Be King”.

Jesus comes to Jerusalem, the city nearest you
and gets the red carpet treatment.
Children waving real palm branches from the florist,
silk palm branches from Wal-mart,
palms made from green construction paper.
Hosannas ringing in churches, chapels, cathedrals,
in monasteries, basilicas and tent-meetings.
King Jesus, honored in a thousand hymns
in Canada, Cameroon, Calcutta and Canberra.
We LOVE this great big powerful capital K King Jesus
coming in glory and splendor and majesty
and awe and power and might.

Jesus comes to Jerusalem, the city nearest you.
Kindly, he takes a towel and washes feet.
With majesty, he serves bread and wine.
With honour, he prays all night.
With power, he puts on chains.
Jesus, King of all creation, appears in state
in the eyes of the prisoner, the AIDS orphan,
the crack addict,
asking for one cup of cold water,
one coat shared with someone who has none,
one heart, yours,

and a second mile.
Jesus comes to Jerusalem, the city nearest you.
Can you see him?

[Silence]

***Hymn:** Ride On! Ride On in Majesty VU #127

Blessing

Postlude: Fantasy in G Minor (Bach)

This service was adapted from a service created by Rev. Janice MacLean

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BULLETINS: “A friend remembered” Today’s bulletins are sponsored by Bob and Sue Breen in memory of ***Jim Moase.***

WELCOME to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. We're glad you're here! You are invited to join us for **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the worship service.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER: The Sanctuary Committee invites members of the congregation interested in placing flowers at the front of the church, in memory of loved ones, for the Easter Sunday service (April 16), to have them to the church by 11:00 a.m. on Sat., April 15th. Please advise Marlene, no later than Wednesday, April 12th of whom your donation is in memory so that it can be noted in the bulletin.

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to hear the series of 4 webinars called 'Hopes and Dreams for the Future of the Church', please send me an email at rosehannahwilmot@gmail.com. I will send you the link.

U.C.W. MEMBERS INVITE YOU! Rev. Brett Anningson, UNB Chaplain will be UCW's special guest speaker at 1 p.m. Monday, April 10th in the Parlor. Any interested members of the congregation are also invited to attend this presentation and participate in the discussion. Several groups at Wilmot provide financial support to the Campus Ministry and the event on Monday is an opportunity to learn more about their program and services.

WILMOT SENIORS: Please come out for our next gathering on Tuesday, April 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the parlour. Our special guest will be our very own Krista Wong who be joining us to share her fascinating hobby of collecting, displaying and creating miniatures. She is going to bring along a sample of her 25 years of collecting from around the world. Prepare to be captivated! As usual we will enjoy a lovely lunch, this month provided by Group 1. See you there.

MAUNDY THURSDAY POT LUCK AND SERVICE: You are invited to join us at Wilmot United Church on April 13th for a 6 o'clock pot luck followed by a special Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary. St. Paul's and Wilmot congregations will join together for this important Holy Week event. Please join with your brothers and sisters in Christ as we mark the path to Easter.

80th BIRTHDAY PARTY: You are invited to come and celebrate *Johanne Jones'* 80th birthday on Tuesday, April 11th from 2 - 5 p.m. in the parlour at Wilmot United Church. Special music at approx. 3:30 p.m. Best Wishes only or you may bring donations for use at Wilmot's "Wednesdays at Wilmot". Thank you.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE is just around the corner April 21st (3 - 6 p.m.) and April 22nd (9 a.m. - noon)! As you start your spring cleaning, please keep the sale in mind. Donations may be left on the stage in the gym. Last April's sale brought in over \$2200 for the UCW. Thanks to the many donors and shoppers!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the Wilmot Sunday supper teams for the Fredericton Community Kitchen! Please consider joining one of the regular Wilmot teams – it's a short commitment from 4:00 to 6:15 every 6th week. Under the direction of a staff cook, you will help prepare and serve a good meal for vulnerable people in our community. It's a great way to lend a helping hand. We are also in need of people to fill in occasionally and we are looking for an overall coordinator. Please contact Beth Paynter for more information: 454-5581 or bpaynter@nb.sympatico.ca



CONGRATULATIONS TO FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH: On **Sunday, April 23rd** at 10 a.m., the Forest Hill United Church will hold their Service of Celebration as they too become an official Affirming Congregation. We extend our heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS to everyone at Forest Hill United.

LENTEN CARBON FAST:

Monday Consider stopping your junk mail. Speak with your mail carrier.

Tuesday Reduce your use of household cleaning products, soaps, shampoos, hair care products and other items, which contain chemicals. Replace them with products, which are biodegradable. Carcinogenic chemicals in deodorants, soaps, shampoos, and body sprays persist in the environment, build up in the food chain and return to haunt us long after they've gone down the drain.

Wednesday If you have old appliances that no longer work, when replacing them consider energy-efficiency models. They could save a third of your energy consumption.

Thursday Calculate your carbon footprint. There are several online sites that will help you. Find out what more you can do about climate change.

Friday Plant a tree this spring. One tree will absorb about a ton of carbon dioxide over the course of its lifetime. Trees also provide shade that could reduce your air conditioning bill significantly.

Saturday Remember that light bulb you removed at the beginning of Lent? Replace it now with an energy-saving CFL bulb. Better yet, could you do without that light bulb permanently?

EASTER SUNDAY! GIVE THANKS

SUNDAY SCHOOL PUZZLE: When you are down at Coffee and Conversation, have a look at the puzzle the Sunday School have put together over the past couple of weeks. It shows Jesus' journey through the coming Week - beginning at Palm Sunday on through Passion Week and ending on Easter.

THIS EVENING: Please join the congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church for a reflective candlelight worship concert for Easter this evening (April 9), at 6:30 p.m. The church's music ministries will take part in the service. The offering will go to the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center. A reception will follow. All welcome.

YOU ARE INVITED: The Congregational family of Forest Hill United Church invite you to our service of Celebration on becoming an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada! Please join us on Sunday, April 23rd, at 10 a.m. for an hour of joyful stories, songs, liturgy, prayers, and balloon and streamer waving, as we celebrate our important steps towards openness and inclusivity. All are welcome at Forest Hill!



THIS WEEK AT WILMOT
April 9 – 16th

TODAY:

PALM SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. **ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** - Board Room
11:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL**
12:00 p.m. **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

Mon. April 10:

1:00 p.m. **U.C.W.** –Parlour. Everyone is welcome.
6:45 p.m. **TOASTMASTERS CLUB** - Board Room

Tues. April 11:

11:45 a.m. **WORSHIP COMMITTEE** – Parlour
7:00 p.m. **FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE**- Parlour
7:00 p.m. **STEWARDS & FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Board Room

Wed. April 12:

9:00 a.m. **QUILTERS** – Parlour
10:00 a.m. **TOY LIBRARY**
1:00 p.m. **WEDNESDAY @ WILMOT**

Thurs. April 13: **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

9:30 a.m. **QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP**– Parlour
1:00 p.m. **WRITERS' GROUP** – Parlour
6:00 p.m. **PUT LUCK AND MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**
6:30 p.m. **HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE**

Fri. April 14: **GOOD FRIDAY**

10:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE** at St. Paul's – please note the time

Sat. April 15:

6:00 p.m. **DROP-IN CENTRE**

Sun. Apr. 16: **EASTER SUNDAY**

7:00 a.m. **SUNRISE SERVICE** – bottom of Carleton Street.
Breakfast, at Wilmot, will following this service
9:30 a.m. **ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** - Board Room

11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.

WORSHIP & S.S.
COFFEE & CONVERSATION