



WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

March 25, 2018

Palm/Passion Sunday

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: The Reverend Rose-Hannah Gaskin

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Organ Prelude: All Glory, Laud, and Honour (Willan)

***Processional Hymn:** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna VU #123

Psalm 118:

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

Welcome to the Church

Lenten Candle Liturgy:

One: Today we will extinguish the last black candle. We have contemplated the barriers in our lives which separate us from God and which prevent us from living as children of the light.

All: **Like learning to play a musical instrument or riding a bike, being an active member of the family of God means work and practice. Often we lack the commitment needed to see the job through. We get tired of it, or bored, or it gets too difficult.**

One: We can imagine how easy it must have been to shout hosannas with the rest of the crowd as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. But it is not as easy to imagine being part of the crowd who shouted “crucify him” only days later but many were there. Being a person of faith takes commitment. It often means going against the crowd.

All: As we put out this candle, let us think of those times when we have not been strong in our commitment to the call of God. Let us also remember Christ and the light of his example.

One: Let us pray:

All: O God, we praise and adore You. In Your mercy You have reached out to us and made us Your covenant people. We want to be a faithful people, O God, yet You know our weakness. Transform our wavering steps so that we can be true disciples of Christ. Amen.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:

N. Thorne: Jesus has told us to go ahead of him into Jerusalem.

Choir: It’s always such a celebration to be in Jerusalem during Passover.

All: We come to this sanctuary as we enter Holy week.

N. Thorne: Come on, let’s go - we have been given specific instructions about where to go and for finding a donkey.

Choir: It’s such an honour to do what Jesus bids.

All: We worship together as a part of our discerning what Jesus calls us to do.

N. Thorne: This is really exciting, but I’m a little worried about how the crowd will react.

Choir: It seems that this is the most exciting day of Jesus’ ministry.

All: We, too, are challenged to risk entering Jerusalem with Jesus.

Time with the Young and the Young at Heart Rev. E. Beairsto

*** Hymn:** He Came Riding on a Donkey (verses 1 and 2) VU #124

Wonderings of a Disciple Dorothy Frazier

Scripture: Isaiah 50: 4-9a Craig Frame

Response:

C. Frame: We give thanks to you, O Lord, for you are good.
Your faithful love endures forever.

All: Your faithful love endures forever.

Anthem: Hosanna! (Shafferman)

Wonderings of a member of the crowd Lynda-Jean Coffin

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 1) VU #147

Scripture: Psalm 31: 9 – 16 Craig Frame

Wonderings of a Priest Heather Allaby

Scripture: Mark 14: 17-26 Judy Luton

Sermon: “A Week Like No Other” Rev. R-H Gaskin

Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Waiting VU #117

Offering and Offertory Verse: VU #541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication:

One: Save us

All: **from injustice, from hunger, from conflict, from indifference.**

One: Call us

All: **to works of justice, to feeding the hungry, to peacemaking in conflict, to seeking the lost.**

One: And so we will go

All: **with you, beside you, because of you, now. Amen.**

Scripture: Mark 14: 32-50 Judy Luton

* Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane VU #133

*Commissioning and Blessing

Stripping of the Sanctuary

Postlude: Christ Lay in Death's Dark Bonds (Bach)

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If you wish, you are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our Worship Service.
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The bulletins this morning are given by the Drain family to The Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life of **Gordon Stephen Drain**, who died March 8, 2017.

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 a **SOUP LUNCHEON** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the Worship service. Thank you to members of the **Outreach Committee and other volunteers** for providing this time of refreshments and fellowship.

THE PRAYER CIRCLE offers confidential prayer support for those with physical, emotional, family and spiritual needs. To have your concerns added to the Wilmot prayer list contact Guy Vezina (455-6174) or Raday Brown (454-3001).



Our sincere condolences go out to Lynn & Terry Fullarton and family on the passing of Lynn's brother, **Wayne MacDonald**, on March 16. Let us keep Lynn and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

"NO SCENTS MAKE GOOD SENSE": It has been our policy to ask that our "Wilmoteers" be aware that scented products can cause allergic reactions in some of our members. These can be triggered by perfume and aftershave, but also by certain "fresh-smelling" laundry products, soaps, and hair products. Please pay attention to how you use them.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER: On Easter Sunday, it is our tradition to express the joy of Jesus' Resurrection and honour the memory of family and friends, by decorating our Sanctuary with flowers. If you'd like to remember your loved ones in this way, please call or e-mail Marlene no later than Wed., April 4th to include their names in the bulletin. Lilies, plants or bouquets will be gratefully received at the church on Saturday morning after 9. After our Easter service, we hope you will take your floral gifts with you - to your home or perhaps, to bring a smile to another.

BOOK CLUB meets on Tuesday, March 27 at **7:30 pm** (note change in time from 7:00 o'clock) and we will discuss *Barometer Rising* by Hugh MacLennan. *Barometer Rising* was reprinted in 2017 to honour the centennial of the Halifax explosion on December 6, 1917, and the story takes place around the Halifax setting of that date, a compelling romance set against the horrors of war, told by a master storyteller. Come and join us for a cup of tea and some good conversation.

YOU CAN HELP! Several people from the Wilmot Community will be traveling to Cuba for a special event in early April. This event is a recognition event by the Cuban Government for Churches and groups who have participated in Community support roles over the past several years. The Wilmot family has generously donated to the needs in Cuba and we are asking for your continued support with this trip. The following is a list of items that we would like to take with us and make available to the people in Cuba. The needs include, sewing notions, pain medicines, first aid supplies, personal cares and hygiene products, small music instruments, music instruments spare parts, sheet music, and monetary donations. Thank you for your continued support. Your donations should be left with Norm Laverty or Greg Black. If you have any questions please contact Greg or Norm.

PANTRY DONATIONS! The first Sunday of each month the Outreach Committee collects donations for our Pantry (used at Wednesday at Wilmot). You may leave your donations inside the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall. Thank you for your support.



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: Wilmot UCW is now collecting items for its Spring Rummage Sale, April 27-28. Please keep the sale in mind as you begin your spring cleaning. Your surplus clothing and household items can be dropped off with Randy or left on the gym stage. Many thanks for your support!

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

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| <u>March 29</u> | 6:00 | Maundy Thursday Service (at St. Paul's) |
| <u>March 30</u> | 11:00 | Good Friday Service "The Cry of the Whole Congregation" |
| <u>March 31</u> | 7:30 | "Stabat Mater" – F'ton Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society – Wilmot United Church |

LENTEN CARBON FEST - WEEK OF MARCH 26

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 sights that will help you. Find out what more you can do about climate change. <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

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! APRIL 1 - GIVE THANKS

THIS EVENING, MARCH 25: CANDLELIGHT CONCERT FOR PALM SUNDAY -

The congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church invites you to join them this evening at 6:30 p.m. for a Candlelight Concert for Palm Sunday. Music which focuses on God's great gift of Christ and Christ's great sacrifice for us will be featured as presented by the adult choir and soloists. Offering from the evening is designated to support the work of the Fredericton Community Kitchen. A reception will follow. All welcome.

MARCH 26: For its spring concert, **Le Choeur Louisbourg** presents *Amidst Shadows and Light*, a program inspired by the vernal equinox. You'll be transported to a world of beauty and harmony with meditative works, accompanied by piano and string quartet, by Arvo Pärt and Ola Gjeilo, among others. Wilmot United Church at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26th. Tickets at the door \$25 for adults; \$20 for Symphony New Brunswick subscribers; admission is free for students.

MARCH 28: There will be a free **INFORMATION SESSION** on **"ESTATE PLANNING"** Wednesday, March 28, at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the gym of the Nashwaaksis United Church. Guest speaker is Janet Gorman of RBC. There will be time for questions and answers. Bring a friend. Light refreshments will be served.

MARCH 30th: The Fredericton Symphony Orchestra and the Fredericton Choral Society will be presenting Antonin Dvorak's "Stabat Mater" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30th at Wilmot United Church. This wonderful work, one of the towering monuments of choral music, is a setting of the 13th century hymn, 'Stabat Mater', which imagines Mary's suffering during Christ's crucifixion. Tickets are available at Read's Newsstand, from choir and orchestra members and at the door.

MARCH 31: The Jim Axelrod Big Little Band, an uptempo blues quartet featuring our own Steven Peacock on guitar, plays Frank's Finer Diner on Saturday, March 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. Come hear songs made famous by Billie Holiday, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, and Dutch Mason. Cover: \$10 (cash only, please). Plan to arrive early for a good seat.

Ecumenical Accompaniment in Palestine and Israel

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

In 2002, the World Council of Churches developed the program to create an international presence in the face of Israeli occupation. Since then the United Church has sent over 25 ecumenical accompaniers who have been posted in many regions of Palestine and Israel.

From February through April 2017, a United Church of Canada Ecumenical Accompanier was posted in north Israel. There they primarily monitored agricultural gates – counting the number of Palestinian farmers granted access to their land and noting whether the gates were open during their allotted times. During a visit, the Ecumenical Accompanier took United Church staff to a Palestinian park, where Palestinian families enjoy picnics and fresh air. The simple act of picnicking there is a protest against the occupation, and claims land that is (for now) Palestinian. Two Israeli settlements sit atop the valley ridge overlooking the park. The once-flowing river is diminished to a stream, as pipes route water over two kilometers to the Israeli settlement.

Ecumenical Accompaniers take a risk participating in the program. They also face a context very different than life in Canada. Many return to Canada informed and ready to advocate for a just peace and an end to the occupation. Mission & Service allows United Church Ecumenical Accompaniers to accompany the mission and ministry of the World Council of Churches in occupied Palestine. They share first-hand experiences to inform their local community of faith, civil society, and government of the realities of occupation. Our gifts for Mission & Service accompany partners in the midst of occupation.

If Mission & Service giving is already a part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, you are encouraged to make Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

March 25 – April 1

TODAY:

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION – Board Room

11:00 a.m.

WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL

12:00 p.m.

SOUP LUNCHEON

Mon, Mar. 26:

6:45 p.m.

TOASTMASTERS – Board Room

7:30 p.m.

LE CHOEUR LOUISBOURG Concert - Sanctuary

Tues, Mar. 27:

6:30 p.m.

SPANISH CLASS – Board Room

7:00 p.m.

BOOK CLUB - Parlour

Wed. Mar. 28:

9:00 a.m.

QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour

10:00 a.m.

TOY LIBRARY

1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS @ WILMOT

7:00 p.m.

NA GROUP – Fireside Room

Thurs. Mar. 29:

MAUNDY THURSDAY

9:30 a.m.

QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour

6:00 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE – St. Paul's United

6:30 p.m.

HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE

7:30 p.m.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Fri., March 30:

11:00 a.m.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – Wilmot United

7:30 p.m.

"STABAT MATER" - sanctuary

Sun. Apr. 1:

EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 a.m.

SUNRISE SERVICE followed by breakfast at St. Paul's

9:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION – Board Room

11:00 a.m.

WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL

12:00 p.m.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

