SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Purer in Heart (David Paxton)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/ Rainbow Candle of Inclusion Brian Walter

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN & PALM PARADE** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna *insert p 7*

CALL TO WORSHIP

For the message of the palm parade, a message of declaring that might has no power over righteousness, we give thanks to you O God. For the exuberance of those early followers of Jesus, we give thanks to you, O God. For the love of God expressed in community, we give thanks to you, O God. For justice proclaimed within the margins of society, we give thanks to you, O God. For the light of wisdom and compassion that shines in the shadows of our souls, we give thanks to you, O God. For the opportunity to gather in worship, we give thanks to you, O God. For this coming Holy Week in which the mysteries and the meaning of life are proclaimed, we give thanks to you, O God. we come in worship! (J.McKean, Orillia, On.)

INTROIT Entrance to Jerusalem (Wes Cameron) AUC Chancel Choir, with Lisa Kyriakides, Pat Innes, and Jennifer Schafer, handbells

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY Brandon Holmeshaw

We have gathered here, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine. As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the broken places in our world where people struggle every day to find meaning and purpose for their lives.

Sixth candle is extinguished.

Let us pray...

Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day—choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbours; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery *VU 121*

Tree of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord, give new strength to our believing; give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 118 Parts 1,3 & 4 (Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.) *insert p.7* Laurie Bentolila (Mary Kay Beall arr. John Carter)

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GOSPEL Mark 11:1-11 p.47 Pew Bible NT (Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Blessed is the One

*HYMN Eat This Bread and Never Hunger insert p 8

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

*THE NEW CREED VU p.918 *THE PEACE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY The King of Glory (arr. Anna Laura Page) Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble, with Jakob Robertson, tamborine

*DEDICATION Christ Has No Body Now but Yours MV 171 Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours. Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

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SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION insert p 9-10

*HYMN All Glory, Laud and Honour insert p 8

*COMMISSIONING

And now, with the shadow of the cross before us, and the memory of this meal behind us; in the presence of God let us leave this time and place to journey with Christ and one another into this Holy Week.

SUNG BLESSING May the Love of the Lord MV 218 May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day. May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

POSTLUDE Festive Voluntary on 'St. Theodulph' (Arthur Frackenpohl)



Walk the final steps of the Lenten Journey. Good Friday-March 29th Trinity Chapel 11 am Easter Sunday-March 31st Trinity Sanctuary 11 am



MISSION AND SERVICE

Leading Generations

London Community Chaplaincy offers a welcoming and safe social setting.

Becoming a parent or guardian is a life-changing, complex experience that doesn't have a one-size-fits-all answer. As kids, we looked to adults for guidance as we navigated the world with fresh eyes. We looked to teachers for help with schoolwork, and parental figures for managing emotions and fears. Now, as adults, we recognize that we're still figuring things out as we go, and there's always an opportunity to grow our skills and minds.

In London, Ontario, <u>Mission and Service</u> partners with the London Community Chaplaincy as they respond to parents and guardians who wish to build a network of support, share the parenting journey, and develop new skills as they navigate raising children in a low-income setting. Together, these parents are working hard to build a positive future for their children and families.

Each week London Community Chaplaincy provides a welcoming and safe social setting for adults to connect and grow as parents. Not only for learning how to guide a child through critical stages of development, but also for navigating the complex mental aspects of being a parent or guardian while also managing financial stress, food insecurity, housing complications, and more. Gathering with other adults in a similar situation allows participants to share their struggles and triumphs, further building a sense of community.

Your gifts to <u>Mission and Service</u> support partnerships like the London Community Chaplaincy as they help empower parents along the parenting journey. Thank you.

The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.



Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



PALM SUNDAY March 24, 2024 11:00 AM

On this Palm Sunday, may we, who are sometimes swayed by the crowd's approval, and who often avoid conflict for fear of its cost to us, hold fast to the gospel of peace and justice and follow faithfully in your way of compassion and solidarity with those who are poor and excluded, wherever it may lead us. (K.Galloway, Iona Community)

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Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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!

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 118, parts 1,3,&4

R Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Let Israel now say: "God's love endures for ever." Let the house of Aaron say: "God's love endures for ever." Let those who fear God say: "God's love endures for ever." R

Open to me the gates of the temple, that I may enter and five thanks to God. This is the gate of God; through it the righteous shall enter.

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

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

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

Save us, O God, we pray; God, we pray, give us success. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. We bless you from the house of God. You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will extol you. R Eat This Bread and Never Hunger

Eat this bread and never hunger, drink this cup and never thirst; Christ invites us to the table where the last become the first.

Asking for a cup of water, Jesus touched forbidden ground; and the woman, with a question, told the world what she had found. \mathbf{R}

Walking down a desert highway, Jesus healed a man born blind; soon the man became a witness to the truth we seek and find. \mathbf{R}

Weeping for his friend at graveside, Jesus felt the pain of death; yet he knew God's power to waken: living water, living breath. **R**

All Glory, Laud and Honour

All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel, and David's royal son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed one. \mathbf{R}

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. \mathbf{R}

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. \mathbf{R}

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king. \mathbf{R}

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving Palm Sunday



Let us open our hearts to the One who breaks bread.

We offer our doubt, our fears, our needs.

Let us give thanks to the Root of the vine.

We offer our hope, our joy, our praise.

We praise you, Source and Sustainer of life: in love you cause all things to be; from stardust and spirit you weave our humanity; when we mourn, your tears comfort us; when we weary you, your prophets pursue us; when we come home, your feast awaits us. Thank you, gracious Host, for inviting us to this table, where we find unlikely companions to confront and comfort us, receiving bread to sustain

us on our journey, and share life's cup of laughter and tears.

We give thanks for the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth,

who feeds us and feasts with us, who heals us and suffers with

us, who proclaims the nearness of your reign. Christ's death and resurrection release us from the famine of death and teaches us how to die so that we may live.

Therefore, with all creation and all creatures, with all who

hunger for your reign and hope for new creation, we share

the song of praise which echoes through the universe:

O holy, holy God, O God of time and space, All earth and seas and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always. (MV 203)

At his last meal with his friends, Jesus renewed your covenant promise. He took bread, thanked You, and broke the bread, giving

it to his friends, saying: 'Take this and eat it. This is my body, given

to you. Each time you do this, remember me.' We remember him.

After the meal was over, he took the cup of blessing, thanked You,

and poured the wine, giving it to his friends, saying: 'Take this and drink it. This is my blood, given for you. Each time you drink this,

remember me.'

We remember him.

And so we do as he asked us, loving God. We pray that your Spirit might fill these gifts and fill us - that all might be vessels of your love, your hope and your life in the world.

Come, holy Spirit, come!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

(MV 204)

May your Holy Spirit rest upon these gifts. May they nourish and sustain us for your work in this world. For in our joy, you are the overflowing cup and in our need you are the bread by which we journey on. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity

of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! Amen, amen,

O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen! (MV 205)

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion elements of bread cubes and rice crackers are shared today with tongs; juice is served in separate glasses. Please make your way to one of the serving stations at the front of the sanctuary, by way of a central aisle. Receive the elements, stay for as long as you wish and then return to your seat by an outside aisle.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another is gift and grace. Amen.