

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
March 24th, 2024
PALM SUNDAY

Praise Medley: The Servant King, Majesty, Hosanna

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting our Lenten Candles

**ALL: We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.**

We join with the crowd that eagerly awaited the coming of Jesus.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Fulfilling prophecy, Jesus entered the city, riding humbly on a donkey.

**(louder) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
God. Hosanna in the highest!**

The crowd was filled with excitement and anticipation. Yet, within a few short days, they were scattered, disillusioned, and frightened, unwilling to commit themselves as far as the Christ would have them go.

**(softer) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
God. Hosanna in the highest!**

We too long to join the triumphal procession, only to find ourselves burdened by the past, fearful of the future, reluctant to accept the way of the cross.

**(softer) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
God. Hosanna in the highest!**

Yet this Palm Sunday we receive palm branches as a reminder of the welcome offered to Jesus as he travelled toward the cross.

**(louder) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
God. Hosanna in the highest!**

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God! Hosanna in the highest!”

**(very loud) Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
God. Hosanna in the highest!**

**ALL: We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.**

Open the gates!

**Love has come! Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the
highest heaven!**

Open the gates!

**The stone the builders rejected has become the
cornerstone.**

Open the gates!

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

Open the gates!

**Give thanks to God! God’s steadfast love endures
forever.**

Open the gates!

Love has come!

Opening Prayer: (unison)

**Love has burst through the gates of Jerusalem! We welcome
the obedient, humble, and sacrificial love of God into our lives
on this Palm Sunday. Fill our hearts with this love as we
worship the one who taught us how to love one another. Amen.**

Hymn: Hosanna, Hosanna

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Loving God, we have journeyed through the long Season of
Lent in the hopes of drawing closer to you. Today, Jesus enters
Jerusalem as a sovereign, but the week ahead will bring torture
and trial. God, we know there are times when we have betrayed
you, denied you, and turned away from you. We recall the times
when we have behaved like the crowd that shouts their praise
today, but will shout “Crucify him” later this week. We humbly
ask your forgiveness. (silent reflection)**

Words of Affirmation:

In the powerful events of Jesus' passion and death, God demonstrates that there are no limits to the love God has for us, no matter what we do. Remember the examples of love that Jesus gives, and be free from your sins.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Hymn: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus **VU 357 vs. 1, 3, 4**

A Time with the Children

Offertory Hymn: When We Are Living **VU 581 vs. 2**

Offertory Prayer:

Generous and loving God, you poured out your love for us in your son, Jesus, who emptied himself and was obedient, even to the point of death on the cross. We come today with these gifts as a sign of our love poured out for you. May we be reminded that these gifts, along with our gifts of time and abilities, help to show your steadfast love to the world outside these walls. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 118 on page 837 of VU, Parts 1, 3 & 4

Refrain: 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.'

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Open to me the gates of the temple,
that I may enter and give 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!**

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah!

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.

God, our God, has given us light;

with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will extol you.

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Ministry of Music: 'Hosanna'

The Crown of Thorns

The Cross

The Nails

The Sign

The Dice

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Gentle Shepherd

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

Benediction