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The Right Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie, Bishop

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***“Together in Christ
we seek to love God and
to love and serve all others”***

April 5, 2020

Palm & Passion Sunday

Sunday Virtual Worship Service



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.

Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover preaches and presides today.

We begin, as we are able, outside.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: As we meet together, we begin by remembering the Lekwungen speaking people, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through the many generations. As we meet together, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent, whose joyful spirit embraces us. Now let us greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

The Liturgy of the Palms

One: Blessed in he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: **Hosanna in the highest!**

Greeting: Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

Opening Prayer: Let us pray. **Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gospel: *Matthew 21:1-11*

Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also, go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

The Collect for Palm Sunday: Almighty God, whose son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it is for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Procession: Let us go forth in peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn: CP 181 All Glory Laud and Honor (vs 1, 3, 5)

Refrain:

***All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.***

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One.

(Refrain)

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.

(Refrain)

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.

(Refrain)

Greeting:

The way has been prepared.

For the crowds it is the way of celebration.

For Jesus it is the way of completion.

Amid shouts and waving palm branches, he comes into the Holy City.

Open your hearts this day to receive the Savior.

We open wide our hearts and spirits to receive Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Penitential Rite

Call to Confession: We gather today recognizing that this sacred journey is one we live into as individuals and as communities. In love we are called to be co-creators with God, to be truth-tellers, reconcilers and healers, but our failures and shortcomings often leave us keenly aware of what seems an unbridgeable distance from the mystery and the promise of holy relationship.

In Christ, God bridges this distance and reaches out to us across time and space. The season of Lent, invites us to reflect on those places in us that are broken; places where we are in need of God's love poured out. We are called to reflect on those places in our relationships and our communities where there is brokenness and a need for God's reconciling love. And we are called to reflect on our world and the places where there is brokenness and a need for a new and right relationship. As we reflect, we do so with contrite but hopeful hearts, trusting in God's steadfast love and infinite mercy.

Confession:

Forgive us when we encounter ourselves,
 With thoughts of worthlessness...
 With feelings of anger...
 Ignoring our own needs, our values, and our dreams.

Kyrie, eleison
Christe, eleison
Kyrie, eleison.

Forgive us when we encounter each other,
 With thoughts of worthlessness...
 With feelings of anger...
 Ignoring each other's needs, values, and dreams.

Kyrie, eleison
Christe, eleison
Kyrie, eleison.

Forgive us when we encounter you, O Lord,
 With thoughts of worthlessness...
 With feelings of anger...
 Ignoring your needs, values, and dreams for us.

Kyrie, eleison
Christe, eleison
Kyrie, eleison

Absolutions: Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Collect of the Day: Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now ad for ever. Amen.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

First Reading: *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

Jose Perena Pratt

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
For the Word of God is scripture, For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 31:9-16

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;

* my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;

* my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours, a dismay to those of my acquaintance;

* when they see me in the street they avoid me.

I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;

* I am as useless as a broken pot.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

* they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

* I have said, "You are my God. My times are in your hand;

* rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant,

* and in your loving-kindness save me."

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 27:11-54 (Narrative reading)*

Evangelist: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Evangelist: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Evangelist: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So, after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Evangelist: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's wife: Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Evangelist: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Crowd: Barabbas.

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Crowd: Let him be crucified!

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Crowd: *(louder)* Let him be crucified!

Evangelist: So, when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd.

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Crowd: His blood be on us and on our children!

Evangelist: So, he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him.

Soldiers: Hail, King of the Jews!

Evangelist: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads.

Passers-by: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Evangelist: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him.

Priests: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'

Evangelist: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Evangelist: That is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystanders: This man is calling for Elijah.

Evangelist: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

Bystanders: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Evangelist: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!

Sermon:

Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover

Affirming of Faith: *(New Zealand Prayer Book)*

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,**

who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

Christ, we pray that you would hear our prayers, and graft in our minds the same mind that is in you, that we might be vessels of your humility and grace. Lord Jesus, you emptied yourself, trading in the form of God for the form of a slave; we pray for the Church, and all her people and ministers. Form us into a Church that empties itself for others, and for you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you were born in human likeness, and found in human form; we pray for the whole human family, for the nations of the earth, and for all who live in the midst of disaster, famine, or terror. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, even after humbling yourself in your incarnation, you humbled yourself even to the point of death; we pray for our nation, our leaders, and all the people who live within these borders. Bless us with your humility. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus your humility and your love for us was so broad and deep, it cost you your life. We pray for those who we love who have died, and as you were highly exalted, may they rest with you in glory. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your exaltation, O Lord, you were given the name that is above every name; we pray in your name for those who are poor, those who are hungry, and those who are hurting in any way. Give them your grace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray, in your name O Lord, for those who are sick (especially...); give them the gift of healing, strength, and life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You humbled yourself in the manger, and you humbled yourself on the cross; and to you O Lord we bend our knee with those above and those below, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer:

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing:

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning Hymn: Long Before the Night (This Ancient Love)

Long before the night was born from darkness
Long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire
Long before she wrapped her scarlet arm around the hills there was a love, this ancient love
was born.

Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside
Long before a wing unfolded to wind
Long before she wrapped her long blue arm around the sea there was a love, this ancient love
was born.

Long before a chain was forged from the hillside
Long before a voice uttered freedom's cry
Long before she wrapped her bleeding arms around a child there was a love, this ancient love
was born.

Long before the name of a God was spoken
Long before a cross was nailed from a tree
Long before she laid her arm of colors 'cross the sky there was a love, this ancient love was born.

Wakeful our night, slumbers our morning
Stubborn the grass sowing green wounded hills
As we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held this ancient love, this aching love rolls on.

Commissioning: Lord, just as we have entered Jerusalem with you, be with us in all the Jerusalems we will be facing. Guide our steps. Encourage our hearts. Give us abundant faith to follow you. **Amen.**

TODAY WE PRAY

*Pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.
Logan our Bishop, Sandra our Rector, & Paul our Associate Priest.
S. Peter, Comox & the Diocese of Kootenay.
In the Selkirk Region for Corrections.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Joan, Maureen, Elmer & Alice, Lucy, Barb, Peter, Mike, Rob, Peggy,
Carol Ann, Rick, Brad, & Herm.*