

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

April 14, 2019

We Celebrate Communion & Community on Palm/Passion Sunday

(★ invites people to stand as they are able; **people's part in bold type**)

We Gather in this Sacred Space

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

Entry Into Celebration



Welcome to Westminster United Church.
We extend a warm and special welcome to those who are married, single, divorced, widowed, LGBTQ or straight, filthy rich or dirt poor, broken-hearted, or in need of a safe haven. We welcome you if you're a crying newborn or a senior citizen, or somewhere in between. You are welcome here if you can sing like Celine Dion or Michael Bubl , or if you can't carry a note in a bushel basket. You are welcome here if you're happy, or down in the dumps, or having problems (who isn't?). We welcome latte-sippers and coffee guzzlers, vegetarians and carnivores, pop drinkers and junk food eaters. You are welcome here if you work too hard, or don't work at all, or you're retired. You are welcome here whether you're a fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs or the Detroit Red Wings, and even if you believe the earth is flat. Whoever you are, and whatever your life's circumstances, you are welcome here at Westminster United Church...

The singing bowl is sounded three times...

An Act of Awareness for Palm/Passion Sunday

For the past five weeks of the Lenten Season we have been preparing for this moment in the story of Jesus' public ministry. Now, we are one week from Easter.

Quiet Reflection

According to our Christian tradition, today – Palm Sunday – marks the day Jesus entered Jerusalem...just a few days before his death. The gospel stories tell us that as he made his way into the Holy City, riding on a donkey, the crowds shouted joyous blessings and heartfelt hosannas.

The gospel stories tell us too that the people waved 'palm' branches, and spread their cloaks on the road.



Quiet Reflection

But that's not the whole story. According to our Christian tradition – today is also Passion Sunday – the day we solemnly remember, and reflect on the meaning and significance of Jesus' arrest and interrogation
...his pain and suffering
...his enduring and his dying.

Quiet Reflection

★Opening Hymn VU 122

" All Glory, Laud and Honour "

An Affirmation of Faith

“Waving the Palms”

by David O. Rankin, UUA Worship Web, *adapted*

Palm Sunday is found whenever we are serving a noble and unpopular cause with selfless devotion, holding to the ideals of truth and justice.

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

Palm Sunday is found whenever we are seeking to uplift the fallen, to comfort the brokenhearted, to strengthen the weak and hopeless.

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

Palm Sunday is found whenever we are working bravely and persistently in the face of abuse and criticism to establish more equitable relations in the world.

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

Palm Sunday is found whenever we are sacrificing our lives on behalf of what we faithfully understand to be the service of love for all humanity.

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

So may it be. Amen.

Solo“ *The Holy City* ”

Brian Stocks

in dedication to Ann Alexander

Readings from Our Faith TraditionsFrom the Gospels

Luke 19:28-40

From the Epistles of Paul

Philippians 2:5-8

From the Contemporary World “Donkey Day”a poem by Janet Lees, in Let Justice Roll Down, p. 129**Reflections on****Our Palm/Passion Sunday Readings**

May our hearts and minds be open to the wisdom of these texts from our faith traditions, both ancient and modern.

And may our hearts and minds be fertile soil in which wisdom may grow and thrive...

★Hymn VU 123 “ *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* ”**Sermon**“ *Into Jerusalem* ”

Rev D Stewart

★Hymn VU 144

“ *Were You There* ”

omit v. 3

Our Responsive Celebrations**Pastoral Prayers** (Responsive)

On this Holy Day – on this Palm and Passion Sunday – we have come to this sacred place, bringing our joys and concerns.

So, at this time, let us quietly reflect on those blessings and burdens...

Quiet Reflection

As one heart is lifted,

May we share its celebration.

As one heart is encumbered,

May we share the pain it knows.**The Lord’s Prayer** (unison)**We Present Our Gifts and Offerings**

★Offertory Hymn VU 542

“ *We Give You But Your Own* ”**Offertory Prayer**

A Palm/Passion Sunday Celebration Of Communion and Community

The Peace

May a heart of peace rest with you.
And also with you.



The Invitation

Here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our unity with one another,
and all who have gone before us.
And here today, through bread and wine,
we renew our communion with the Sacred,
with Mother Earth, with one another,
and with broken ones of the world.

The Story

Our faith-tradition tells us this story:
Long ago, on the night of his arrest,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it;
after which he said,
'This bread is broken as my body will be.'
Then he handed the bread to his friends,
inviting them to eat, and
to *'Remember all that I have been to you.'*
Long ago, on that same night,
Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it,
and gave it to his friends. He said to them,
'This wine is poured out, as my life will be.'
Remember me and give thanks for all I have given.'

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Creativity-God, Source of Life, we give thanks
**For all gifts simple and profound,
in country and city.**

We who hold all such good things in trust join in
the praise of all people:

Holy! Holy! Holy!
Heaven and earth are holy and good.

Holy is peace.

Holy is truth.

Holy is love.

Quiet Reflection

In this season of transition – when the sun warms
the earth, the ice melts, the snow disappears,
and the days lengthen... and when budding trees
and all the signs of spring begin to appear –

**We are reminded once again that new
possibilities can arise from what has come
to an end, and from our failures and
disappointments.**

We give thanks for all the influences in our lives
that have helped us see beyond the present –
those influences that teach us to combine labour
and rest...those influences that bring us cycles
of time and season, that sustain us when we
are in need.

**God loves in us; God loves through us;
God laughs and cries in us, as nowhere else.**

Especially, we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth –
gatherer of people, breaker of bread, pourer of
wine, weaver of lives. In his life, wisdom, stories
and social vision we recall the words he spoke and
the actions he took, which call forth in us respect for
one another and the earth...loving compassion
...and an insatiable hunger and unquenchable
thirst for justice in this world.

We believe the same Spirit of God that came to visibility in Jesus also yearns for visible expression in us, through us, and by us.

★ **Communion Hymn MV 199** “*When at This Table*”
(Communion servers please come forward at the beginning of v. 3)

Bread and Wine

Today – on this day which is known in our faith tradition as Palm and Passion Sunday – we too take the bread and wine...

(The Bread is broken...the Wine is poured out by the minister)

Bread broken...Wine poured out...
for the life of the world.

Come, taste of this same bread and wine
...gifts of the earth...work of human hands.

(The people are served the bread and wine by intinction)

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks for this sacred place,
and what we have done here today.

**And now, we return to our daily lives,
renewed and enlivened.**

★ **Closing Hymn VU 127**

“ Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! ”

★ **Parting Words**

As we prepare to leave this sacred place,
let us commit ourselves to taking on this week’s life
with renewed hope and imagination...

Quiet Reflection

May our life’s journeys

Shine like a star.

May our days and our years

Weave together a wonderful tapestry.

May our unfolding stories

Dance with the grace of every blessing.

The singing bowl is sounded three times...

★ **Words of Blessing**

May beauty delight you.

May tenderness cocoon you.

May love nurture you.

★ **Choral Sending Forth VU 148**

“ Jesus, Remember Me ”

Postlude

*Lectionary Readings for Sunday, April 21
~ Easter Sunday ~*

Acts 10: 34-43 or Isaiah 65: 17-25

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 or Acts 10: 34-43

John 20: 20: 1-18 or Luke 24: 1-12

Westminster United Church

1680 Dougall Ave at Tecumseh Rd. W., Windsor, Ontario, N8X 1S3

Church Office Phone: 519-258-1471

E-mail: westmin@mnsi.net

Website: www.westminsterunited.org

Facebook: WestminsterUnited Church

Minister: Rev Del Stewart



Schedule of Worship Services
Shared with other United Churches

Thursday, April 18 – *Maundy Thursday*, 6 pm,
hosted by Bedford United Church, 3340 Sandwich St.

Friday, April 19 – *Good Friday Worship*, 10:30 am,
hosted by Emmanuel United Church, 1728 Lincoln Rd.

Saturday, April 20 – *Tenebrae Worship*, 7 pm,
hosted by Riverside United Church, 881 Glidden Ave.

Sunday, April 21 – *Early Easter Worship*, 8:30 am,
hosted by Central United Church, 660 Ouellette Ave.

Sunday, April 21 – *Easter Celebrations*
at all of the churches at their usual worship time.



ATTENTION ALL WESTMINSTER MEMBERS & ADHERENTS

We seek your input regarding the future of Westminster United
How do you envision our church in the next 5 years or so?

At our Annual Meeting in February, a motion was passed that directed our Trustees, in consultation with the Council, to consider various options, including placing the church property for sale, and to make a recommendation by June 1. With that goal in mind, please join us for our usual Sunday service on **May 5** when we will gather in the Hearth Room to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding the future of the property and the congregation. We welcome all suggestions and hope that one person's ideas will inspire new ones from others. Jim Kennedy will lead this brainstorming session.

Let's hear from every one of you! If you are unable to attend, please pass on your thoughts and ideas by email (westmin@mnsi.com) or in person to Jim. Your input will help Trustees and Council make an informed and inclusive recommendation. – Westminster Trustees & Church Council