

### **March 28, 2021 – Email/At Home Missal**

A blessed Palm Sunday to you, and thank you for joining us for worship, whether by print, email or Zoom. For the season of Lent and into Holy Week, we are working with a combination of stories/articles and scriptures, and our services invite you into a reflective mode.

This week, you received the third story (*George in the Garage*) with scripture & questions. We will study this set of material today, in tension with the Palm Sunday reading from the Gospel of Luke. For Easter Sunday, you will receive the story “Sheldon Seeks Sanctuary”, and reflection scriptures, which we will study on Easter Sunday together, along with singing a new song written and composed by John Oldham & our very own gifted Brad Moggach 😊 Kleenex alert, the beautiful truth-speaking words and the uplifting hopeful melody may bring tears to your eyes on Easter Sunday 😊

For Holy Week, along with Palm Sunday service, we will have services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday – all prepared for delivery in three forms: print, email and ZOOM. The links for the ZOOM gatherings are all included below. ALL are WELCOME.

#### **Palm Sunday Worship - March 28, 2021 ZOOM opens at 09:45 AM and worship begins at 10:00 am.**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83342556888?pwd=OWYwamJXWDQyQXdKL2o3aDdkZ0lrZz09>  
Meeting ID: 833 4255 6888 Passcode: 617142

#### **Maundy Thursday Worship - April 1, 2021 ZOOM opens at 6:45 PM and worship begins at 7:00pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570639676?pwd=WHZFZVhmSFFWVUxscDBqU1cudVptdz09>  
Meeting ID: 875 7063 9676 Passcode: 446702

#### **Good Friday Worship - April 2, 2021 ZOOM opens at 09:45 AM and worship begins at 10:00 am.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89528195031?pwd=d3BhaENjYVNlTHZQd2lBeHovSDAzZz09>  
Meeting ID: 895 2819 5031 Passcode: 660999

#### **Easter Sunday Service - April 4, 2021 ZOOM opens at 09:45 AM and worship begins at 10:00 am.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87808117422?pwd=YU82enZxSjJEak5CUlZKWWYvV2hpQT09>  
Meeting ID: 878 0811 7422 Passcode: 034530

**You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of the Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):**

1 587 328 1099 or  
1 647 374 4685 or  
1 647 558 0588 or  
1 778 907 2071 or  
1 204 272 7920 or  
1 438 809 7799

As we proceed through Holy Week, doorway and walking visits, telephone/video call visits and delivery of home communion kits including a dining table liturgy remain available. Please contact the church office if you would like any of these 😊 Keep safe: distance, wash, mask, and love each other.

With love, in Christ  
Pastor Janaki.

**Welcome remarks: Prepare yourself with pen/pencil and paper, and take a few moments to write down any prejudices, burdens or worries you would like to lay down before God this Holy week. Today we may not all have palms fronds to wave and lay down ... but we all have something we could bring to God and leave with God. Write a few of those things down on your paper**

**Welcome**

Pastor: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord

***C: Hosanna in the highest***

**Palm Sunday Gospel – Luke 19:28-40**

***C: Glory to you O Lord.***

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."'

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They said,

***C: 'The Lord needs it.'***

Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

***C: 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!***

***Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'***

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.'

He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

***This is the Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ. \****

**Greeting:**

**The Lord be with you, in your home and in mine.**

**Blessing of the things we lay down:**

**Blessing:** Beloved God, through Jesus and his love, you have redeemed the world. Jesus knew he was entering the holy city of Jerusalem to die by crucifixion. Though he had asked for this cup to be removed from him, he was obedient to God's will ... so much so that Jesus entered Jerusalem within a spirit of celebration. The disciples praised Jesus, laid a pathway of cloaks and branches, proclaimed Jesus as King. Jesus set us an example of faithful obedience. Today we celebrate Jesus entering the holy city of Jerusalem, walking towards suffering with love. God, bless these burdens and heal these prejudices we carry today, and we who bear them. Although we may be reluctant, as we bring them before you, may we be reminded of Jesus' faithfulness. Holy Spirit, equip us who carry these burdens, who bear these prejudices, that we may walk in these pandemic times of fear with courage and faithful obedience, as Jesus did. Amen.

***C: Amen***

**Gathering Hymn: Lead Kindly Light (Robb Wilson, soloist, Bradley Moggach, piano)**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFQa4orSziE>

Words & Music: Audrey Assad © 2013 Fortunate Fall Music Catalogs: Fortunate Fall Music Administrators: Music Services, Inc. Songwriters: Audrey Assad Used by Permission. CCLI License # 11098609

**Prayer of the Day:** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Holy God, by your boundless love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to show us how to live with courage and faithful obedience in the midst of fear. Help us to follow Jesus' example. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation: Take, O, Take Me As I Am ELW 814**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mf3QHqQ-004>

Text & Tune: John L. Bell © 1995 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland Administrators; Wild Goose Resource Group Used by Permission, CCLI License # 11098609

**The Holy Gospel according to John 9:1-11**

***C: Glory to you O Lord***

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'

Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?'

Some were saying, 'It is he.'

Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?'

He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' [NRSV]

**This is the Gospel of our Lord C: Praise to you O Christ**

**Message (Imagine Pastor Janaki's voice here 😊) The recovery of sight 😊**

Two weeks ago, as part of our study time for worship, we looked at the story of Joe Hatch, a true story of a man who ended up homeless, but also became a participant in a research project on homelessness. As part of this project, he was provided with a home and supports to help him get back on his feet. Joe is now employed and has resumed his place in the brickwork of social norms. I fashioned the study story I wrote for today using some of Joe's experiences, with the exception of a research project that provided a home for the character in this week's story, George.

George is an indigenous man whose parents attended residential school in Brantford, at the Mush-hole or Mohawk Institute. He was adopted out to a Mennonite family as a very young child, in the 60's – a time when this scooping of children from their indigenous homes for placement with Euro-Canadian families was common practice. The disconnection at an early stage from his own culture and heritage had an impact on George.

On a trajectory of George's mental health is much like that of Joe Hatch. Eventually he finds himself stable and homeless during the pandemic, and he seeks shelter by trespassing, really breaking and entering into the garage of a woman he has come to have a passing friendship with. He is not stealing anything but shelter. He is doing this out of necessity. This story is a little like the Treese and Joe story in that it involves a homeless person taking up residence in part of a home without the owner's knowledge.

For this Palm Sunday, we hold this fictional story based on a true story in tension with the story of Jesus healing a blind man from the Gospel of John. People who are born with disabilities like blindness in that time were believed to be bearing the sins of their parents. So the disciples, when they encounter this blind man, ask Jesus, "Who sinned? This man or his parents?"

The thing is the blind man would have been on the very periphery of society ... cities often had walls and he would have sat, perhaps begging, at the city gate, or outside the walls. He was a marginalized person. The most common reaction to him would have been to ignore him. Perhaps the way we might want to ignore someone who is homeless on our streets today – it is hardly ever a matter of pleasure to take note of someone who is living marginally and in an interesting way we too are blind ... blind to those who live marginally.

Jesus identifies the blind man as what, in modern marketing terms would be considered a marketing opportunity ... he is a marketing opportunity for God, Jesus says (I paraphrase here). The message Jesus is trying to get across is that this blind man can be the subject through whom God's glory is made manifest. This blind man can bear witness to God's glory.

Jesus speaks to the opportunity to do God's work – it is a collective opportunity .... "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day" – notice he does not say:

“I must work the works of him who sent me”

nor does he say

“You must work the works of him who sent me”

Rather this is a collective opportunity ... “we must”.

There is mystery of a form in what follows. Jesus makes a spit paste with the dirt and his own spit (something I would not recommend you try at home especially during pandemic times), and he applies this paste to the blind man’s eyes. But healing is not immediate. The blind man has to follow an instruction Jesus gives, to go to the pool of Siloam to wash the spit paste off. It seems when the Jesus-spit-paste is washed off per Jesus’ instructions, voila, the blind man is able to see.

Not only is he able to see though ... he is able to give witness to the one who opened his eyes ... and because he was known to be blind from birth and is healed as a grown man, the people who realize his sight has been restored are hugely curious as to how this incredible thing happened ... aren’t you the blind man? How comes you aren’t tapping around with your cane any more buddy? How comes you aren’t bumping into things?

Four critical things happen in this story:

--The disciples question the source of the blind man’s affliction.

--Jesus identifies a COLLECTIVELY executed divine marketing opportunity and intervenes (spit paste and instructions are given)

--The blind man obeys Jesus and sight is gained (note, not restored as he was always blind, but his eyes are opened and he is able to see for the first time).

--When people ask him what the heck happened, he bears witness to the one who brought him healing.

So, where do you see yourself in this story? Where do you see Jesus in the story?

Are you a disciple who questions the sources of the afflictions of others? More specifically, when you see someone suffering or marginalized do you turn to Jesus and ask: what is happening here? Why is this person suffering? Is it their own fault? Was it their parents fault? (or any other question ... was it the wrong medication?)

When you encounter that person on the margins, are you willing to be part of a Jesus-inspired collectively executed marketing opportunity? Are you willing to be part of the solution, part of the healing process as a means of bringing Glory to God when the opportunity presents itself? (once again I re-iterate please do not literally try the spit paste salve on anyone – that kind of behaviour may get you arrested during pandemic times especially!)

If you are blind in any way – blind to the suffering of others, blind to your own privilege, blind to how you can be a force of healing ... are you willing to do what Jesus says, to follow his instructions to renew your sight? One of the best instructions for sight recovery is “love each other” – which we will study more on Maundy Thursday.

Finally, when healing has happened, when you have been a part of a collective divine marketing opportunity, are you willing to tell the story? Are you willing to bear witness to the incredible healing possible through our living saviour, Jesus?

People like Joe Hatch, Treeseey and Joe, Susie and George – people who find themselves homeless, down and out, maybe addicted and/or self-medicating in some way ... those who find themselves barely making ends meet, living in substandard ways ... do we see them as sinners? Do we see them as greater sinners than our own selves? Or do we see them as opportunities to shine the light of Jesus, the light of hope and healing into the world?

Are we blind to those opportunities that mask themselves as people who find themselves homeless, addicted, unemployed or otherwise “down and out”?

If we are blind, that need not be our end-game. If we are willing to follow Jesus’ instructions, to go and wash in the pool of being sent as disciples, we will become able to see.

And in that seeing, we will draw others to Jesus, because they will recognize that something has changed in us. Something has changed because of us. Something has changed because God is with us, working from within the process to bring sight from blindness, to bring opportunity from blindness.

We have an incredible opportunity to prepare the way for others to encounter Jesus. This opportunity requires that we lay down before Jesus, not our cloaks and coats, not palm fronds and palm leaves, but that we lay down our prejudices, we lay down our burdensome attitudes of scarcity and selfishness and ego and insecurity – and then walk with Jesus, loving each other – and shining the light of Christ into the world. Amen.

### **Hymn of the Day Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW 445 Beach Spring**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VRxVTHUewU>

Author: Ruth C. Duck (1987); Copyright: Words © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Beach Spring, Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr Selected Hymns 1985

Tune: © 1978, Augsburg Fortress; Copyrights 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; Used by Permission. CCLI License #11098609

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Confident that God provides for us abundantly, we bring our prayers before God...

Holy God, our Father, you give us your son, Jesus,  
and you equip us and empower us with the Holy Spirit.  
You lead us with instructions, by example, and with inner promptings.  
Strengthen us to be obedient to you, and to be hopeful about our leaders.  
Where leaders fall or do wrong, help them to be raised up.

### ***God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.***

Generous & Abundant God, you bless us with many gifts.  
Here in Cambridge, in Waterloo Region:  
you have given us as a congregation the gift of many opportunities:  
    opportunities for partnerships, opportunities for our facilities.  
May we invest our gifts in the work of your Kingdom,  
    as we follow you to Jerusalem this Palm Sunday.  
Help us to be responsible servants, investing wisely the gifts you give us.  
Help us to return to you, in Word, sacrament and actions of love:  
In this Holy Week, draw us closer to you in the Word.

### ***God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.***

Great and Holy Spirit, you walk alongside us always,  
Nudging us towards deepening relationship with God.  
Be with the families and loved ones of those who have died unexpectedly.  
As we encounter news of pandemic deaths, violence and disasters in our world,  
    keep us open to your nudging,  
    help us to hear you,  
Make us your Holy vessel and a channel for your love.

### ***God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.***

God who sees all and knows all, we Pray:  
For people across Canada who are affected by: family violence and incarceration,  
of whom Indigenous people are affected in disproportionate numbers.  
We pray for our children's and youth ministry.  
We pray for those who are questioning meaning and purpose.

We ask God to be with those who suffer,  
especially those we name aloud  
or in the silence of our hearts  
***(leave time for the prayers to come forward).***

For these we have named, and the ones we hold in our hearts, we pray.

***God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.***

God of Love, you call us to serve our neighbors.

Nourish us with word and sacrament and bless those who are unable to worship today.

Receive our prayers into your tender-loving care, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

**Meal:**

**Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsiaRdyFr50>

**Prayer after Communion**

Compassionate God:

you feed us with your bread of love,

you quench our thirst with your wine of forgiveness.

Sustain us during this time of Lent:

give us your hunger for justice,

make us generous with a love like yours.

Make us one with Jesus.

*Amen*

**Sending hymn #338 Beneath the Cross**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUmGZKMaaFI>

Text: Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane; Tune: Bradley Moggach; © Tune Name: Parker.2; © Words: Public Domain

Used by Permission. CCLI License # 11098609

**Blessing:**

May God bless you and keep you.

May the face of God shine upon you with grace and mercy.

May God look upon you with favor

and give you ☩ peace.

Amen.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace: faithful, hopeful and loving.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #42368. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.