

Preparing for Service During the Week

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*) [Voices United #960]

Announcements & Notices

***Parting Hymn: "In Suffering Love"** [Voices United #614]

*Commissioning

***Sung Blessing: "May the Love of the Lord"**
[see inside front cover of Voices United]

Organ Postlude

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*We invite visitors and regulars alike to stay for coffee and conversation
after the service. Thank you for being here.*

Bulletin Dedication

*Remembering all in my family who have birthdays in March:
Dennis, Kyle, Maddison and Chaylene*

— Claire Buchanan

Next week: Easter Sunday

Readings: 1st Corinthians 15:1-11

Psalms 118 part 1,2,3 Voices United #837

Mark 16:1-8



Hosanna!

St. George & St. Andrew United Church
—Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts—

Worship Leader: Rev. Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings, M.Div.
Organist: Deirdre Morrell-Ormerod, B.Mus.Ed., Lic.Mus.M.M.

Sunday, March 25, 2018
Palm/Passion Sunday

[*indicates to stand, if able]

Gathering the Community

The Organ Prelude will commence at 11:00 AM. Please remain seated and use the time during this period to quietly prepare for our time of worship together.

Organ Prelude
Welcome & Introduction to the Service
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Silence

*Call to Worship

Leader: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks
People: We journey through praise, with joy on our lips, we will face betrayal and abandonment and cradle hope deep in our hearts
Leader: Jesus leads us through this week, modelling humility
People: We wave palm branches before him, showing our admiration and love.

*Prayer of Gathering

**All: Steadfast Love:
You hand us the palm branches,
so we can wave them in hope;
You steady us in the days
when pain is stuck
to the bottom of our lives,
when worry is our constant companion.
We empty ourselves
so You might fill us with joy.**

(Adapted from Thom M. Shuman)

*Hymn: "He Came Riding on a Donkey"

[Voices United #124]

The Welcome of New Members:

Barbara Langille, Margaret Brown

Congregation: As your friends in Christ we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. Together, with God's help, we will live out the mission and ministry of the church.

Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed) [Voices United #918]

Anthem: "Palm Sunday Jubilation"

Hearing the Word

A reading from Lamentations 3:34-36, 49-60, "Why? Why?!"
The gospel reading: John 8:1-11, "A question turned around"

***Hymn: "O God, Why Are You Silent?"** [More Voices #73]

Sermon: *Why is There So Much Injustice in the World?*

Song of Faith [see bulletin insert]

Responding to the Word

Offering Our Gifts

***The Doxology: "What Can I Do?"** [More Voices #191]

Offertory Prayer

*M*ade in the image of God,
we yearn for the fulfillment that is life in God.
Yet we choose to turn away from God.
We surrender ourselves to sin,
a disposition revealed in selfishness, cowardice, or apathy.
Becoming bound and complacent
in a web of false desires and wrong choices,
we bring harm to ourselves and others.
This brokenness in human life and community
is an outcome of sin.
Sin is not only personal but accumulates
to become habitual and systemic forms
of injustice, violence, and hatred.

We are all touched by this brokenness:
the rise of selfish individualism
that erodes human solidarity;
the concentration of wealth and power
without regard for the needs of all;
the toxins of religious and ethnic bigotry;
the degradation of the blessedness of human bodies
and human passions through sexual exploitation;
the delusion of unchecked progress and limitless growth
that threatens our home, the earth;
the covert despair that lulls many into numb complicity
with empires and systems of domination.
We sing lament and repentance.

Yet evil does not—cannot—
undermine or overcome the love of God.
God forgives,
and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings
with honesty and humility.
God reconciles,
and calls us to repent the part we have played
in damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.
God transforms,
and calls us to protect the vulnerable,
to pray for deliverance from evil,
to work with God for the healing of the world,
that all might have abundant life.
We sing of grace.

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