

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, April 13th, 2025
Palm/Passion Sunday**

Praise Medley: Give Me Oil in My Lamp
Majesty
Hosanna

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Rejoice in the Lord Always **VU 249**

Call to Worship:

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;
we will travel through betrayal and death,
cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

**We wave palm branches in anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modelling humility and obedience for all of us.

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us
the kingdom of God.**

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, on the first Palm Sunday you entered the rebellious city where you were to die. Enter our hearts, we pray, and subdue them to yourself. As your disciples blessed your coming, spread garments and branches in your way, make us ready to lay at your feet all that we have and are, that we too may bless your coming. In the name of the Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Hosanna, Hosanna

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Compassionate God, we shout for joy on a day like this, smiling as we wave our palms, yet quickly toss them aside as we go out into the world. We harden our faces, not in discipleship, but to turn away those who come looking for help from us.

Yet, because he was fully human like us, we can be more like Jesus. So, as we begin our journey through Holy Week, may we choose humility over pride, weakness over strength, compassion over indifference, and seek to fulfill our calling, without any promise of reward. We pray this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus. Amen. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

God dares us to think like Jesus, knowing that if we do, we will discover the gifts we can offer, the words of hope we can share, the grace we can use to bless those around us.

God hears our prayers, listens to our hearts, fills us with forgiveness, and walks with us in these moments and in all the ones to come. Thanks be to God for such incredible mercy! Amen.

Hymn: He Came Riding on a Donkey

Offertory Hymn: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands
VU 537

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Gracious and welcoming God, today we recognize that not all offerings are money. May all our offerings be used to joyfully proclaim your vision and hope for our world. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-7a

Psalm 31 **on page 758 of VU Parts 2 & 3**

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:5-8

Hymn: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus **VU 357 vs 1,4,5**

Scripture Reading:

Gospel Lesson: Luke 22:14 - 23:49

(St. Luke's Passion)

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Maranatha

Hymn: The Servant King

Commission and Benediction:

And now we lay down the palm branches.

**As the last echo of the final Hosanna fades, so does
our hope that this journey can end in any other way.**

The week stretches ahead glory-less and pain-full.

**We look towards the cross, knowing it is both the
most human and most divine of all journeys.**

Let us travel the road with courage, with love,

**and with the uneasy peace that is the gift of faith into
this holiest of weeks.**