



## Seeking: Where are you headed?

## Worship This Week Sunday, April 2, 2023 Theme: Palm Sunday

#### Series: Seeking: Honest Questions for a Deeper Faith

This week we will be celebrating Palm Sunday. We are reminded of the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, a momentous event that heralded the beginning of the final week of his earthly life.

We read in the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus instructed his disciples to bring him a donkey and a colt, so that he could ride into the city in fulfillment of the prophecy of Zechariah.

As Jesus rode into the city, a large gathering of people went before him, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most solemn and important week in the Christian calendar. It is a time for us to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, to remember the events of his passion and death, and to prepare ourselves for the celebration of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

But what does Palm Sunday mean for us, as followers of Christ? Firstly, Palm Sunday reminds us of the humility of Christ. Despite being the Son of God, he did not come to earth to be served, but to serve, and to give his life for many. By riding into the city on a donkey, he was showing his humility and his willingness to identify with the common people.

Secondly, Palm Sunday reminds us of the importance of worship. The crowds that greeted Jesus as he rode into the city were not just shouting words of praise, but they were worshipping him as the Son of God, the Messiah who had come to save them. As we gather in our churches today, let us also lift up

our voices in worship, and let us give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ.

Finally, Palm Sunday reminds us of the need for us to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Just as Jesus rode into the city to fulfill his mission, so too are we called to follow the path that he has set before us. We are called to be humble, to serve others, and to proclaim the good news of the gospel to the world around us.

This week we will have a series of scripture readings that will lead us from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and towards the cross on Good Friday. These are as follows.

First Reading in prayer: Matthew 21:1-11 Second Reading: Matthew 26:14-16 Third Reading: Luke 22:14-21 Fourth Readings: Luke 22:31-34 and Luke 22:54-62 Fifth Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

After each reading will be a time of reflection, a meditation and a song. We hope that you will find this service interesting as we prepare for the beginning of Holy Week.





#### SCRIPTURE SUMMARY Matthew 21:1-11

People laid their coats and palm branches on the ground in front of him as he rode. They were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God!"



MAIN IDEA: I will follow Jesus.

<sup>a</sup>alm/Passion Sunday/Year A



The Seeking logo was designed by Lauren Wright Pittman. Do you see the palm branch? In the text today, the palm branch represents Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. **Color the palm branch in the graphic above.** 

# **Circle of Friends**

#### 2nd, 4th, 5th Friday of the Month

The next meeting is on Friday March 31st at 9:30 am in the Fellowship room



#### **Girl Guide Cookies Are Back!**

1st Georgetown Pathfinders meets every Thursday in the Fellowship room at St. Andrew's United Church. Beverly will have cookies available on Sunday to sell with a few Pathfinders. If you're around throughout the week there will be cookies available in the office.



## Volunteers Needed for Coffee TIME

If you have been enjoying fellowship and the baking offered we invite you to consider signing up to help with coffee time in the upcoming Sundays. I realize that the people available to do this are small in number so greatly appreciate the fact that many of you have been stepping up more often. If you are unable to assist with serving, please consider donating baked goods or store bought cookies to our fellowship hour.

Lenten Lunch Conversations

Join us in Lenten conversations on Wednesdays at noon each week as we explore deep questions during Lent.

Please bring your own lunch.

## **Thursday Bible Study**

Our weekly bible study is held on Thursdays at 10 AM in the Fellowship room. Come and join us for some lively discussion on the bible.

#### Georgetown Bach Chorale is proud to present:

### JS Bach's masterpiece, St Matthew's Passion

#### Good Friday, April 7th, 8pm at Knox Presbyterian Church 116 Main St S, in Georgetown

Join us in the presentation of this moving work, depicting the Passion and Death of Our Lord, sung in German (with Surtitles) and accompanied by baroque orchestra.

Tickets are \$45 for Adults, \$15 for Students, and can be purchased by calling Ron Greidanus at 905-873-9909, or online at georgetownbachchorale.com .

Please click here to purchase tickets online



#### **Our Daily Bread Booklets**

The April/May/June edition is now available! Please find them on the table across from the Office. A donation of \$1 would be greatly appreciated.

## Lives and Worlds Tour, Spring 2023

Friday, April 21st, 2023 at 8:00 PM The Sanctuary Concert Hall at St. John's United Church 11 Guelph St. Georgetown ON

The Marion Singers' first spring tour since the pandemic shutdown celebrates the world and its people in mostly acapella music spanning centuries and genres from sacred and classical to folk, jazz and spirituals.

The Marion Bingers

of Greater Toronto | Christopher Dawes Music Director

Please click here to purchase tickets



TMS

#### In need of Baby Items!

A friend of Christina's is in need of baby items! She is not able to afford new items and would greatly appreciate any donations. She is looking for a diaper bag, baby bottles, teethers, clothing, etc.

Please contact Christina at <u>c.martin690@gmail.com</u> or (905) 873-6614

#### COMPASSIONATE ENGAGEMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY SPACES

Engaging wth respect, dignity, and justice-oriented care.

## Norval United Church Wednesday, April 26

#### 6:00-8:30 PM. Dinner included - Must pre-register

We will cover:

- Broad overview of GTA-based homelessness and the issues that face marginalized people
- Practical engagement tips around assisting people experiencing crisis
- Build awareness of useful resources and supports



#### **Georgetown Bread Basket**

If you are thinking of making a donation to the Georgetown Bread Basket this month, the items in most need are peanut butter, canned pasta, canned fruit, juice boxes, ketchup, sugar, chicken noodle or rice soup, pancake mix and syrup. Items can be dropped off at the church.

## The Elaine Jones Real Estate Team's 2nd Annual Women's Spring Closet Clean–Out Event



## Friday, April 14th: 1-7pm

at St. Andrew's United Church New & Gently used women's clothing



All items \$1 Proceeds to Townsend Smith Foundation building a Hospice for North Halton



### Lost and Found

Lost earrings found at the Church. If either belong to you please call or email the office to arrange a pickup!

(905) 877-4482 or office@standrewsuc.ca

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

If you are feeling called to become a New Member of St. Andrew's United, we will be receiving new members on Sunday April 9th, (Easter Sunday). Please contact Rev. Grant Williams for more information. (905) 877-4482 minister@standrewsuc.ca

# **Easter Services**

#### PLEASE JOIN US FOR FOR OUR ADDITIONAL EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 2nd at 10:00 am Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 7:30 pm Good Friday, April 7th at 10:00 am Easter Sunday, April 9th 8:00 am at Dominion Park Easter Sunday, April 9th at 10:00 am

## **Easter Week Services**

Sunday, April 2nd at 10 AM Seeking Series Part 6 Palm Sunday *"Where are You Heading?"* 

Thursday, April 6th Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 PM

"Dinner with Jesus"

Maundy Thursday is observed during Holy Week on the Thursday before Easter. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Maundy is derived from the Latin word mandatum, meaning "commandment," Maundy refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice. This will be a casual service with conversation. Communion will be offered.

#### Friday, April 7th Good Friday Service at 10 AM "Why Have You Forsaken me?"

Good Friday is observed on the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this day Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Many Christians spend this day in fasting prayer, repentance, and meditation on the agony and suffering of Christ on the cross. Our service will be held in the sanctuary and the choir will be singing.

#### Sunday, April 9th Sunrise Service at Dominion Garden's Park 8 AM.

We will be joined by St. John's United.

The park is located on Guelph street next to Christ the King Secondary School. Parking is available in the school lot or in the lot off Maple Ave. This service will be a casual gathering with music, drama, reflection and prayer. Light refreshments will be offered afterwards.

#### Sunday April 9 Easter Communion Service with Choir 10 AM

"Who are You Looking for?"

Our weekly worship service is held in our sanctuary. The service will be meaningful as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We will be celebrating Communion in the service. A Children's program will be offered in this service for the entire family.

New Members will be joining the church on this day.



### **United Church Mission & Service Fund**

Merit needs her children not just to survive but also to thrive.



When did you first become aware of climate change? When did you first feel its effects?

In Canada, we have always experienced wildfires and droughts, hurricanes and winter storms. But "once-in-a-lifetime" disasters are happening with far greater frequency than ever before. Fortunately, to date, we have had the resources to cope with the effects of weather's worst.

Many others around the world face different challenges.

In Zambia, Merit Mabenga has felt the deep impacts of climate change. Droughts are killing her crops. Wells are drying up, forcing her to walk farther and farther to fetch clean, safe drinking water. Necessities are scarce, and prices are soaring far beyond Merit's modest reach because of climate change. The impacts of climate change can feel overwhelming. But as always, the Bible shares its wisdom. 1 Corinthians 12:25–26 reminds us that "there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" (NIV).

Thanks to donors like you, Merit has planted a diverse selection of vegetables and now harvests three times a year. This means increased food security for her family and greater ability to access education. In fact, Merit has earned enough to send her son to college. Her children are her future; Merit needs them not just to survive but also to thrive!

Your gifts to <u>Mission & Service</u> go directly toward our programs and partners around the world. Every dollar you give makes a difference because it helps someone who needs it. Thank you for your generosity!

Grants

## **Grant's World**

This week we will be beginning Holy Week. Holy Week is a time of reflection and renewal for Christians around the world. It is a week-long observance that begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday, and it is a time for Christians to remember the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For many Christians, Holy Week is a time to slow down and focus on their faith. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices that Jesus made for humanity and to renew their commitment to living a life of love, kindness, and compassion. This is a time to contemplate the deeper meaning of their beliefs, and to strengthen their relationship with God.

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This event marks the beginning of Holy Week and serves as a reminder of the joy and hope that Jesus brought into the world.

During Holy Week, Christians observe several other significant events, including the Last Supper on what is called Maundy Thursday, where Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples before his arrest and the crucifixion on Good Friday.

Holy Week is not just a time to remember the events of the past but also a time to experience the power and grace of God in the here and now. It is a time to draw closer to God through prayer and acts of service. By doing so, we are able to experience a deep sense of peace and joy that comes from knowing we are loved and forgiven by God.

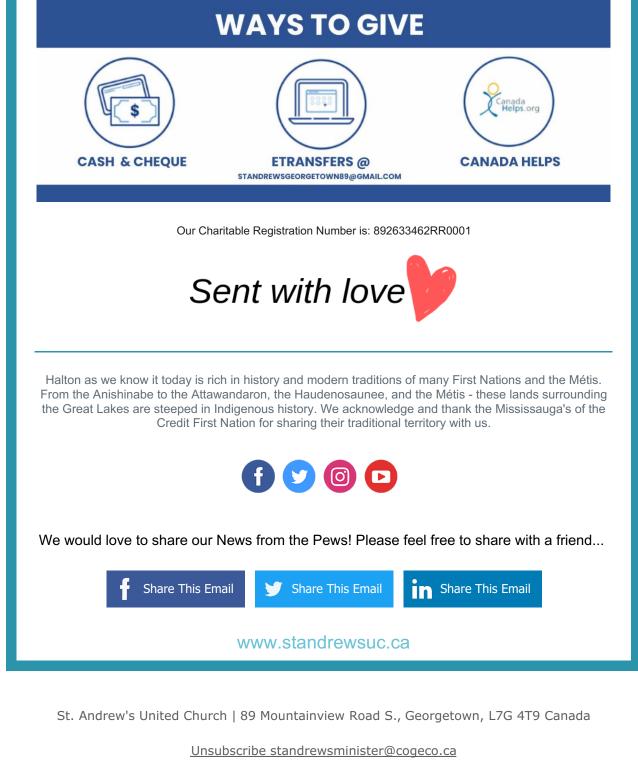
Holy Week serves as a reminder of the hope and joy that come from living a life of faith and following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. We hope that you will join us in one of our worship services at St. Andrew's.

Blessings, Grant



We have changed our email addresses!

To contact us via email now please use: office@standrewsuc.ca or minister@standrewsuc.ca



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