

# Friday News from South West

March 31, 2023

## Palm Sunday

Palm/Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, and it is often a bittersweet celebration.

Over time, many people have asked themselves why would Jesus make such a spectacle of his arrival in Jerusalem given the danger he was in?

Well, Jesus was a man who put himself out there; he challenged injustice, he called out those who used their power to suppress the ordinary people, he healed on the Sabbath, he spent his short ministry preaching love and forgiveness. And he took huge risks in the hopes of encouraging others into living a better life with God. He paid dearly for these risks with his own life.



The story for Palm Sunday is shared below:

### **Matthew 21:1-11 – NIRV Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King**

21 As they all approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethpage. It was on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent out two disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey tied up. Her colt will be with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them. The owner will send them right away."

<sup>4</sup> This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would come true. It says,

<sup>5</sup> "Say to the city of Zion,  
'See, your king comes to you.  
He is gentle and riding on a donkey.  
He is riding on a donkey's colt.'" (*Zechariah 9:9*)

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt. They placed their coats on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed. They all shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (*Psalms 118:26*)

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. The people asked, "Who is this?"

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, "This is Jesus. He is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Yes, Jesus rode into Jerusalem in triumph, but he left in despair and death.

We cannot ride a donkey into Jerusalem. But we can, in the days and weeks ahead, reach out to others in whatever way possible. We can inspire others to be as strong and courageous as Jesus was, spurred on by the spirit at work within us in this coming Holy Week.

My prayer for you this Palm/Passion Sunday:

***Through the hosannas and the waving of palms, the singing, and the joy let us walk the road with Jesus.***

***Through the betrayal and the denial, the shouting, and the sorrow let us walk the road with Jesus.***

***Through the waving of palms and the passion, the prayers, and the pain Let us walk the road with Jesus.***

***Let us have the courage to say Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!***

***We will walk with him today, tomorrow, and always. Amen***

In peace

Pastor Beryl, DLM

## *Congregational Meeting*

For those who couldn't attend, several motions were voted on at the SouthWest Annual Meeting last Sunday. The Annual Report including the Financial Report were accepted as printed.

Following discussions with Summerlea leadership, a proposal was put forth to keep Pastor Beryl on the SouthWest payroll for another year, in a new role. She will be available as backup for Rev. Christine Gladu if needed at the 10am joint service, but Pastor Beryl's main

role will be in the area of pastoral care. She and her team (Dorothy Brown and Anna Christe) have already started making pastoral visits with communion.

Pastor Beryl's contract was to have ended in June of this year. At the meeting, the congregation voted to extend it for another year, to June 2024, in this new role.

Another motion proposed laying off our other two employees, Amy (Office Admin) and Sarah (Music Director), at the end of June of this year. That motion also passed.

Finally, the following motion was brought forth: "By December 31, 2023, we finalize a Ministry Plan for approval by the congregations of SouthWest United Church and Summerlea United Church, which includes the final steps to amalgamation of the churches." It also passed.

Pastor Beryl and Sarah Fraser have been participating in 10:00 services during Lent, at the invitation of Summerlea leadership. This is not expected to continue after Easter. SouthWest United remains a pastoral charge until amalgamation can take place. It is still possible to give your offering to SouthWest. If you do not have envelopes, you can still make a cheque out to SouthWest United, or if you give cash, just make sure to put it in an envelope with your name and address, so you can get a tax receipt.

## *Announcements:*

Pastoral Care: for emergencies, you may contact Pastor Beryl directly on her cell phone. No calls after 9pm please: 514 942-6212.

The Artisan Fair (April 29) & 2-Day Book Sale (April 28-29) : If you know anyone who would like to participate in the fair and would like to rent a table, please have them contact the Summerlea church office at 514.634.2651. Any contributions of sweet or savory goodies for the Bake Sale table are greatly appreciated.

Books Needed! Please bring your used books (adult & children) to the church before April 22nd.



Help Needed for Ukrainian Family Living in Dorval:

Rev. Christine recently spoke with a family who have arrived here from Ukraine, Liudmila and her dad, to ask how we can help and what they need. If you would like to help with any of the items on this list, we will collect them on the pew in front of Rev. Christine's office.

Kitchen items needed:

- small kitchen appliances, one pot, one frying pan, plates, cups, kitchen knives, dishes, kitchen towels, bath towels

Items they have: an electric kettle and an iron

## *Calendar*

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: Movie Night, The Boxing Girls of Kabul, 7pm

April 2: Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week

April 6: Maundy Thursday potluck supper; sign-up sheets will be circulated on Sunday

April 7: Good Friday service led by Pastor Beryl,

Sunday April 9: EASTER

Sunday April 16: Octet Plus concert at 3pm, for the benefit of The Trail/Le Sentier Music for Veterans programme. Tickets \$20.

April 28-29: Used Book Sale, 10am to 3pm both days

Saturday April 29: Artisan Fair: 10am to 3pm

## *Our Prayer List*

John Adnum

David Adnum

Bridget McCarthy

Phyllis Luther

Shirley Mitchell

Patrick O'Leary

Natalie Lalonde

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

Gilles Gauthier

Helen Cameron

May Cook

Donna Cobb

Keith Wood

Violet L'Esperance

Roberta Roberts

Sylvia Vallee-Girouard

If you would like your name added to the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.



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