

CHALMERS AND SYDENHAM STREET
UNITED CHURCHES OF CANADA
SHARING WORSHIP



"STORIES AND PAPERS FROM PRISON"

10:30 am APRIL 5, 2020

The Rev. Barry King INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTER
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Closed: available by phone or email only due to Covid-19.

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

"What is hell? I maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love."

-Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov, 19th century

Bold Text *indicates the parts that everyone reads together*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Diademata - Barry Ferguson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*(as we light the Christ candle, you are invited
to light a candle at home in a safe place)*

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

Lent began in the wilderness; it concludes in Jerusalem.

We now come near to the end of one story.

Another will soon begin.

We have followed Jesus this far;

today we remember how he faced betrayal, falseness,
rejection, and torment.

**And we witness, once more, that he taught and walked in love
through every step of the journey.**

HYMN VU 124 *He Came Riding on A Donkey*

verses 1 & 3

1 He came riding on a donkey,

he came riding into town;

slow and easy kind of lowly

he came riding with the dawn.

His disciples walked beside him,

staying close, a little shy; not too

sure where he would guide them,

on to live or on to die.

But all the morning sang his praises;

waking birds and dancing wind;

here he is, the Son of David;

riding on to take his throne.

3 In our fasting, and our feasting,
called to follow in his way;
called to walk his road to Easter,
called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David,
hosanna in the heavens above;
blessed is he who comes to save us,
blessed is he who brings his love.
Let us join to sing his praises;
open hearts and souls to God;
he is with us, Son of David;
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.

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WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**We open now to Sacred Mystery, to the Holy One,
infinitely greater than words can express,
whose love for us and all creation
exceeds our capacity to imagine. Amen.**

Philippians 2: 5-11

Rev. Barry King

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God

REFLECTION

"STORIES AND PAPERS FROM PRISON" Rev. Barry King
with Soloist, Donna Delyea singing selections from *Stabat Mater*

Cuius animam - For her grief and lamentation and the torment of her anguish was a sword to pierce her soul.

Quis non posset - Who could fail to share her sadness, seeing Christ's mother despairing, lamenting for her son?

Pro peccatis - For the sins of all his people she saw Jesus brought to judgement, mocked and scourged – and crowned with thorns. And she saw her sweet son Jesus all forsaken, suffering, dying, till he yielded up the ghost.

Eja Mater - Hail thee, Mother, fount of loving. Let me learn the power of sorrow, let me mourn for him with thee, for him I mourn with thee.

Fac ut ardeat - Let my heart so burn to serve him in the love of Christ Our Saviour, that he may rejoice in me.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

For Holy Communion this morning,
I invite you to lend Christ your table.
On the first day of Holy Week long ago,
people throughout Judea arrived
at the dusty gates of Jerusalem,
primed with "Hosanna" in their hearts
and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey.

On the Thursday that followed,
Jesus rented or was given
John Mark's mother's Upper Room
to celebrate the Passover with the disciples.
On the afternoon of the resurrection,
Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus
and used the bread of that hospitality
to break and bless.

Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart,
for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey,
"The Lord has need of it."

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing.
Though we are many throughout the earth
and this church community is scattered,
we are one in Christ.
In your many kitchens, and living rooms,
rest your hands lightly upon these elements
which we set aside today to be a sacrament.
Let us ask the Holy One's blessing upon them.

**Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing
and no quarantine on grace.**

**Send your Spirit of life and power and blessing
upon every table where your child shelters in place,
that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love
and this Cup poured out to give hope to all.**

**Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you.
Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.**

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

We remember that Paul the apostle
wrote letters to congregations throughout places
we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia,
and they were the first "remote" worship resources.
Our online service has a long heritage.
We break and share this bread, as Jesus broke and shared it.
We share it as our pledge of openness to the spirit in our midst.
And in acknowledgment of our eternal connectedness with the spirit
of life, we take wine and drink, as Jesus invited his friends to drink.
Believing, as Jesus believed, that beyond pain and darkness and
death, life in the spirit continues in ways beyond our imagining.
We take time now in a moment of silence
in prayer for our church and our world.....
Gather the cries of our hearts for your world, bringing hope and faith
and love into being.
Send, Holy One, your Spirit, upon us and what we do here, that we
and these gifts, touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love to one another, and to the world.

Bread broken (Jesus the bread of life) / Wine poured (Jesus the true vine)

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Let us in our many places receive the gift of the Spirit, the Cup of Blessing.

We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

DURING COMMUNION

Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness - Johann Crueger/ Theodore Beck

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace,
rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship,
we have embodied the truth that Christ's love
is not limited by buildings made with human hands,
nor contained in human ceremonies,
but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives.
May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act
love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world,
and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope
even in the midst of pandemic.
Wrap your hopeful presence around all
whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing,
and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen

HYMN VU 147 *What Wondrous Love Is This* v. 1 & 4

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

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BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

On Truro, *Lift up your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* - Quentin Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NOTE for Prayers of The People:** While we continue to worship on-line, you are invited to send any prayers you might have to Rev. Barry's email to included in our Sunday Prayers.
Email: barry.king@chalmers-sydenhamstreet.com
- **Worshipping Sundays Together** by Livestreaming only during April
No congregational worship in the church.
- **Tuesday April 14 Chalmers CCE** will meet by teleconference at 4 pm.
- **The Lunch and Learn session** on developments at Providence Village scheduled for April 14 is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If restrictions do not change, the May 12 wrap-up lunch will also be cancelled. Thank you for attending Lunch and Learn over the past year. Bruce Hutchinson, Chair