

CAMBRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

Lindsay, Ontario

10:30 a.m. - March 16, 2008

PALM SUNDAY

Order of Service

* (indicates where the congregation stands as able)

Theme (January – July): *The People of God on a Transitional Journey*

Today's Theme:

An old spiritual goes "You've got to walk that lonesome valley. Got to walk it by yourself. Nobody else can walk it for you. Got to walk it by yourself." On this Passion/Palm Sunday, each of us symbolically walks the final steps of Jesus' lonesome wilderness journey. Jesus' death was not a defeat! The story does not end at the cross. The entry into Jerusalem is not a funeral procession. Our six-week wilderness journey is almost over. We will soon enter the promised land. But first there is a deep river to cross.

Prelude: Processional Douglas Wagner

*Palm Procession: "Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord."

1. Solo
2. Sunday School and Children's Choirs
3. Sunday School and all Choirs
4. Congregation join in (repeat)

Words of Welcome/The Life and Work of the Church

* Opening Hymn: **#122 "All Glory, Laud, and Honour"**

Call to Worship (Responsive - see the back of today's bulletin)

Opening Prayer: (All - see back of today's bulletin)

Anthem: "Hosanna! Sing a Loud Hosanna!" Mark Hayes

Time with the Children (children come forward)

Children leave for Sunday School classes

Scripture Readings

1st Reading Matthew 26: 14-75 (Passion/Palm Sunday)

*Hymn: **#133 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

2nd Reading Matthew 27: 1-66 (Passion/Palm Sunday)

*Hymn: **#127 "Ride on! Ride on in Majesty"**

Sermon: *Walking Through Life's Valley - Jesus' Personal Experience*

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: We thank You God, Father and Mother of us all. From the beginning You made the world and all its creatures. You made people to live for You and each other. You put a song into our hearts and your wonderful word on our lips.

All sing: Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life.

Let me more their beauty see, wonderful words of life.

Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty.

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!

Leader: Gracious God, You created Adam and Eve and gave them a garden. You showed Noah a rainbow; You gave the strength to Moses to free his people and taught Miriam to sing; You gave courage to Esther and loyalty to Ruth. You helped David defeat the giant and gave him a harp to sing with.

All sing: Christ the blessed one gave to all wonderful words of life,

Sinner listen to the loving call, wonderful words of life.

All so freely given, teaching gospel living,

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!

Leader: And yet even they turned away from You, and forgot about You, as we do. But You did not forget. You send Your only child Jesus to the world to show us how much You love us and to bring us back to You again.

All sing: Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life,

Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.

Jesus, only Saviour, set us free forever.

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Leader: As one of us You came Jesus....and with all the angels in heaven, our hearts beat with happiness and we sing.....

All sing: Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life,

Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.

**Jesus, only Saviour, set us free forever.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!**

Leader: And all God's people said,

All: Amen!

Distribution of the Elements

The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves

Offertory: *"Prayer on St. Agnes"* (Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee)

* Offering Doxology (VU #551)

***For food in a world where many walk in hunger;
for faith in a world where many walk in fear;
for friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you humble thanks, O Lord.***

*Offertory Prayer (all) Voices United #551

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Jesus' Prayer

* Hymn: **#672 "Take Time to be Holy"**

The Blessing (All) May the God of Love see your afflictions and hear your cries. May a tower of clouds guide your feet by day and a pillar of fire light your journey by night. May bread rain down from the sky for your hunger and water gush forth from the rock for your thirsts. May the promise of the ages write itself upon you're your heart and carry you to those whose hearts hold no hope.

O Christ, thanks to you, we have known God, and we have seen God. Grant that the God whom we have known and seen in you will now be revealed through us.

Commissioning (composed by Don Besig & Nancy Price)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid...

Postlude

WORSHIP THEME SUMMARY--God of creation, give us the strength and hope to face our own Jerusalem experience.

WELCOME to all who are worshipping with us this morning, including all visitors and guests. Please be sure to sign our Guest Book at the back of the church, and include your full address so that we can acknowledge your presence. If you're attending on a regular basis, feel free to call the office and have your name added to our mailing list.

Thank you for those serving us today:

Ushers: *Rick Carter, Sandra & Graham Lowe, Therese & Chris Yu, George Graham, Judy & Dave West, Ilean & Jim Foster, Mike Puffer, Hugh Snoddon*

Elevator Helper: Josh Wood, Noah Hoefel, Caleb Weatherbee

Scripture: Brenda Milner

Fellowship Time: *C. E. Committee*

Counting Team: *Andy Skilling, Harold Rice, Shiela Black, Joyce Poulosom, John & Barb Maunder*