



Palm Sunday
March 29th, 2026—10:00 a.m.

Welcome.

This church is a place of prayer and encounter with God. The stones of these walls have sheltered people seeking the presence of the Holy One for almost two centuries. This place of worship has been made hallowed by the prayers of generations and you are welcome to join your heart and voice to theirs.

St John's is an inclusive community of faith in the Anglican tradition: we welcome saints and sinners, people of faith and of no faith, people who are sure they know everything and those who are full of questions. All persons may share equally in the life and leadership of our church and we worship with and serve people of different ethnicities, politics, gender identities and sexual orientations, economic circumstances, and abilities. This church belongs to God, so all of God's children are welcome here.



Peterborough's Oldest Church—Established 1826
99 Brock Street, Peterborough Ontario K9H 2P2
705-745-7624 www.stjohnspeterborough.ca



THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

We gather in this place in person and virtually and we acknowledge that we are in Nogojiwanong, the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe, the Original inhabitants and stewards of this part of the Creation, on whose land and by whose waters we gather by the Williams Treaty to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

The Congregation stands as the Procession enters.

The Greeting

Presider Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Responsory

Presider Hosanna! Your king comes to you riding on a colt!

People **The day of liberation is near!**

Presider Speak to Jerusalem and cry unto her:

People **that warfare is ended, that iniquity is pardoned.**

Presider The Spirit of the Lord is upon us:

People **To proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the captives, sight for the blind, liberation for the oppressed, and the year of jubilee.**

Presider The Kingdom is coming.

People **Let us beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks.**

Invitation

Presider Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day, our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem astride a lowly donkey. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life. Let us pray. *Silence.*

Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Acclamation before the Gospel

Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san-na in the high -
est! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san-na in the high -
est! Lord we lift up your name_
with hearts full of praise_ . Be ex - al - ted, oh_
Lord, my God. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Gospel of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Gospeller May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.**

Gospeller When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that

went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of Christ.

Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glory to the King of kings! Glo - ry!

Glo - ry! Glory to the King of kings! Lord we lift up your name_

with hearts full of praise_ . Be ex-al-ted, oh_

Lord, my God. Glo-ry to the King of kings!

Blessing of the Palms

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Procession

Presider Let us go forth in peace.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Crucifer leads the Procession: the Choir, Congregation, and Ministers of the Liturgy follow.

Hymn 181—All Glory, Laud, and Honour

St Theodulph

Refrain **All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed one. *Refrain***

**The company of angels are praising thee on high.
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. *Refrain***

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present. *Refrain***

**To thee before thy Passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain***

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. *Refrain***

Collect of the Day

Presider Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Congregation sits.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

118:1-2, 19-29

The Choir sings the verses. The Congregation joins in the refrain (R).



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.
Let Israel now proclaim, “His mercy endures for ever.” **R**

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. “This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter.” **R**

I will give thanks to you for you answered me and have become my salvation.
The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. **R**

This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Lord, send us now success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord. **R**

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar. **R**

“You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.”
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever. **R**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them close-folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving, and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
content that little children should on his bidding wait.**

**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence eternally rejoice!**

The Congregation sits.

Sermon

*A silence for reflection follows the sermon.
The Congregation stands when the Presider approaches the altar.*

Affirmation of Faith

Presider We confess our faith in the One who comes in the name of the Lord:

All **Christ Jesus, by nature divine,
did not grasp for himself
a rank as equal with God.**

**He chose to empty himself,
becoming a humble slave,
and living the life of a man.
And human in every way,
he abased himself still more,
obedient to death on a cross.**

**So God has exalted him on high,
and given to him the name,
the greatest of all the names;
so that at Jesus' name every knee should bend low
in heaven, on earth, in the depths,
and every tongue proclaim:
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father! Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

The Sharing of the Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please turn to the people around you and exchange a sign of God's peace.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

At the Offertory, gifts of bread and wine, signs of the fruit of human labour, are brought to the altar to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, signs of God's love for the world. The money offering, a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives, collected before the liturgy, is blessed. If you are participating in worship online, please consider making your offering through one of the means available at www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate.

Hymn 185—Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

Oriel

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Gracious God, as we acclaim Jesus as Messiah and King, receive not only the worship of our lips but the offerings of our hearts and hands. Through the suffering and death of your Son, make us pleasing in your sight, that we may receive your love and mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

5

Presider May God be with you. *People* **And also with you.**

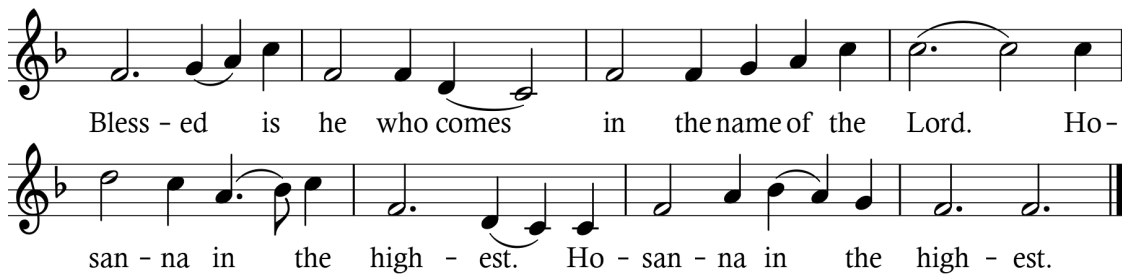
Presider Lift up your hearts. *People* **We lift them up to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe. You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing,

All Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son to us, you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected. Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take, this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you.” After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.”

Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children. Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:



Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins
 as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil.
 For the king-dom, the power, and the glo-ry are yours,
 now and for-ev-er. A-men.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread,
All **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Presider Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
All **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
 if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Presider Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now. In this Eucharist, many are made one.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er
of oursins, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus re - deem - er, re -
deem - er of the world, give us your peace, give us your peace.

Communion

For those who are present in person, all are welcome to receive Communion. Please come forward to the Chancel step via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles. Gluten free Hosts are available upon request. Those who find walking difficult may request that Communion be brought to them. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion may indicate their desire by crossing their arms over their breast when they approach the Presider.

Hymn: 50—Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling

Pange Lingua

Anthem

Festival of Joy

David Lantz III

Gather, you people from near and far! Our day of rejoicing is here! Come now and see the Bright Morning Star; Messiah will soon appear. Jesus is coming near! See how the children play and dance. With joyful abandon they sing, lining the streets to take a glance at Jesus, our wonderful King! With loud alleluias they sing! Alleluia! Alleluia! Celebrate with joyful song. Alleluia! Alleluia! To him all praise belong! Alleluia! Alleluia! Louder and louder the singing goes on as Jesus is passing by. With jubilant dance the procession goes on; on the colt of a donkey he rides. See the palms wave in the sky. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: John Parker

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

Presider All your works praise you, O Lord,

All **and your faithful servants bless you.**

**Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

Today's Music

ANTHEM: : Lyricist **John Parker** and composer **David Lantz III** joined forces in “**Festival of Joy**”, an energetic anthem for this Palm Sunday. The words paint a vivid portrait of the crowds surrounding the approaching Saviour and the joyful melody and rhythmic accompaniment add to the celebration. Lantz (b. 1956) is a full-time vocal music teacher in a public school system in Pennsylvania. He is also a prolific composer of sacred and secular choral music, with approximately five hundred published compositions with many major publishers across the United States. He has written for orchestra, symphonic band, jazz ensemble, and chamber groups. In addition, he is also an accomplished music editor and engraver, church choir director, and regularly performing bassist/vocalist in the pop and jazz idioms. John Parker (b. 1966), a native of Louisiana, holds a BM in Vocal Performance from Louisiana College and an MM in Choral Conducting from Northwestern State University. Writing primarily for church and school, John's 400+ choral works are published by more than 15 companies.

POSTLUDE: **Jan Bender** (1909-1994) was a Dutch-born German-American composer, who wrote mainly for the church. After studies in Germany, several organist positions and imprisonment at the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, he emigrated to the States in 1960, gaining several teaching positions at various colleges and universities. He retired back to Germany in 1976 but continued to come to the States as a visiting music professor. His **Palm Sunday Processional on “All Glory, Laud and Honour”** was composed in 1956 and is equally suitable as a recessional. The familiar hymn-tune appears, stretched out, in the pedals on strong reed stops. The hands play ascending and descending scale passages and chords with hints of the tune.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Organist	Robert Grandy
Greeters	Pat Passmore and Lynda Mercer
Cantor	Lucas Paradis
Crucifer	Owen van Slageren
Servers	Elijah van Slageren and Lucas Rumble
Sacrist	Caelan McMurray
Readers	Karen Bisschop and Brenda McMurray
Intercessor	Caelan McMurray
Chalice Administrators	Ellen Seddon and Pat Passmore
Chancel Guild	Gerri Currier and Trish Murphy
A/V	Walter Howell
Refreshments Hosts	Walter and Mary Howell and Leah Thomson

Acknowledgements

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To the right are some commonly-asked questions by visitors. If you have a question that is not answered here, please do not hesitate to ask one of the greeters or clergy for assistance.



The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Rector

The Rev. Ruth Adams
The Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe
The Rev. Steve Smith
Honorary Assistants

Mr. Robert Grandy
Director of Music

Dr. Andrew Vreugdenhil
Mr. Colin Walsh
Churchwardens

Mrs. Tammy Delahey
Deputy Churchwarden

Mrs. Carolyn Porteous
Parish Administrator

Ms. Jennifer Passmore
Custodian

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Welcome!

Children's Ministry

We welcome children and youth, who may remain with you to worship and do not have to remain perfectly still and quiet! Please feel free to allow them to roam if they wish. Families are most welcome to use the activities in the children's area in the church and to bring colouring sheets, toys, and snacks for their children.

On Posture in Worship

It is customary that we stand to pray and sing and sit to hear God's Word proclaimed and interpreted. Some people prefer to kneel to pray. Please adopt the posture that helps you to worship.

Visitor's Cards

If you're visiting, please do take the time to complete a visitor's card, which can be found in the rack on the bookcase in the Chapel. We would love the opportunity to stay in touch with you.

Making an Offering (Donation)

To support the ministry of the parish, an offering may be made by placing cash or a cheque in an envelope available where you picked up this order of service. Please write your name and address on the envelope, then place it on the brass offering plate. Tax receipts are issued for gifts of \$25 or more. We also have a convenient pre-authorised giving program for monthly donations that are debited from your bank account or we accept e-transfers to office@stjohnspeterborough.ca. Please visit www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate for more information.

Accessibility

The facility is entirely accessible through the Brock St entrance, from where all levels of the facility are accessible via elevator.

Washrooms/Change Table

Accessible washrooms are located down the hall from the narthex (lobby). A change table is in the nursery at the end of the hall.

Fragrances

We ask that you refrain from wearing strong fragrances in order to accommodate those with breathing sensitivities.

Fellowship & Refreshments

All are welcome to stay after the liturgy for fellowship and refreshments in the Guild Hall.