



Welcome to our joint online service for

Palm Sunday

Sunday March 28th 2021

Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood
United Churches and friends

Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM
& Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div.

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Words of Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who emptied himself, so he might be a vessel of God's love.
And he said "**I am the light of the World**".

Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

**God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation
with Canada's First Nations people in tangible, loving ways. Amen.**

Blessing of the Palms

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.

Today Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph

and was proclaimed Messiah and King
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches;

may they be signs of Jesus' victory over the brokenness of our world.

May we who carry them follow Jesus in the way of his cross,

that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom.

We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Opening Hymn: All Glory Laud and Honour VU 122

(The Masked Bandits)

Prayer of the Day

O God, We too welcome Jesus
as he comes riding into our hearts and lives.
Help us to join in the celebration,
so that we may be uplifted and strengthened
to join in the events of the coming week,
where we will be asked for the service
and sacrifice in Christ's name, to heal the hurts of a bruised and broken world.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen

We Gather Around God's Word

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: **May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.**

Psalm 118: 1-4, 19-29

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

³Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

⁴Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

Scripture Song: This is the Day

VU 412

Alexandra Huynh Do

Mark 11:1-11

¹¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Reflection: Pastor Steven

He Came Riding On A Donkey VU # 124

([Video](#))

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 to sure where he would guide them,
 on to live or on t
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.

Then the children gathered, singing
shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;
in the streets their song was ringing,
“hosannas” filled the morning air.

Timid adults strained to see him,
caught the Spirit, joined the song;
spread their cloaks along before him,
branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises;
waking streets and dancing crowd;
here he is, the Son of David;
our Messiah, Son of God.

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 to 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray:

**Loving God, We offer to you what you have first given us –
our selves, our time, our possessions – signs of your gracious love.
Receive all of our gifts for the sake of the One
who emptied himself for us – Jesus our brother. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Trusting in the promises of God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence is kept

In Jesus you came to be among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility and free us from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified.

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change. Empower all who advocate for the environment, locally and globally.

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice and peace. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they may serve those who are most vulnerable and in greatest need. Empower us to nurture peace.

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross you joined with all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer through our acts of care.

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

You called Jesus' followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors, especially during this time of pandemic. Bless our congregations as they minister to all who are dying and all who are grieving loss.

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Tender God, at this time, we lift up our prayers for all who are in need:

Intercessions are spoken

To you, Loving God, we entrust our prayers, through Jesus our brother, who taught us to pray:
Loving God, in whom is Heaven, hallowed be thy name ... Amen.

Closing Song: Jesus Keep me Near the Cross VU 142

Chorus:

**In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

Blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to heal and transform us,
fill us with courage and compassion,
so we can be God's hands and heart
for a world that is aching God's healing embrace.

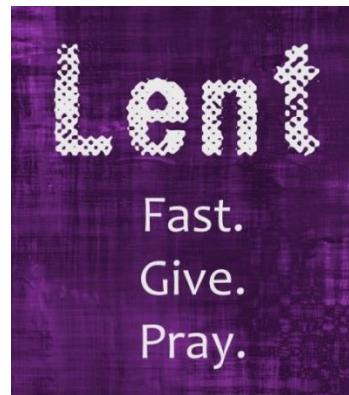
And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
Be with you now and always. Amen.

*Church Announcements
& Holy Week Services
– see below*



Pledges for Plumpies

A Lent Fundraiser for UNICEF



What are Plumpies?



Each donation of \$10.00 will provide a child suffering from malnutrition with enough Plumpy'Nut for one week. Plumpy'Nut is a "miracle food" – a paste made of peanuts, powdered milk, sugar and oil, with added vitamins and minerals. Three 500 calorie packs a day can restore a malnourished child to health in a few weeks. Plumpy'Nut requires no added water or refrigeration, can be eaten with fingers and is tolerated by malnourished bodies. All monies raised will go to UNICEF to purchase and distribute this edible miracle.

How does this Fundraiser work? Decorate a jar

or basket for Lent to put your Pledges in. Each Sunday of Lent, write down what you have pledged to donate to Plumpies for that week and put it in your Lent jar / basket. **At Easter, add up your pledges and send your donation to your congregation. All monies will be forwarded to UNICEF Canada's Plumpy'Nut program.**

How to send your money: Send your donation to the church, or send your donation by interac e-transfer to:

for Goodwood United Church: goodwoodtreasurer@gmail.com

for Claremont United Church: treasurercuc@outlook.com



Evening Prayer During Lent

Every Tuesday Evening
at 7:30 pm

Upcoming Services:

Tues March 23, 7:30 pm

Tues March 30, 7:30 pm (Holy Week)

Note: For Evening Prayer, we use the Sunday Zoom Link from the previous Sunday's Service.
Please save your Bulletin email for the link.

Goodwood United Church - Weekly Programs & Meetings

Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Join us for an opportunity to connect and find supportive community through our regular weekly check-in meetings. At the conclusion of our check-in time, we move into our weekly “**Conversations about Life / Not your Typical Bible Study**” group. Feel free to join us!

The Knit-Wits: Wednesdays at 10:00 am. This is Goodwood United Church’s weekly ZOOM group for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group facilitates our congregation’s **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. They will keep you in stitches! To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom – See Below for details of our Lent Study.

CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH - Weekly Programs and Meetings

Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon – Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting.

Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community, catch up with each other and to share support.



Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches and Friends

Join Us on Zoom or on YouTube for these Holy Week Services:

Sunday March 28th - **Palm Sunday** 10:30 am

Tuesday March 30th - **Evening Lent Service** 7:30 pm

Thursday April 1st - ***Maundy Thursday** 7:30 pm

Friday April 2nd - **Good Friday** 10:30 am

Sunday April 4th - ***Easter Sunday** 10:30 am

* Holy Communion Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2336084972?pwd=ZWRzV3FSRGVaaTI4ViNkUk9mZzZyZz09>

Meeting ID: 233 608 4972 Passcode: 1889

Dial by your location using your telephone

1 647 558 0588 or 1 647 374 4685 Meeting ID: 233 608 4972

Or join us on our New CFG Worship YouTube Channel for all three Churches:

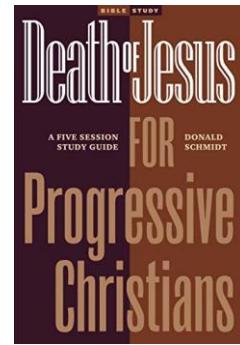
<https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCSwegSn9y2rGxyVFtdGGtxA/videos/live?filter=%5B%5D&sort=%7B%22columnType%22%3A%22date%22%2C%22sortOrder%22%3A%22DESCENDING%22%7D>

or go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search **CFG Worship**. Please also click the subscribe button.

Join our joint BOOK STUDY GROUP for all 3 Churches & friends:

Friday Mornings at 10:00 AM on Zoom.

Beginning the first week in Lent (Friday Feb 19th) we will read:
The Death of Christ for Progressive Christians, by Donald Schmidt.
You can order your copy through: www.woodlakebooks.com



- Friday March 26th at 10:00 will be our last session.
- We will break for 2 weeks
- We will resume meeting on Friday April 16, 10:30 am to continue our reading in the book: **UNSETTLING the WORD: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization.**

Join us for Worship on YOUTUBE

Join us on our NEW **CFG Worship** YouTube Channel for all 3 Churches:

<https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCSwegSn9y2rGxyVFtdGGtxA/videos/live?filter=%5B%5D&sort=%7B%22columnType%22%3A%22date%22%2C%22sortOrder%22%3A%22DESCENDING%22%7D>
or go to Youtube.com and search **CFG Worship**.
Please also click the subscribe button.

For past services, please see this Link (**Fairbank United Church's YouTube channel**):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-gbNaXvNVtw>

Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation's ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be mailed to the church address itself
- PAR forms (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by E-TRANSFER through your online banking.
Here is where to send them:



For Claremont United send to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

For Goodwood United send to: goodwoodtreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.