

A photograph of several green palm fronds against a dark wood-grain background. A large, dark green chevron shape is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, pointing upwards. The text is centered over this chevron.

*Palm
Sunday*

Hosanna!

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

JOHN 12:13 (NIV)

Gathering With God And One Another

**Indicates for congregation to stand in body or in spirit.*

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

As we gather as a faith community, we acknowledge that we live and work on land that is within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga's and Chippewas of the Anishinaabeg, known today as the Williams Treaties First nations.

We are committed to learn and understand the truth of our shared history, confronting our past and present so that we can strive to build a future together based upon true reconciliation.

Announcements

Lighting The Christ Candle

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

***Hymn: VU 122 "All Glory, Laud and Honour"**

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

**1 You are the King of Israel,
and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and blessed one. REFRAIN**

- 2 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. REFRAIN**
- 3 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. REFRAIN**
- 4 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king. REFRAIN**

Call to Worship:

One: Praise God! Hosanna to the Son of David!

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

One: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

One: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

Ministry of Music: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Composer: Lowell Mason Arranged by Victor Labenske
Silence is kept.

Opening Prayer:

All: Dear God, today we will follow your Holy Week from happy parade to the Passion of Christ. As we take this journey, help us to look deep into our

own hearts, so that we might see our own fears and hopes, our own pain and power. May we truly be not just a fickle crowd, but a community of faith and compassion. Keep us, this day of all days, open to your Spirit within and among us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

Promise of God's Healing Love:

One: God blesses us today with meaningful song and holy silence.

All: May we know our Saviour deep in our hearts.

One: In his humanity and in his divinity, Jesus reaches out to us in our time of need and brokenness.

All: We reach back: glad to be forgiven, rejoicing in our new life.

Conversation Time

***Hymn: VU 124 "He Came Riding on a Donkey"**

**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.**

- 2** 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.
- 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..

Listening For God's Word

Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:1-8

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: We give praise for the presence of God
through the Word.**

Ministry of Music: "Palm Sunday Peace"

Words and music: K. Ian Macdonald

Message: "From Palm to Cross"

Responding To God's Word

Invitation to The Offering

***Offertory Hymn:** VU 540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Sacrament Of Holy Communion

***Hymn:** VU 142 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

**1 Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.**

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

**2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. REFRAIN**

Announcements

Sunday March 29th, 2026

***Welcome! We enjoy open seating,
so please, sit where you feel comfortable,
and meet a new friend.***

Today's Greeters are Carol Weatherup and
Gwen Holmes.

Today's Reader is John Smithson.

Bible Study

Bible Study continues this week on Wednesday from
10 am to 11 am.

Food Bank

This week is Foodbank week. Please place items on
the pew on the north wall. Please ensure items are not
expired. Monetary donations also gratefully accepted
and can be placed in the envelope on the back of the
pew and placed into the offering plate. Thank you for
your generosity.

Flowers For Easter

You are invited to make a donation for Easter flowers
in loving memory or in honour of a loved one.
Donations may be placed in the light blue envelopes
available in at the church entrance. Please include
both your loved one's name and your own name (so
we can include your donation on your annual receipt).
Your loved one's name will be lovingly acknowledged
in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Dates at a Glance.....

March 25 th , at 11 am	Vision 200 Meeting
March 29 th , at 9 am	Stewards Meeting
March 31 st , at 7 pm	Clothing Swap Meeting
April 3 rd , at 10:30 am	Good Friday Service
April 19 th , at 7 pm	Acoustic Blvd Concert
April 21 st , at 7 pm	Official Board Meeting

Kids' Clothing Swap ~ seeking donations

We are hosting a kids' clothing swap on Saturday, April 25th from 10 am to 2 pm in the church hall. We are seeking donations of infant and kids' clothing (sizes 0 to 3 months to 14-16). We ask that clothing be donated in clear bags or boxes and that the clothing be clean, free of rips and stains, with working zippers. It would be a great help if your bag/box is labelled with the clothing size. The official drop-off for clothing donations is Friday, April 24th. An alternate drop-off time can be arranged by calling the church office.

Easter Offering

To honour this holy season and to support Newcastle United Church, you are invited to make a special offering this coming Easter Sunday. Envelopes have been placed in bulletins today and are available at the back of the church. Thank you so much for all you do and give to make Newcastle United Church a caring and welcoming church family.

Spring Concert ~ Acoustic Blvd

The Stewards invite you to mark your calendars for a spring concert on Sunday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m. The

evening will feature the band Acoustic Blvd who perform classic acoustic rock songs from the 60's and 70's to present day. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance from a Steward, the church office or at the door.

Operation Clean Sweep

Newcastle United Church is joining the Clean-Up Crew for Operation Clean Sweep! The clean-up is on Saturday, April 18th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This project is to clean up and beautiful the Port of Newcastle, Bond Head and the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area. Interested in being part of the Newcastle United Church team? Already plan to participate, but with another team? Either way, please let Brian Reid know so he can share details and make sure you get a United Church of Canada button to wear!

Kitchen Conversations

For the series' final episode, baking her grandmother's recipe for bulla, a Jamaican cookie, is Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith, editor of and contributor to *Bless Break Share*, as well as a worship leader and educator. From the kitchen of Toronto's Beach United Church, the conversation explores the story of the book, as well as the true meaning of food justice, and how to welcome those of all cultures to the tables of our communities.

Crafters

The crafters are looking for small jars. 250 ml (half pint) and 500 ml (pint) size--with or without lids. We are also looking for any small amounts of leftover metal or rust paint. Spray can or otherwise. Thank you, Marion.

East Central Ontario Region UCW Annual General Meeting:

“Reaching Out” is the theme of a spirit-filled day from 9 to 3 on Friday, April 24 at Trinity-St Andrew's in Brighton. Speakers Wanda Stride (UCC Reaching Out), Joni Shawana, Healing Fund (Healing with Horses via zoom), and Janet and Helmut Enns (Friends of Migrant Workers in Brighton) are sure to inspire. Many displays to browse. Cost for the day including lunch \$30. To register,

<https://ecorcuccan.ca/event/east-central-ontario-region-ucw-annual-2/>

*Stewardship Second, March 29th, Palm Sunday
Stewardship is a spiritual practice. How do
we share our abundance to prepare the way
for Jesus?*

*Ministry in our church is shared between the
congregation and the staff:*

Minister: Rev. Elaine Hall

Office hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 am to noon
(church)905-987-4515 (home)905-985-1633
minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Church Administrator: Lynne Jefferson

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday,
10:30 am - 4:30 pm.
905-987-4515

office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Church Organist/ Choir Director: Donna Barber
Choir practice: Thursday, 3:00 p.m.

**3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. REFRAIN**

**4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. REFRAIN**

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

One: Let us lift up our hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

One: In the beginning you gave to us an earthly home
where we might live in peace and harmony.

**All: And you gave us free will. Free will to choose
between right and wrong, between wholeness and
brokenness, between life and death.**

One: You gave your people the prophets, who offered
a message of challenge and spiritual growth.

**All: And you gave us the choice. Some chose to
listen to their message and repent. Others chose
to reject you and your ways.**

One: In the fullness of time you gave your only son,
Jesus Christ, our Suffering Servant.

**All: The people acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and
King. With palm branches in their hands they**

cried, “Hosanna in the highest!” But within days the same people were able to exercise a fearsome power. With raised fists they cried, “Crucify him!” They condemned God-with-us to death on the cross.

One: Although we have so often misused the power that you have graciously entrusted to us, you, O God, have never abandoned us or forsaken us.

All: We praise you, gracious God, for the acts of steadfast love by which you have redeemed us throughout history. And we thank you that we may now choose to follow Christ in the way that leads to abundant life.

One: And so we are glad to join the long procession of pilgrims, praising you along the way:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Hosanna in the highest.

One: Before his last journey, to the cross and death, our Lord gathered his friends for supper; he took a loaf of bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his followers, saying:

All: “Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

One: After supper he took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying:

All: “Drink this, all of you. This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me.”

One: Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace. Remembering Christ’s life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, we wait now in hope for his coming again.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

The Lord’s Prayer

Calling Upon the Holy Spirit

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Please come down the center aisle and return to your place by the side aisles. Please place empty communion cups in the baskets on the front pew. Thank you.

For those who are unable please let the ushers know by raising your hand so we can serve you.

Prayer after Communion:

All: Gracious God, may your gifts that we have shared this day prepare us and sustain us for the week ahead. May we have the courage to follow you to the cross and remain your faithful servants. May the events of your holy week so transform us that we may never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Going Into The World

***Hymn: VU 127 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"**

- 1 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**
- 2 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**
- 3 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.**
- 4 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

***Commissioning & Benediction**

***Sung Blessing - "Go Now In Peace"**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.**

Postlude "The Palms"

Th. T. Baker & Jean-Baptiste Faure



Wednesday, April 1st

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

sanctuary open for silent reflection with
prayer labyrinth in church hall

Friday, April 3rd

10:30 a.m., Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5th

7:00 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service, Bond Head Beach

10:30 a.m., Easter Sunday Service