

*(This Sunday our choir shared a beautiful Easter/Holy Week Cantata so rather than the sermon I have chosen to share with you the outline of our service)*

*“An inclusive community serving God’s world”*

**SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH**

Rev. Karen Millard

**Sunday, April 17, 2011**

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

*“But it is not suffering, not even the suffering of Jesus that makes this week holy. Rather, it is holy because of the inexplicable and immeasurable love that prompted that suffering.”*

Dianne Bergant

**Introit** - Walking with Jesus

**Call to Worship**

God of wilderness and water,  
your Son was baptized and tempted just as we are.

**You have journeyed with us through this season,**

we may not have avoided struggle,

**but you opened us up to your blessings,**

**through welcome, healing, and abundant life.**

So on this final Sunday of lent we call out

**Rejoice, Rejoice**

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

Hosanna, Hosanna

**Blessed is the one who comes humble like a servant**

Glory, Glory

**Blessed is the one who has shown us the way of love.**

**Entering Jerusalem                      Hosanna, Hosanna    (Palm Parade)**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Minute for Mission**

**Prayer and Confession**

God of our Journey

**Here in this place, with these people, we begin that week we call Holy.**

We crane our necks to see the parade, we will bow our heads as the funeral procession winds through the streets.

**We have been with Jesus on this journey; we long for courage to go to the end.**

In one hand, we clutch the palm branches; in the other, we cradle our broken hearts. As children dance excitedly around him, Jesus humbly enters our lives.

**Hosanna! We welcome the kingdom bearer into our midst. Hosanna!**

**Prayer of the Day**

Our hearts are wounded by the nails we carry in them,  
yet you would heal us with your love.

We are worn to the quick  
by the struggles of our lives,  
yet you carry us in your heart.

Our souls are emptied  
by the loneliness of our lives,  
yet you would fill us  
with sisters and brothers.

Blessed are you,  
who comes to live with us!

You could have remained  
in Nazareth, caring for your family,  
but you journeyed through our lives  
to bring us home.

You could have stayed  
at home in glory,  
but you vacated God's heart,  
to serve us with grace.

You could have come  
clutching unbearable power,  
but you filled your pockets  
with humility's wealth  
to share it with us.

Blessed are you,  
who comes to save us!

When we would puff up with pride,  
deflate us with your gentleness.

When we would go home,  
after the parade has ended,  
walk us to the foot of the cross.

When we would put  
our "Hosannas" away  
for another year,  
teach us to sing  
our gratitude for new life.

Blessed are you,  
who comes to help us.

God in Community, Holy in One  
we bless you, as we lift our prayer, saying,  
Our Father . . .

### **Call to Reconciliation**

We sing, we wave our branches, we shout  
'Hosanna.' Then, we turn away, to go back to  
our old ways, our old lives, our old sins. But  
God is in the business of granting forgiveness  
and filling us with new life. Let us confess  
to the One who comes to fill us with grace,

**SUNG KYRIE**            MV 69

### **COVENANT OF GRACE - A Cantata for Holy week**

(By Joseph M. martin - Orchestration by Brant Adams)

*Paeon of Promise*

*Covenant of the Lamb*

*For God So Loved The World*

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

### **HUMBLE AND RIDING ON A DONKEY**

Humble and riding on a donkey,

**We great you.**

Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,

**We cheer You.**

Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of Power,

**We salute you**

You are giving the burdened a new dignity;

you are giving majesty a new face;

you are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing.

**With them, with heart and voice, we shout "Hosanna!"<sup>1</sup>**

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

*The promise of the Kingdom*

*An Invitation to Grace*

*Cry of the Crucifixion!*

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<sup>1</sup> Stages of the Way, Iona Community, Wild Goose Worship Group pg. 75

*Underscore  
Here Is Love  
All Are God's People*

## **OFFERING**

**We Are Marching in the Light of God VU 646**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

We say, O God, that everyone loves a parade, but what does the parade celebrate? Victory? Homecoming? Thanksgiving? Achievement? Or the arrival of your beloved child, come to show us your way in the world - our way in the world? May those be our coats beneath his feet, our hands waving palms branches.

Our prayers today are for a world in which so much seems right- beauty, the warmth of the sun, the love of family and friends, the sound of happy children, a world of wonder and possibility, and so much more.

Our prayers today are for a world in which so much seems wrong- violence, poverty in the midst of plenty, hatred, pain and suffering, disease and sorrow, loneliness and heartache, and so much more.

today we pray for those who hope that their dreams of a better world may be fulfilled. And we pray for those who hurt, that their pain may be eased both by our words and actions and by the healing presence of your Spirit, which filled and empowered Jesus, in whose name we pray.

We take a moment now to pray together either silently or allowed for the joys, concerns, celebrations and sorrow we long to bring to you and this community of faith today.

Oh lord hear our prayers as we pray now together saying:  
The Lord's Prayer

## **HYMN Hosanna, Loud Hosanna VU 123**

### **The Final Week of the Soul Journey -**

We have spent the season of lent on a journey of the soul. We have been reminded that where the soles of our feet walk the souls of our hearts attend. I invite you this holy week to attend the the soul of your faith. Walk in a new way with a different intention.

If Easter has always been about the hop of the bunny, and the chicken laying chocolate eggs add the faith story of the week to your journey. Attend to your spirit.

Join me on the blog for a daily journey.

Worship with us on Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday.

Celebrate the resurrection as a discovery of abundant life!

I invited folks to bring me visions of abundance a few weeks back. Some have asked what this picture has been here for since then. This is a symbol of abundance for Louise. It reminds her of the connectedness with the earth and the holy and the abundant life that brings when we attend to it. A few of you sent me photos but not many so I invite you this week to perhaps make that a part of your holy week practice so that we can have photos of abundance on our powerpoint for the season of Easter.

Thank you for joining us on the Soul journey and in this last week I invite you to discover the resurrection story of our faith in a way you have never known it before. Amen - may it be so.

**BENEDICTION    When You Walk From Here    VU 298**

“The power of the cross was the refusal to use power.”