

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
17 Royal Rd. S., Portage la Prairie, MB. R1N 1T8  
Office Phone: 204-857-4351 email [firstpc@mymts.net](mailto:firstpc@mymts.net)  
[www.firstpcportage.com](http://www.firstpcportage.com)

Minister: **John Zondag**  
Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email [jzondag@mymts.net](mailto:jzondag@mymts.net)  
Organist: **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt**  
Clerk of Session: **Raymond Reichelt**

We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 1 territory, and that the land is the traditional lands of the Anishinabe and Dakota Nations, and the homeland of the Métis Nation

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET**

### **PALM/PASSION SUNDAY** **5 April 2020**

Services and most congregational activities are **canceled** for the time being, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will resume our regular activities as soon as the government decides it is safe to do so.

Depending on how things go, John may create a YouTube video for today's service, in which case he will mail out directions for accessing it. If he's not able to do that, he will send out a service script by e-mail that will be a little more complete than what he sent out last Sunday. He is planning to prepare worship material for Good Friday as well, but not for Maundy Thursday.

**Scripture Readings** - The scripture readings for today are  
- Zechariah 9.9-10 - "Your king comes to you"  
- Psalm 118 - "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!"  
- Philippians 2.5-11 - Jesus' incarnation, death, and exaltation  
- Matthew 21.1-17 - Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

The readings for Easter Sunday will be  
- Acts 10.34-43 - Peter's sermon in Caesarea  
- Psalm 98 - "Sing to the LORD a new song!"  
- Colossians 3.1-4 - "Since you have been raised with Christ ..."  
- Matthew 28.1-20 - The resurrection of Jesus

The **Bible study group** met online by "Zoom" last week, and will continue to do so on Tuesday evenings at 7:00. We will soon be starting a six-week study based on "The Armour of God". If you are interested please contact Margaret Dunn.

**The Christian Year** - This week, the final week of the Season of Lent, is called **Holy Week**. During this week, we commemorate the events of Jesus' Passion (suffering) in Jerusalem. The significant days in Holy Week are:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**, which commemorates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem (Matthew 21.1-11 and the parallel passages in the other three Gospels)
- **Maundy (or Holy) Thursday**, which commemorates Jesus' "last supper" with his disciples, his institution of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, his arrest in Gethsemane, and his interrogation by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council) (Matthew 26.14-75 and parallels)
- **Good Friday**, which commemorates Jesus' interrogation by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, his crucifixion and death, and his burial (Matthew 27.1-66 and parallels)

The symbolic color for Holy Week is **red**, signifying blood, which reminds us of Jesus' suffering and death — the sacrifice that allows our sin to be forgiven, making it possible for us to be reconciled to God.

### **Mission Moment**

#### **World Health Day (April 7)**

"We are reducing the death of moms and babies through education and support," said Mary Samuel, reflecting on the work of the PWS&D-supported Village Safe Motherhood Committee in her community. Part of PWS&D's maternal and child health project in Malawi, these committees are volunteer groups of women and men who educate their peers on sexual and reproductive health issues. From equipping men and women to combat sexually transmitted diseases to encouraging women to seek proper medical care and nutrition support throughout their pregnancies, the committees are helping whole communities safeguard their health. "Since the project started, there are fewer maternal deaths in our community!"

*PWS&D cares for mothers at risk*