

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Minister: **John Zondag**

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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

28 March 2021

**Welcome!** We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. Unfortunately, however, we are not yet able to resume our after-service fellowship time.

For the time being, John continues to record an abbreviated version of the service each week and to upload it to YouTube, for those who don't yet feel comfortable attending services in person. He sends out the YouTube link by e-mail each Sunday, along with the service script. Hard copies of the script can be printed and mailed out to anyone who would like them. If you would like to receive them, just call John at the church office.

**Scripture Readings** - The readings for today's service are

- Mark 11.1-11 - Jesus arrives in Jerusalem
- Psalm 118 - "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!"
- Mark 14.12-26 - The Passover meal
- Mark 14.32-52 - Jesus in Gethsemane
- Mark 14.53-65 - A hasty trial

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Mark 16.1-8 - The empty tomb
- John 20.1-10 - The empty tomb
- John 20.11-18 - Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene
- Acts 10.34-43 - Peter proclaims Jesus' resurrection

The reader today is **Charlie Clifford**, who is also leading the Prayers of the People.

The Greeter this month is **Shauna-Lei Leslie**.

### **This Week in First Church:**

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Friday, 10:30 a.m. - Good Friday service

### **Coming Up:**

- Sunday, 18 April - Annual Meeting (rescheduled)

**Protocols** - In order to comply with government-imposed restrictions, and to protect each other from transmission of the COVID-19 virus, please follow these protocols in our Sunday services, until further notice:

- Use the South entrance to enter, and the Office entrance (at the front of the sanctuary) to leave
- Wear a mask when entering and leaving the church, and while singing. Masks may be removed when seated, if you're sitting with people you live with.
- Maintain physical distance from others (except your own household)
- Do not sit right at the aisle
- If possible, sit in the same spot each week
- Pick up a purple card from the table at the back, and, when you leave, use it to mark the spot where you sat, so that those sanitizing the pews after the service know which pews need to be sanitized.
- Offering plate is at the back as you come in
- Remain seated throughout the service, including for hymns
- Each week, bring your own cushion and/or Bible if desired
- Prefer that washrooms not be used
- There will be no coffee/fellowship hour
- Refrain from shaking hands, etc.
- The names of attenders will be recorded each Sunday, so that we have a record of who attended on which Sunday, in case contact tracing should need to be done later.

**Cleaning** - There are sign-up sheets for **sanitizing the sanctuary** and for **vacuuming the sanctuary** on the music stand at the back of the sanctuary. If you're able to take a turn looking after one of these tasks in the coming weeks, please sign up.

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

- **Palm/Passion Sunday** (today), which commemorates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem (Mark 11.1-11 and parallels).
- **Maundy Thursday** (also called **Holy Thursday**), which commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples prior to his death, his institution of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, his arrest in Gethsemane, and his interrogation by the Sanhedrin (Mark 14.12-72 and parallels).
- **Good Friday**, which commemorates Jesus' interrogation by Pilate, his death on the cross, and his burial (Mark 15.1-47 and parallels).

Although our commemoration of these events is spread over a week, it doesn't necessarily mean that the events themselves all happened within a week; the chronology of the actual events is uncertain.

The symbolic color for Holy Week is **red**, signifying the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross. His death is an "atoning sacrifice" — that is, the sacrifice that pays for our sin, allowing us to be reconciled to God, and adopted into his family.

**Canceled** - Unfortunately, due to the continuing pandemic restrictions, the **Maundy Thursday** pot-luck supper and Communion service that would normally have been held this week has been canceled — for the second year in a row.

**Envelopes** - Offering envelopes for 2021 that haven't yet been picked up are set out on one of the tables at the back of the sanctuary.

**Reading** - If you would like to take a turn reading the scripture readings in one of our upcoming services, please let John know.

**Today** - Copies of the March-April issue of the devotional guide *Today* are available on one of the tables at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take one home with you!

**Available** - A few copies of the Spring issue of *Presbyterian Connection*, our national church's newspaper, are available at the back of the sanctuary. It includes four photos taken at our take-out Fall Supper last November!

**Prayer Calendars** - Copies of the Prayer Calendar for April are ready to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget your copy!

**Bible Study** - "Growing Older and Wiser", a 9-week study published by InterVarsity Press, takes a look at Biblical stories of older people who should have listened to younger people and vice versa. The book will cost about \$12.00. The tentative starting date is April 13th. If you are interested contact Margaret Dunn (204-239-1580) by Tuesday, March 30th.

### **Mission Moment**

#### **Providing Clean Water and Sanitation**

Today, there are 4.2 billion people in the world who do not have access to sanitation services and 2.2 billion people who do not have safe, clean water to drink. Consequently, many people are at risk for water-borne diseases, such as cholera and diarrhea. The COVID-19 pandemic has made us even more aware of the importance of clean water, as handwashing is a crucial way to help curb the spread of disease. *Presbyterian World Service & Development* works with local partners to bring clean water and sanitation services to vulnerable communities. Clean water allows people to harvest crops, care for their families, expand their livelihoods and lead healthy, productive lives.