



The Banner Lent / Easter 2024

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"A community of faith reaching out to others through Christ"

*"You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise."*

from *Spirit of Gentleness* (VU#375) by James K. Manley



Dear Saint Luke's members and friends,

When we think about a 'calling', you may think about clergy being 'called' to the ministry, or perhaps lawyers (aka barristers) being 'called' to the bar. Even though they are different vocations, essentially they fulfil roles of service. (On the lighter side, baristas are called to a much different bar, also for a role of service... Sorry, I could not resist!) In French the word for lawyer is *avocat*, having its roots in Latin, common with the English word *advocate*.

As we embark upon our Lenten path toward Easter, the hymn words quoted above give us a strong sense of the Holy Spirit (about which the hymn is written) being with us. Nearing the end of his earthly walk, Jesus reassured his disciples, saying, "*The Holy Spirit... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything that I have said to you.*" (John 14:26) In these words, I believe that Jesus acknowledges that sometimes we need help on our journey of faith. Indeed, Jesus himself recognized, as he agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane over his impending death, that he needed God's help to accomplish the purpose set out for him. And so Jesus tells his followers - yes, that's us! - that God sends an *Advocate* to support and guide if we should stumble or falter or lose our way.

In James Manley's hymn lyrics above, I believe that we are encouraged not only to continue answering our *call to service* in familiar ways, but to recognize that trying new ways to reach out to people to fulfil our mission of loving our neighbours can strengthen our trust in God. Working together and supported by the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to rise above any challenges that we face, whether individually or collectively, locally or globally.

Sometimes *bold new decisions* bring *bold new results*.

You are invited to share this Lenten journey with us. Enjoy some quiet time with the colouring pages included. Come and share time with our wonderful worship leaders providing *food for thought* each Sunday morning - in person or online (please see our website). A listing of special services can be found at the bottom of this page. There are also activities listed as you read further. Come as you are, for all are welcome here.

Peace to you and yours...

Daria Salemka, Interim Pastoral Care Provider

Upcoming Special Services:

Led by our inspiring worship leaders

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|-----------------|---|
| Feb 18 | Celebration of Infant Baptism for Addilyn Berry Veenema with Rev. Jenny Stephens |
| March 3 | Rev. Jenny Stephens leading worship before our Annual Congregational Meeting |
| March 24 | Palm Sunday |
| March 29 | 10.30am Good Friday Service - combined worship returns, with Wesley United hosting Cedar Hill and Saint Luke's United joint choir |
| March 31 | 7.00am Easter Sunrise Service at Jacob's Landing, with Potluck breakfast to follow at Saint Luke's Church |
| March 31 | 10.30am Easter Sunday Communion Service with Rev. Lynne Bandy |

Update Regarding Our New Minister:

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, he said these words: *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."*

As we have previously informed the congregation, Rev. Helen is also eager to begin her ministry at Saint Luke's but at this time, her health concerns are delaying that start. We will continue to keep the congregation informed, and while we wait, we are encouraged to follow the Apostle Paul's encouraging words above.

Your Search Team

Carrie McCollum, Mary Witkowskyj and Daria Salemka

More News—

1. **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** will be held at the church on Tuesday, February 13, from 5-7pm. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted.
2. The **World Day of Prayer** will be held on Friday, March 1st, 1:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church. This year's theme is *"I beg you - Bear with One Another in Love"*, written by the women of Palestine. Everyone is welcome to attend.
3. The UCW is making plans for their annual "**Urge to Purge**" to be held during the month of May. So, as you are checking out your closets and cupboards, please set aside items that are in good repair to donate to our fund raiser. More details to follow as the time draws closer.
4. The **UCW** meets on the *3rd Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.* in the Mary Clemens room. All women are invited to attend.

Outreach Winter Campaign

The Outreach Committee will be campaigning for "**Lisaard House**" from **Feb.18th to Mar.10th**.

Mission: "**Lisaard House** provides compassionate palliative care and support... for individuals and their families through their end-of-life journey."

Please give as you are able by cheque (**Saint Luke's Church**) or e-transfer (saintlukesunitedetransfer@gmail.com), with a note indicating that your donation is for "**Lisaard House**".

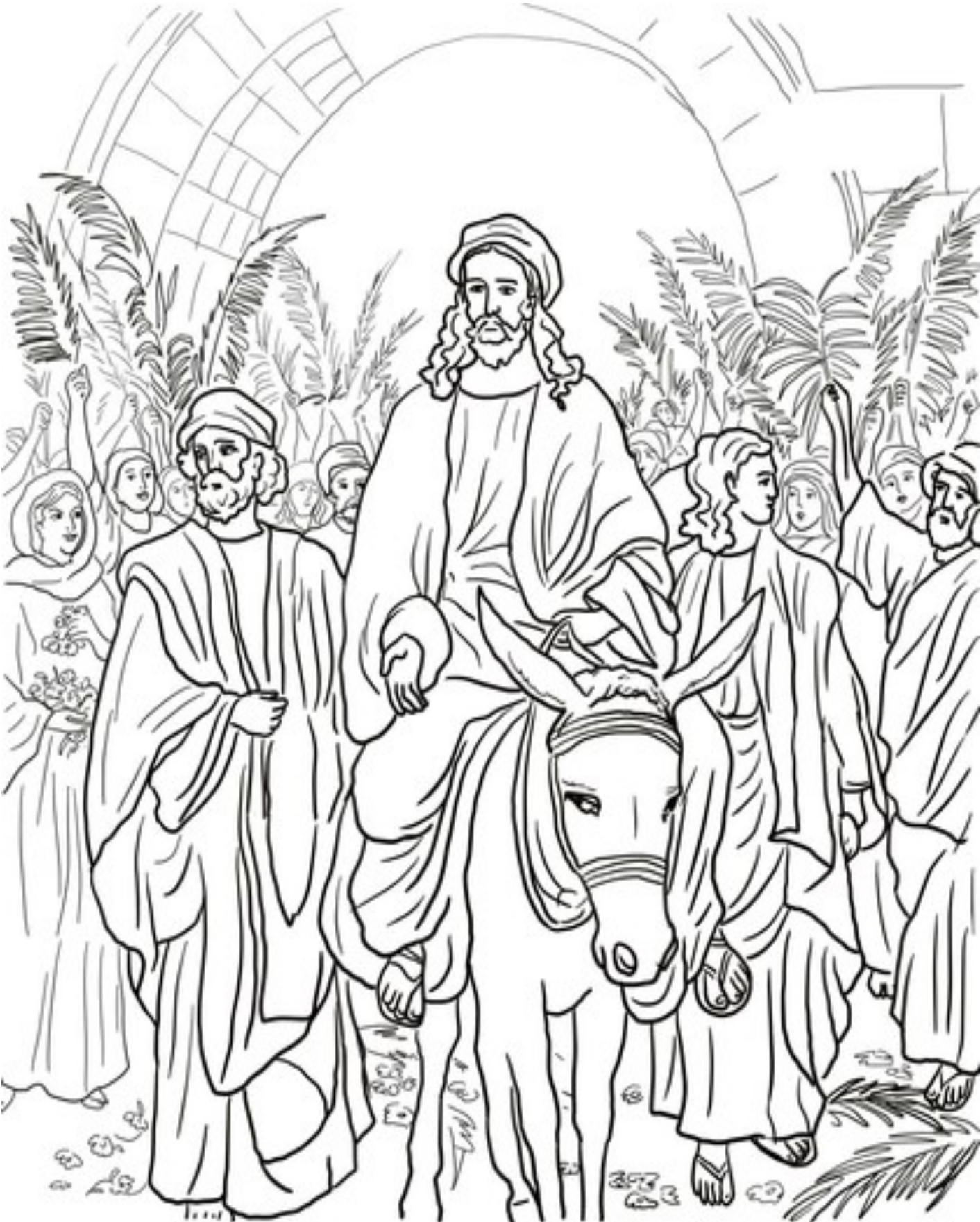
Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 3rd **Following the Church Service at 10.30am**

Please plan to attend this meeting and be part of the important work that will be reported on.

Copies of the 2023 Annual Report will be distributed by email and a limited number of printed copies will be available on Sunday, February 25th. If you take a copy, please remember to bring it with you to the Annual Meeting.

Thank You,
Rosemary Benbow - Secretary of Council

Palm Sunday - Jesus Enters Jerusalem



Jesus Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane



