

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, April 12th, 2020
Easter Sunday

Introductory Song: "Hosanna"

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. The lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzy7jFNUc3w>

Verse 1

Hosanna hosanna
 Hosanna in the highest
 Hosanna hosanna
 Hosanna in the highest

Verse 2

Glory glory
 Glory to the King of kings
 Glory glory
 Glory to the King of kings

Chorus

Lord we lift up Your name
 With hearts full of praise
 Be exalted oh Lord my God
 (1st) Hosanna in the highest
 (2nd) Glory to the King of kings

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Invocation

We give you thanks, great God,
 for the hope we have in Jesus,
 who died but is risen and rules over all.
 We praise you for his presence with us.
 Because he lives, we look for eternal life,
 knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come
 can separate us from your great love
 made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn:**“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”**

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. The lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzy7jFNUc3w>

Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today
Allelu alleluia
Sons of men and angels say
Allelu alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high
Allelu allelu
Sing ye heavens and earth reply
Allelu alleluia

Verse 3

Love's redeeming work is done
Allelu alleluia
Fought the fight the battle won
Allelu alleluia
Death in vain forbids Him rise
Allelu allelu
Christ has opened paradise
Allelu alleluia

Ending

Christ the Lord
Is risen today
Allelu allelu
Alleluia
Alleluia

Verse 2

Lives again our glorious King
Allelu alleluia
Where O death is now thy sting
Allelu alleluia
Dying once He all doth save
Allelu allelu
Where thy victory O grave
Allelu alleluia

Verse 4

Soar we now where Christ has led
Allelu alleluia
Following our exalted Head
Allelu alleluia
Made like Him like Him we rise
Allelu alleluia
Ours the cross the grave the skies
Allelu alleluia

Call to Confession

6 For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—

though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us. (Romans 5)

Let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.

We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.

We overlook the poor and the hungry

and pass by those who mourn;
 we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed
 and indifferent to calls for peace;
 we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.
 Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power
 to change our lives and make us new,
 that we may know the joy of life abundant
 given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (Romans 5)

9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood,
 much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

10 For if while we were enemies
 we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,
 much more, now that we are reconciled,
 shall we be saved by his life.

Brothers and sisters, know that if you are in Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 98

Ministry of Music

“Living Hope” (Phil Wickham)

Click on the link below to listen to the Ministry of Music.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 1:1-4

Hymn:

“Crown Him With Many Crowns” (Robin Mark)

(Click on the link below to play the video.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vo1rh6MJLI>

Verse 1

Crown Him with many crowns the Lamb upon His throne
 Hark How the heav'nly anthem
 Drowns all music but its own
 Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee
 And hail Him as thy matchless King
 Thro' all eternity

Verse 2

Crown Him the Lord of Life
 Who triumphed o'er the grave
 Who rose victorious of the strife
 For those He came to save
 His glories now we sing who died and rose on high
 Who died eternal life to bring
 And lives that death may die

Verse 3

Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n
 One with the Father known
 One with the Spirit through Him giv'n
 From yonder glorious throne
 To Thee be endless praise for Thou for us hast died
 Be Thou O Lord thro' endless days
 Adored and magnified

“Christ Our Reigning King”**Hebrews 1:1-4**

One of the cornerstones of Reformed theology is that Jesus Christ is our Prophet, Priest and King. A most important cornerstone of the Christian life is that Jesus Christ is our Prophet, Priest and King. Last week we saw that even early in his ministry, Jesus was recognized as a prophet. **16 “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said.** (Luke 7) We saw that the function of a prophet was to bring a Word from God to his people. Hebrews 1 tells us that: **1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...** Jesus was not just **a** prophet. Jesus was **the** Prophet from God for he himself was the Word of God. Jesus is the Prophet that we need to speak God’s truth into our lives.

Last week we saw that we all need a priest. A priest is one who offers sacrifices to God to cleanse his people of their sins. Jesus is **the** Priest we need because he offered the ultimate Sacrifice that cleanses us from sin for all time. Jesus is the only Priest who can purify us and wash us clean. We learned from a little Scotsman named Terry McCutcheon that: **“You know, if something is going to get clean,**

something else has to get dirty.” Christ dirtied himself – Christ filthied himself – with our sin in order that we might be cleansed by the power of his blood. Jesus is our great High Priest who filthied himself in order that we might be reconciled to God.

Today, we will focus on Jesus as our reigning King. At Christmas time, when we read the narratives of the birth of Jesus, we were made aware that this Baby born in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem was a king. For instance in Matthew we read of the narrative of the Wise Men.

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2)

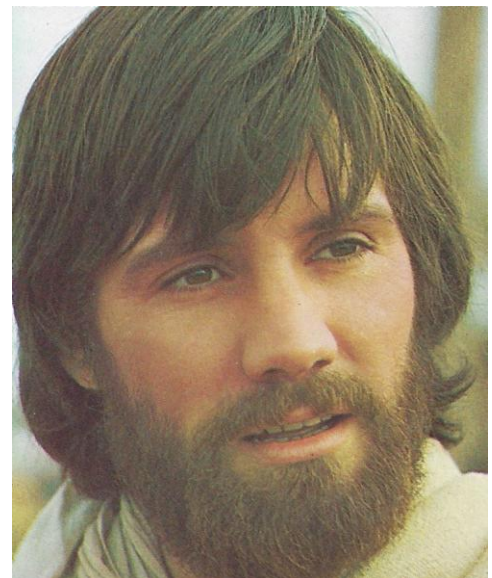
But today, we are not going to focus on this assertion, but we are going to follow a trail through John’s Gospel and see where it leads us.



Most of us are familiar with the term “paper trail”. If you want to get a passport, you can’t just can’t walk into Service Canada and ask for a passport. No, you need supporting documents. You need a birth certificate, a recent passport photo of an exact size and signed by a person who can guarantee that you are who you say you are. You need proof of Canadian citizenship and proof of identity. In other words, Service Canada requires a “paper trail” of specific documents and only on submitting those documents will you receive a passport.

Let’s look at the paper trail in John’s Gospel to see what it tells us of Jesus. In John 1 we read of the calling of the first disciples. **43** **The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”** Philip went and found Nathanael. When he told Nathanael that they had found the Messiah and that he came from Nazareth, Nathanael replied sarcastically: **46** **“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”** Here is the exchange that followed.

47 **When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”** **48**



“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” [49](#) Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

The very first time that this sarcastic Jew met Jesus, he declared that he was not only the Son of God, but the king of Israel. This is the first piece of evidence on our paper trail in John’s Gospel.

The second piece of evidence is weak, but it is evidence nevertheless. The occasion was what we know as the feeding of the 5,000. At the end of this incident, we read: [14](#) **After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” [15](#) Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.** (John 6) I say the evidence is weak, not because this is a poorly attested portion of Scripture in the earliest manuscripts we have, but because it only alludes to what a misguided mob of people intended to do. Anyone who could provide an abundance of food from only five small barley loaves and two small fishes would obviously make a great king.

The next piece of evidence is found in John 12 and what is known as the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

[12](#) **The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. [13](#) They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,**

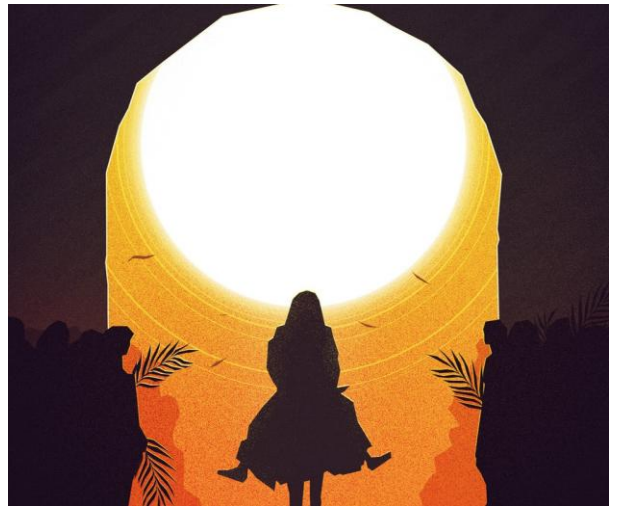
“Hosanna!”

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

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

[14](#) **Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:**

[15](#) **“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”**



Jesus appears here as a King like no other. The atmosphere is a festive one. The people are waving their palm branches. They said of Jesus that he is **the king of Israel!** For many of us, this is the picture of kingship that we most associate with

Jesus – a kingship that was prophesied hundreds of years before by the prophet Zechariah.

However, for me, the kingship of Jesus stands out even clearer when he was in the presence of Pilate. In John 18, Pilate is faced with a grim dilemma. He really doesn't want anything to do with Jesus. He wants the Jewish religious authorities to deal with Jesus according to their own laws. This they don't want, because there is a restriction on what they can do. They don't have the power to put Jesus to death and they want him dead! That's why they turned him over to Pilate in the first place. After



the stalemate on the front steps, Pilate goes back into his palace and summons Jesus in order to talk with him. Of all the questions he could have asked Jesus, he chose this one: **33** ... **“Are you the king of the Jews?”** I wonder what Pilate was expecting when he came face to face with Jesus? The man before him certainly did not look like a pretender to the vacant throne of Judaism. He was not a sullen or belligerent rebel like the others who had led insurrections. No, the man who quietly stood before him was a man like no other man he had ever met. This man was

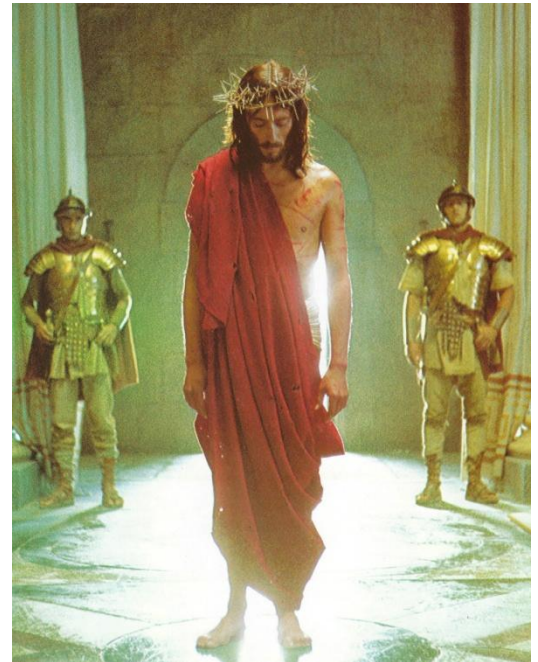
charged with treason yet he was dressed like a common peasant. He stood before a Roman of great power and authority, yet he was calm and confident in his presence. He feels no need to speak, but when he does he doesn't stammer and stutter. He speaks quietly, confidently and with a greater authority than Pilate. Can you hear Pilate's question echoing around the palace: **“Are you the king of the Jews?”**

Jesus replied: **34** **“Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about me?”** His question irritates Pilate. **36** Jesus said, **“My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”** You see, Jesus was – and is – a King like no other. Pilate could understand a King like Herod. He had no problem with men who were hungry for power, position and wealth. He understood people who were ruthless in getting what they wanted. That was the way of the world. He didn't understand the Jews, but then no one understood the Jews. However, he understood what the Jewish leaders wanted. Underneath their robes they were no different than he was underneath his uniform with its symbols of authority. But Jesus utterly defied any notion of conventional kingship. It was obvious to Pilate that Jesus

was not just from another part of Judea. He was from another planet! He was an alien!

Although Pilate did not understand Jesus, he was both judge and jury in the trial of the Nazarene. Under Roman law, a man was guilty until proven innocent. Yes, I said that right. A defendant was guilty until proven innocent. Jesus refused to defend himself, but Pilate, nevertheless, came to a verdict. **38** **“I find no basis for a charge against him.”** Or **“I find no guilt in him.”** Jesus was simply “not guilty” in Pilate’s mind.

But then the Governor does something that defied Roman law. **1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.** (John 19) This was no mere whipping with a willow branch. By the time they were finished with their 39 lashes, Jesus’ body was a bloody mess. Now we have a hard time understanding why a man who was declared “not guilty” would be treated in this way. I very much doubt that anyone reading this would have treated Jesus this way. But it was what came next that I have difficulty with. **2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.** **3 They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands.** Mark tells us that they spat upon him. I ask you, have you ever treated King Jesus like this? Have you ever dressed him in a purple robe so as to make him look ridiculous? Have you ever pressed a crown of thorns on his head and made him bleed? Have you ever mocked him and made fun of him? Have you spit in his face out of contempt? I doubt that there is a man or woman reading this that has not treated Jesus in this manner by our lifestyle, our actions and our attitudes. Rarely do we ever fall at his feet in complete surrender. In our rebelliousness, thinking that we know what is best for our lives, we mock him as we strike out on our own. We spit on him by failing to lift up his name to others and refuse to declare our allegiance to him as our King by only choosing safe paths.



Now we come to our fourth piece of evidence. They took Jesus and hung him on a cross and nailed an inscription above his head: **“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”** This angered the religious authorities and they put pressure on Pilate to change the inscription. Pilate was not an honourable man, but I have to give him

credit for his response. **22 Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”** Jesus died with that inscription nailed to his cross.

Today is Easter, the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Today we celebrate the miracle upon which the Christian faith rises or falls. But there were other resurrections. Jesus himself raised a number of people from the dead, including Lazarus. The disciples were given authority to heal and they too raised the dead. Peter raised from the dead a widow named Tabitha. What was so different or special about the resurrection of Jesus? Eventually, all the people that Jesus or the disciples raised from the dead died again, including Lazarus and Tabitha. Jesus, in his resurrection, defeated death and he is alive forevermore. Jesus later said: **17 ... “Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.** (Revelation 1)

Is Jesus a king? The apostolic preachers and writers John and Paul declared his Kingship. As we move beyond the record of John’s Gospel, we have other evidence of his kingship that moves past an individual or group of people declaring him to be a king. I want to return first of all to our text from last week in which we saw the declaration of Jesus to be both Prophet and Priest. Hebrews 1 verses 1 and 2 speak

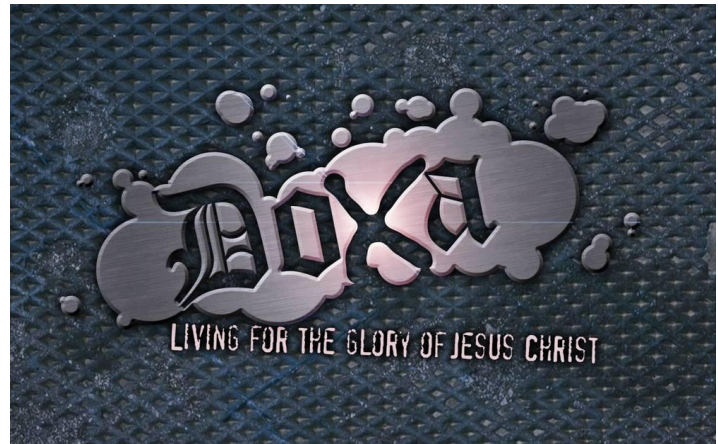


The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
- Hebrews 1:3 -

of Jesus as the ultimate prophet. Verse 3 speaks of Jesus as the ultimate Priest. Let us read it again. Notice the way Jesus is describe. **3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins...** Jesus is the radiance of God’s

glory. It is difficult to put into words what is being described here. We know the radiance of a sunrise or a sunset. The word translated here as “radiance” is used only once in the New Testament. It means “a shining forth because of brightness within”. It can also mean “reflection, a shining forth because of brightness from without”. (NIV NT Commentary, p. 3) In his being, from within and without, Jesus both outshines and reflects the brightness of God’s glory, a glory which you and I cannot even remotely comprehend. That word “glory” – *doxa* in Greek, from which we get our English word “doxology” – is associated with the radiance of God and of heavenly beings in general. Glory indicates the presence of God. That presence we

are able to understand. But in regard to the next thing it represents, we are limited in our understanding. To the extent that we as finite human beings are able to apprehend it, glory represents the revelation of God's majesty. Think of the most majestic thing you have ever witnessed in your lifetime, multiply it by a factor of 1,000 and you will not even be able to come close to appreciating, let alone



apprehending, the Majesty of God. The Majesty of Jesus is no less than the Majesty of God, for he is **the exact representation of (God's) being**. Today, as we think of Jesus as King, we behold him in all of his Majesty, Glory and Splendor. Read this paragraph again so that you will be able to comprehend, as close as it is humanly possible, the Glory and Majesty of the Resurrected Christ.

After he had provided purification for sins, – that is, after Jesus had completed his work as our great High Priest – **he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven**. To sit indicates a posture of rest. One can only sit down and truly rest when the work is completed. Thus we can speak of the finished work of Christ on the Cross. The right hand position is the place of honour. Sitting at God's right hand was the writer's way of saying that Christ's saving work was done and that he is now given the place of highest honour. "Majesty" means greatness. Here it is a title for God himself. Jesus, having completed the work that the Father sent him to earth to perform, now enters into the ultimate rest and takes the place of highest honour next to the Majesty of God in heaven.

In Philippians 2 we find the greatest statement in Scripture on the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus Christ. Paul, in highly poetical form, writes:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

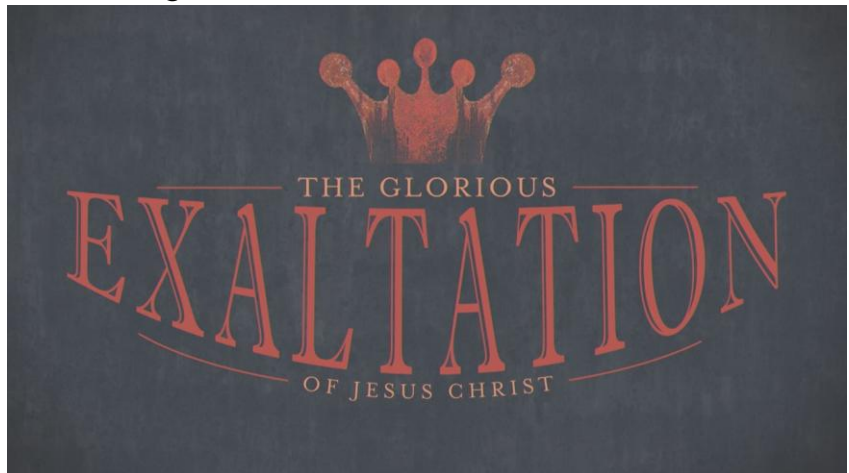
To read this passage can be likened to standing at the top of a stairway and beginning to descend. Almost every line in verses 6 to 8 is like taking a step downward until we reach the bottom of the stairway. There, by becoming obedient to death – **even death on a cross!** – Jesus comes to the point of ultimate humiliation. He becomes the lowest of the low.

As we reach verse 9, the process reverses and Jesus begins to ascend the stairway of exaltation, ending up in the place he began.

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Nowhere here is the word “king” used of Jesus, but it is implied. He is the one at whose Name **every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.** Truly this is the King of all creation.

There is one final passage that I want us to look at. It is found in Revelation 19.

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. **12** His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. **13** He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. **14** The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. **16** On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.



How majestic is this picture. Here is the Ultimate King, riding at the head of the armies of heaven. He is King above all other kings and Lord above all other lords. The Man who died on a Roman cross on Good Friday and rose victorious over the grave on Easter morning is King by Birth. As to his earthly life, he was a descendant of David, Israel's greatest king.

He demonstrated that he was the true Son of God by his resurrection from the dead. The Scriptures proclaim him to be Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:3,4) He is our Prophet, Priest and King. Jesus came as a Prophet revealing God, as a Priest reconciling us to God and as a King who reigns as God. The only question that remains is this: "Is he The King who rules and reigns in your heart?" Only if he is will you ever behold him in all his glory and majesty seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven.

Hymn: "Resurrection Hymn/See What a Morning"

(Click on the link below to play the hymn.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LgE_E7yaz4

Verse 1

See what a morning, gloriously bright
 With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem.
 Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light
 As the angels announce Christ is risen.
 See God's salvation plan, wrought in love
 Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice.
 Fulfilled in Christ the Man, for He lives.
 Christ is risen from the dead.

Verse 2

See Mary weeping. Where is He laid?
 As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
 Hears a voice speaking, calling her name,
 It's the Master the Lord raised to life again.
 The voice that spans the years,
 Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us.
 Will sound till He appears,
 For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead.

Verse 3

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
 Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
 Honour and blessing, glory and praise,
 To the King crowned with pow'r and authority.
 And we are raised with Him,
 Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
 And we shall reign with Him,
 For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead.

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewsperthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

Living God, you have given us so much in Jesus Christ:
 hope, joy, and peace.
 Above all, you have given us life!
 What can we give in return?
 If the whole world were ours, it would not be enough.
 What little we have we humbly offer to you.
 All thanksgiving and praise is due to you,
 Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Prayers for the People by the People – please continue to pray for members of our congregation and others that you personally know of.

- **Those on the front line in the fight against COVID-19, especially the nurses and PSW's in our congregations.** (Destiny Bowes, Glenda Gould, Connie Young, Tracey Laffine)
- **Those who are out of work and struggling financially to pay their bills.**
- **For Peri-Ann and Holden Echlin as they are expecting the arrival of Baby Echlin , due April 22nd.**
- **Stuart McKim & Louise Burke**
- **Ann Savage**

- **Dave Crawley & Paul Thompson**
- **University and College Students** (Holly, Caitlin, Colleen, Jonathan, Liam, Caleb and Issac) & **Angus Funston**
- **Shut-ins and Nursing Homes** (Elva Fair, Audrey Ferrier, Germaine Vanderklok, June O'Hara, Gwen Travis, Lyn Harrington, Bing Jeun, Jo Mott, Ruth McTavish)
- **St. Andrew's – as we carry on without benefit of regular services and seek to minister in a virtual, yet broken world.**
- **Rick & Colleen Richardson**
- **Richard Hendry**
- **Joanna Savage has a large cancerous mass on her liver. Treatments and appointments are being delayed as a result of COVID-19.**
- **Joan Palmer – has cancer and was in hospital again this week having fluid removed from around her heart and lungs. She is now at home. Doctors have said there is nothing more they can do for her.**
- **Adam Dowdall – Sharon Dowdall's grandson has diabetes which has been hard to control of late.**

Closing Hymn: “Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest”

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics will be displayed on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U1MuOCHon4>

Chorus

Alleluia alleluia
Give thanks to the Risen Lord
Alleluia alleluia
Give praise to His Name

Verse 1

Jesus is Lord of all the earth
He is the King of creation

Verse 3

We have been crucified with Christ
Now we shall live forever

Verse 2

Spread the good news o'er all the earth
Jesus has died and has risen

Verse 5

Come let us praise the Living God
Joyfully sing to our Saviour

Benediction

15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.