

Sunday 5th April 2020 – Palm Sunday

This short act of worship has been prepared by the Methodist Connexional team (with a little adaptation by Rev Dan) for you to use while we are unable to gather together to worship. If you are well enough we invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are also sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Sentences

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.



Lent Liturgy

Lectionary Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11, The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,
'Hosanna to the Son of David!'

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Matthew 21:8-9

If you have them, you may wish to hold a hammer and/or nails as you pray...

God our servant King,
We bring palms, to remind us of Christ's entry into Jerusalem.
We bring purple cloth, to remind us of Christ's coming suffering.
We remember Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.



Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you will know my Father also.
From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

John 14:6-7

Hymn: StF262 All glory, laud and honour

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://youtu.be/h3a8fTTrAdE>

1 All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and Blessèd One.

2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

3 To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

4 All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

*St Theodulph of Orleans (d.821), translated by John
Mason Neale (1811-1866)*

Let us pray together

God our Father,
we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus to be our King and Saviour.
We thank you that he came to his people in triumph, but also in humility,
and was willing to die so that all who believe in him may be forgiven,
may become your people, and may share in eternal life.

Forgive us for the times we have refused to believe,
for the times when we have not listened,
the times when we have been unwilling to follow him on the way,
and work in us by your Holy Spirit to make us the people you want us to be.
In Jesus' Name.
Amen.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse
us from all unrighteousness"

1 John 1:9

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

Additional Readings: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29, Philippians 2:5-11

Reflections: Today's gospel reading is one of joy and hope as people respond to Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. Of course, today we are not in a crowd, we are not waving palm branches as we gather together. We are about 2 weeks into a period of social distancing, many of us are self-isolating. So what does the triumphal entry look like to us? How do we connect with the story?

In the current state of the world we live in, I wonder if to us, we connect through the sense of collective hope that is shown, as one by one coats and branches are laid...as people copy each other. Just as the panic buying was caused by the first few, which led to the masses, so too can acts of hope and kindness filter out and impact others. Spread hope, joy and certainty that things can and will be better.

Of course, for Jesus & his followers, things got worse before they got better, in just a few days' time Jesus would be murdered, and his followers thought it was the end, but it was not...resurrection was to come. Hope was going to become a reality.

Now read Matthew 21:1-11 again. Take a time to reflect...

How can you live in hope today? How can you share hope with others?

Pause to spend time with that word/ passage/picture

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

If Jesus were stood before you what would you like to ask him?

A time of prayer

God of hope and love,
source and strength of our being.

We turn our hearts and sight to the world,
praying that your hope and strength might be made more fully known.

God of peace, we hold before you the instability of world and society...
Bring peace we pray.

Comforting God we pray for those who grieve and are not with their loved ones...
Bring comfort we pray.

God of strength, we pray for those feeling weak, anxious or worried...
Bring strength we pray.

God of justice we pray for those who suffer injustice, abuse and persecution...
Bring justice we pray.

God of love, we pray for those we know and love...
Bring your love we pray.

Silence for further personal prayer.

In the Spirit of hope we pray your kingdom come, your will be done as we say together...

The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father*

Hymn: Listen to You laid aside your majesty *Noel Richards © 1985 Thankyou Music*

Sing/ Read /pray/proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://youtu.be/oVLsRopJZgk>

(or sing a verse of another hymn that comes to mind)

You laid aside your majesty,
Gave up everything for me,
Suffered at the hands of those You had created.
You took all my guilt and shame,
When You died and rose again;
Now today You reign,
In heaven and earth exalted.

*I really want to worship You, my Lord,
You have won my heart
And I am Yours for ever and ever;
I will love You.
You are the only one who died for me,
Gave Your life to set me free,
So I lift my voice to You in adoration.*

A prayer of blessing

Christ draws us to himself
that we may find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven.

The blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon us and remain with us always.
Amen.