

Camel-Allen Churches

Sunday Worship at Home

28th March 2021

PALM SUNDAY



WELCOME on this Palm Sunday, as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, at the beginning of Holy Week.

WE PREPARE

The gates of Holy Week are open,
and we gather to celebrate our King
who rides a donkey.

We bring to you the best of what we are, Lord Jesus,
laying down our lives in service,
as you laid down your life for us. **Amen.**

HYMN

Ride on, ride on in majesty!

Hark, all the tribes, 'Hosanna!' cry,
thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
in lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see th' approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on His sapphire throne
awaits His own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
in lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Lord of all, when Jesus entered into Jerusalem,
the people welcomed him with praise
and gave him the best they could offer.
As we gather here, we ask you to fill our hearts with joy and love.
Help us to understand what it means
to give freely and extravagantly of our time,
our treasure and our talents.
Most of all, inspire us to give you our praise. **Amen.**

As Gareth plays...

Lord God, we give you thanks,
for you are good and your mercy is endless.

Here we stand at the start of this Holy Week;
this week in which your Church
remembers Jesus' passion and death
and we are distracted by many things.

Turn our eyes now to the One who comes in your name
the One who opens the gates of righteousness
the One who answers when we call.

We bless you, Lord, for shining your light upon us
and for sending your Son to us
in human frailty,
to walk the road we walk.

Open our eyes that we may see Him coming
and may praise Him with loving hearts
and may walk in the way of His suffering
and share also in His resurrection.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

iBelieve.com / 8 Holy Week Prayers / Palm Sunday

We say, 'Sorry' and receive God's loving forgiveness...

Eager to emulate that first Palm Sunday crowd, we picture ourselves
casting our cloaks before Jesus and joining the celebration.

Would we, though, if it were to happen again today?

An impoverished preacher on the humblest of beasts –
would we cast our finest before him?

Tear off our wool and cashmere coats, our leather jackets,
and throw them down for his donkey to trample?

**We confess, Lord,
that we would probably be loath to leave our homes.**

**We confess that
we are carried away by stories
and the seeming romance of them.**

**Those people threw their prized possessions before Jesus,
giving the best they had.**

**Forgive us for holding back so much from him,
and help us to celebrate with all that we have. Amen.**

Lord, thank you for forgiving us
when we have been mean with our attitudes.

**Jesus forgives us
and opens our hearts and our minds
to how we should think and feel.**

Lord, thank you for forgiving us
when we have withheld our possessions.

**Jesus, who had nothing,
forgives us and shows us how to share.**

Lord, thank you for forgiving us
when we have kept ourselves to ourselves.

**Jesus, who lived and died for others,
forgives us and calls us to join him. Amen.**



HYMN

Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest;
hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest:
Lord, we lift up Your name,
with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, O Lord my God –
hosanna in the highest.

Glory, glory,
glory to the King of kings;
glory, glory,
glory to the King of kings:
Lord, we lift up Your name
with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, O Lord my God –
glory to the King of kings.

GOD'S WORD



Gospel Mark 11; 1 - 11

11 As they [*Jesus and the disciples*] approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his

disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut from the trees. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!^[a]"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

¹⁰ "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Reflection

It starts with Jesus and his disciples - approaching Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. It starts slow and quiet. Quiet as a midnight heist. ["SHHH"]

And even though what happens next is technically not a robbery - it certainly sounds like one.

"Go into the village." says Jesus. "You'll find a donkey there, tied up next to its colt. Untie them and bring them to me. And if anyone says anything, tell him that I need them, and everything will be ok."

And you've got to wonder, haven't you? Was this donkey borrowing a normal sort of thing? Was Jesus just hoping no one would notice? Were his instructions given 'just in case'? Or had he pre-arranged it all?

Somebody had certainly pre-arranged it, because the Bible says that all this donkey borrowing/riding stuff was the fulfilment of a prophecy made hundreds of years before.

"Say to Zion's daughter
Look, here comes your king
He's gentle and he's riding on a donkey
On a colt, a donkey's foal."

So the disciples do what Jesus asks. They acquire the donkey and the colt. They put their cloaks on them. And Jesus mounts up.

And now things get a little noisier, if we weren't muted. [*noisy hubbub*]

A crowd gathers. A very large crowd. Some of them spread their cloaks on the road in front of him others cut branches from trees and spread those on the road, as well.

And now things are getting really loud. [*CHEERING*]

The crowd shouts: "Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!"

And by the time this procession reaches Jerusalem, the whole city is asking,

"Who is this?"

And the crowd answers:

"This is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee!
THIS IS JESUS!"

Have you still got your cloak? Or is it lying somewhere on the road amongst the other cloaks and palm leaves? Without your cloak, where is your protection from the windblown dust and sand.

How will you keep warm in the evening after the sun goes down? What will give you shade from the hot desert sun? What will you do for a blanket at night?

Your cloak, if you still have it, is important to you, a valuable best thing;

or did you spread it on the road, under the feet of the coming King, as a sign of your willingness to bow before him, to serve him?

Your precious, rough, woollen cloak, your protector from all weathers, a means to serving others, lies trampled on the road; or did you throw a palm branch instead?

What we choose to spread on the road, to lay before the coming King Jesus is up to us.

The torn down palm branch has little long-term value, for it is one of many, but our cloaks are our best things unique, valuable, precious even, keeping us safe, protecting and enfolding, enabling us to serve others.

You may wish to make use of the cloak at the back of this order to prayerfully focus on your best things and jot them down, on the cloak. What would you choose to offer King Jesus as he rides into his coming Holy week?



So, what will you lay before Jesus?
A leafy branch or your best thing?

HYMN

I will bring to you the best gift I can offer.

I will sing to you the best things in my mind.

Paper pictures, bits of string,
I'll bring you almost anything,
I'll bring a song that only I can sing:
the rainbow colours in the sky,
the misty moon that caught my eye,
the magic of a new-born butterfly.

I'll bring a song of winter trees,
the skidding ice, the frozen leaves,
the battles in our snowball-shouting parks.
I'll bring you summers I have known,
adventure trips and journeys home,
the summer evenings playing on the beach.

I'll share my secrets and my dreams,
I'll show you wonders I have seen
and I will listen when you speak your name;
and if you really want me to,
I will share my friends with you,
all at home and in the village, too.

We declare our faith in God...

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,

**he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

Taking the form of a slave,

he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself

**and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

Therefore God has raised him on high,

and given him the name above every name:

that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow,

**and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

WE PRAY TOGETHER



As we recall Jesus entering Jerusalem,
let us gather our thoughts to pray.

The response during our prayers is:

Jesus our King:

We welcome you!

Father, as the crowds welcomed Jesus,
and sang your praises,
we pray that many more will welcome you
into their hearts and lives over the coming year.

We pray for opportunities to spread your good news
and the courage to take them

Jesus our King:

We welcome you!

Father, we recall the donkey Jesus rode on,
and we pray for that real humility in our hearts
which treats status and image casually,
and truth and loving service seriously.

Jesus our King:

We welcome you!

Father, the children sang and shouted your praise,
and we pray for the children in our homes,
our villages, towns and land.

May we not fail them

in the support and teaching they need.

Jesus our King:

We welcome you!

Father, the crowds were responding
to the healing love they had seen in action in Jesus.
We bring to you, in our love now,
all those we would have brought to Jesus
for healing and help.

Give them comfort and reassurance,
wholeness and hope.

Jesus our King:

We welcome you!

Father, Jesus knew he was riding to his death.
We pray for all on that last journey,
especially those burdened with fear and guilt.
We commend to your eternal love all who have died,
thanking you for the blessings we have received,
even for the grief
which is part of the love we share.

Jesus our King:

We welcome you!

Father, we too, spread our coats on the road
as we express our thankfulness
for all you have done for us
and the amazing extent of your love.

Jesus our King:

We welcome you! Amen.

A collect for today...

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. **Amen.**

And as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.....
...Our Father



OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

HYMN

From heaven You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.

This is our God . . .

Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God . . .

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God . . .

We tell your story.
We follow in your footsteps
Lead us into Holy Week

We walk towards the city.
We wait in the garden
Lead us onto Holy ground.

We journey towards death.
We hope for resurrection.
Lead us into Holy joy.

And... **May the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ
the Love of God
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**



*Some material for this service is drawn from: Rootsontheweb.com
Intercessions from 'Prayer of Intercession' by Susan Sayers
Hymns taken from missionpraise.com
CCLI# 999402
Service compiled and reflection written by Sue*

My 'best things'
to spread before
King Jesus

