



St Mary's, Newick

Palm Sunday Service at Home

5th April 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home, as due to the current situation we are unable enter our Church buildings together, either here in Newick or in our neighbouring parishes, but the life of the church continues in the community, in our homes, in our prayer and pastoral ministry.

Why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with together within our communities?

If you are a joining us from further away, welcome, and if you would like to message us, we would love to be praying for you via church.newick@gmail.com or through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/saintmarysnewick/>

We will keep everyone up to date, broadcast services and times of prayer, on our Church Facebook page and continue to build a sense of community during this time of isolation through the Newick Community Resource Page https://www.facebook.com/groups/798875173939553/?ref=group_header

NOTES ABOUT PALM SUNDAY/WHAT YOU NEED

Normally today we would be given Palm Crosses to join in a procession.

As we are unable to meet, we encourage you before the service begins to make your own cross, either from things around the house or garden, or an origami cross.

THE GREETING and INTRODUCTION

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and, with you.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection.

Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again.

Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

BLESSING OF THE CROSSES holding them up as we say:

**God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and die; let our palms be for us signs of his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn:

**Come and worship Christ the King,
come and bow before
Christ the author of all things,
every heart adore
Christ the everlasting God.
Reigning at the Father's side
from eternity,
wrapped in everlasting light,
clothed in majesty,
the beginning and the end.**

*Christ our saviour,
King of glory and of grace,
reign for ever,
you are worthy of our hearts' unending praise.*

**When our hearts were far away,
still he came for us,
left his glory, took our place,
suffered on the cross;
through his death he won our peace.
Now no condemnation stands,
we are truly free;
we were crucified with Christ,
we will surely be
raised in everlasting life.**

**He will come again in power
with authority,
sin and death will be destroyed
in his victory,
we will see him face to face.
Every tongue will cry in awe,
every bended knee
will acknowledge he is Lord,
then our hearts will be
lost in everlasting praise.** <https://youtu.be/Ev5eBlfZf9w>

THE COLLECT

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering & in his glory.
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.

Let us pray together

God our Father, we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus to be our King and Savior.

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, and 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

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

As they approached Jerusalem and came to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
 'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!"

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

"Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Talk

Come and save us

Come and save us Son of David

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Come and save us in highest heaven

Hosanna means 'Come and save' us or 'Please Save us' and comes from the Hebrew text of the words from Psalm 118 verse 25 'save now, I beseech thee, O Lord . . . O Lord I beseech thee, send now prosperity, blessed be He that cometh in the name of the Lord'

It describes a time of a righteous one coming to the "gate of the Lord" – of a stone rejected by mankind and raised up by God, used as a cornerstone of a new building, a new creation, a new tomorrow.

Come and save us – For the second week on Thursday we stepped out of our homes, leaned from our windows applauded, whooped, cheered, banged saucepans together in a percussion of praise for our keyworkers and our valiant NHS and care providers. I find so much strength in the sense of community that is growing through the darkest of times of this pandemic. The streets of our villages towns and cities emptied but the voices of those in isolation, closed-up in our own homes are heard all across the nation.

Through our Lent Course we've been imagining what it would have been like to be in the physical presence of Jesus during his time on earth – putting ourselves into the stories of calling, healing, teaching, hospitality, and as we enter Holy week persecution.

I am struck, how different Jesus's entrance to Jerusalem would be if it was this year

Earlier in the week I was surfing webcams around the globe – perfect piste of mountains in the alps and not a skier in sight.

The view over Kathmandu the smog lifted the majesty of the Langtang ranges revealed behind

The City of London – bridges, concourses, and usually busy junctions empty

And then I peered into the live cam of the western wall of Jerusalem – the courtyard empty of worshipers – the streets deserted – save for the ever-present military patrols and I thought

How different Jesus' entrance would be this year

In the first century Jesus' enters Jerusalem in humility – riding on a donkey and Matthew is eager to remind us that this fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah chapter 9 verse 9 , who speaks of a coming king and a shepherd rejected by the people of Israel.

But the part that has struck me most this week is the whole reversal **to** meekness **from** majesty.

Roman officials loved to let the people know who was boss – who was really important and in the time of Jesus it would have been usual for governors such as Pontius Pilate to enter the cities they occupied with great pomp and flexing of military muscle –

This would be especially visible during the holy days of the occupied Jewish people and Passover in particular, as this reminded the people of Israel of another time in their history when they were persecuted and cruelly dealt with and how through faith they overcame their oppressor . No wonder they cried – Hosanna - Come and save us.

As we consider the spread of Covid-19 around our world, in our country and community, it could be interesting to reflect on how our lives and our hope has become increasingly dependent on our care providers rather than on our governments, officials and politicians

Interesting that those who came to serve not to be served, are the ones we are applauding and saluting.

When we are through the other side of this current catastrophe - and we will be through this – how good it would be if the proper respect was given to those who deserve it the most. This could be a better world and different world and we could be modelling a different way of living in it,

a way that builds up the humble and meek,

a way that loves our neighbour as we love ourselves

a way that models the one who came to serve not to be served

that would be a better world – a different world

Jesus would prove to be a different kind of king – a different kind of saviour . Looking from our homes, with a 21st Century perspective we know the outcome to this story – we know that within a week, the cries of 'come and save us' will be turned to 'crucify him'. We know that for Jesus, being lifted - will mean being lifted on a Cross not a popularity poll. But we also know that even at the darkest times in the days ahead there is a hope , that with every Good Friday and Holy Saturday there dawns an Easter Day and although our Easter Sunday will be vastly different than the one we anticipated on Ash Wednesday.

We will be together and apart at the same time, spirit filled, and spirit led, and our world needs this more now than it is ever done.

But first we must join in Spirit, as we journey through this Holy week in isolation or in service to our communities.

At the heart of our current social distancing is a message that encourages us to stretch out our arms to show us the kind of distance we are expected to keep, in so doing we make the shape of the Cross and I know that many of us have been unable to access a palm cross this year – So my encouragement is this, find some space – stretch out your arms – be the human palm Cross God is longing for you to be.

During this Holiest of weeks pray for a few moments like this - arms outstretched

Ask God what it is that we have available to us for His service

What can we offer of ourselves, as a community of Christ?

As Church together and apart

Pray:

Hosanna to the Son of David

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the Highest

St Francis would often pray a simple prayer as he stood before the Crucifix of the little church of San Damiano during the early days of his conversion around 1205

It's a prayer of offering, of petition, of service and of hope:

Most High and Glorious God

Enlighten the darkness of my heart

And give me true faith

Certain hope

Perfect charity

Sense and knowledge

That I may carry out

Your Holy and true command

Amen

To ponder...

- 1. What images, words, or phrases do you associate with Palm Sunday?*
- 2. The Palm Sunday liturgy shows the fickleness of humanity. One minute we shout someone's praises, and soon after we yell, "Crucify him!" When in your own life have you been inconsistent in your actions or beliefs?*
- 3. What is your prayer as you begin Holy Week?*

Giving

Up until this point in time, every Sunday we have had a collection from your generosity to resource the Ministry & Mission here at St Mary's as well as supporting our wider mission & community engagement.

By responding to what God has given us, our giving also provides us an opportunity to symbolise the offering of ourselves by the offering of our gifts. We make our lives an offering, our time, our money and our love.

I have to ask that during these difficult times and only if you are able to consider offering this kind of support in whichever way you can.

Your kindness and generosity equips us with the means to maintain Christ's vision and action in our community.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer The response to - *let us pray to the Lord* is **Lord, have mercy**

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,

For Christian people, that through suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, Let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

For our village of Newick, for our brothers and sisters in Chailey, Fletching and Barcombe. And for those who are joining us from further away.

That your peace might reign and that your perfect love might settle our fears.

let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy

Holy God, holy and strong

Holy and immortal, have mercy upon us. In Jesus 'name. **AMEN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Hymn: listen or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
(Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

THE BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty,
✠the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.