**Sunday 5th April 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: Lent 6, Palm Sunday

Welcome to our act of Worship as we commence Holy Week. Palm Sunday recalls how Jesus enters Jerusalem to jubilant crowds, but knows that he rides towards rejection and death in order to save his people.

Call to worship

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

HYMN: All glory laud and honour

HP 160, MP 9, RS 208, STF 262

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

Prayer of Praise

(Based on Zechariah 9.9 and Psalm 118.26-29).

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Lord we are joyful

and we sing out our praises to you,
God our creator,

God whose presence fills earth and heaven,
you came in triumph to save us,
you came humbly and gently,
and in peace.

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*
We praise you, Jesus Christ,

coming to us from God our Creator.
We praise you from this dispersed faith community, yet who are one in you.
Through you, God has lit up our lives.

*We give praise to the Lord, for God is good.*

*God’s steadfast love endures forever***.
Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Saviour, forgive us when we have not

welcomed you as we should.
Saviour, forgive us when we have not

recognised your presence with us.
Saviour, forgive us when we have not

given you praise.
Lift up our heads, give us eyes to see.
We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

HYMN: Make way, make way

HP-, MP457 , RS141, STF264

**GOSPEL Matthew 21.1-11 with special focus on:**

6The disciples … 7brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The 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!’

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

“Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord!” (verse 9)

“Is your journey really necessary” asked the Policeman when I got stopped on Monday heading to Taunton. On explaining I was going to be on chaplaincy duty at a 600 bed hospital and showing my NHS identity badge he warmly waved me on.

“Is your journey really necessary” is a question we can ask of ourselves at the start of his Holy Week, because we know how it culminates – suffering and agonising death. It is incredibly tempting to turn the pages and by-pass Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. However, at this time of pandemic how relevant it is to remember that Jesus knows what human suffering is like.

These are fearful days and within the Holy Week narratives fear is evident, not least in those closest to Jesus. I wonder how many of them were fearful even amidst the crowd of jubilant Passover pilgrims from all over the Jewish world who greeted Jesus with that accolade of praise, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” For Jesus there is no fear, only love and that’s His message be it Palm Sunday adulated, or Christ crucified.

*Noli Timere* – these were the last words which the poet and Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney sent to his wife – Be Not Afraid. It’s what I say to myself especially when I’m on chaplaincy duty, setting out to do something which is making me scared. It is a biblical image which I find very reassuring and strengthening. In these strange times we journey into this Holy Week in the footsteps and in the presence of the One whom even death could not destroy.

“Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord!” Amen

A Prayer of Response *for all ages*

Lord, every day of my life,
please help me to see you more clearly, *(point to*

*eyes)*
to follow you more closely, *(move feet)*
and love you more and more. *(cross heart)* **Amen.**

HYMN My song is love unknown

HP173, MP478, RS207, STF277,

*ALTERNATIVE: If you are at home with little people, they might like this:* ***We are marching in the Light of God* STF 483 RS 555** If you are unfamiliar with the tune you can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SOWN0_0lrk>

It is a great song to add movement to!

Our Prayers

*Blessed is the one who comes*

*in the name of the Lord!*

As we recall the journey Jesus made not only on Palm Sunday but to the cross, give us strength to walk with confidence the road that leads to your kingdom.

In this time of Coronavirus, help us to never give up, however terrible or fearful things seem and enable kindness to neighbours and strangers.

To people who are self-isolating, displaced, or cut off from family, friends or work, bring companionship, support and encouragement.

To those bearing the cross of suffering give your power and peace. Work with medical staff as they care for the sick, and protect them from harm.

Give skill and fruitful research to scientists
as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure.

To public health authorities and governments, give wisdom to decide the best ways to manage both this crisis and our anxieties.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed is the one who comes in

the name of the Lord! Amen.

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 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 Ride on, ride on in majesty...

HP159, MP580, RS209, STF265,

Blessing

The Blessing of the Christ
of crowds and cheering,
of quiet places and silence,

of aloneness and rejection,

of suffering and death,

of resurrection and new life
give us courage

and the peace that the world cannot give.
May you know Christ by your side whatever lies ahead for each one of us. Amen.

Reflection for Holy Week:

Victory is Ours
Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us. Desmond Tutu: *An African Prayer Book.*

Action: Make your own Palm Cross, a variety of materials including ribbon can be used – see sheet.

Rev David Coppard @ Wiltshire United Area,

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

**Matthew 21.1-11**

**Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

21When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ 4This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
5 ‘Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
   humble, and mounted on a donkey,
     and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’
6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The 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!’
10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ 11The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

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1 All glory, laud, and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.

2 The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

3 To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!

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Make way, make way, for Christ the King
In splendour arrives
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him
Into your lives
Make way!
Make way!
For the King of kings
Make way!
Make way!
And let His kingdom in

He comes the broken hearts to heal
The prisoners to free
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance
The blind shall see

And those who mourn with heavy hearts
Who weep and sigh
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify

We call you now to worship Him
As Lord of all
To have no gods before Him
Their thrones must fall!

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1 My song is love unknown,
my saviour's love for me;
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be:
but who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2 He came from heaven's throne
salvation to bestow;
but they refused, and none
the longed-for Christ would know:
this is my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend.

3 Sometimes they crowd his way
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their king:
then 'crucify' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4 Why, what has my Lord done
to cause this rage and spite?
he made the lame to run,
and gave the blind their sight:
what injuries! yet these are why
the Lord most high so cruelly dies.

5 They rise and they must have
my dear Lord done away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay!
yet willingly, to shame he goes
that he his foes, from this, might free,

6 Here might I stay and sing
of him my soul adores;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like yours!
this is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

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Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strewed.

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 angel-squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.
 **Ride on! ride on in majesty!**Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
expects 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.

