

Worship at Home - Sunday 10 April 2022

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the special season of lent and the reminders of events that happened in Jesus' life when he entered Jerusalem. May our time of worship reflect our gratitude and love for you. Amen

Hymn: This is the day that the Lord has made Anonymous **StF152**

1. This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.

2. This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again,
when he rose again.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again.

3. This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came,
when the Spirit came.
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came.

Let us pray together Prayers from 'Roots' 10th April 2022

Lord Jesus, you journeyed to Jerusalem many times, as a child and as a man, touching many lives along the way as you taught and healed and challenged.

Thank you for inviting us to journey with you today, for showing us the depth of your courage and the power of your love.

Thank you, Lord, for being our King and Saviour – and our friend. You are worthy of all our praise.
Amen

We are sorry, Lord Jesus, for the moments when our hosannas are loud but lacking in love, when we chase the lure of worldly power, but miss the signs of heavenly glory, when we choose popularity over integrity, when we would silence those who speak the truth and are silent when we could speak out.

Forgive us and inspire our steps as we follow you to the Cross...and beyond. **Amen.**

Bible Reading: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Bible Reading: Luke 19:28-40 Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Hymn: Ride on, ride on in majesty

Henry Hart Milman

StF 265

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

2. 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.

3. Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The angel-squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

4. Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
expects his own anointed Son.

5. 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.

Time to Reflect

Though Jesus visited Jerusalem several times, this was the only day when Jesus did something unexpected during his earthly life, entering into the city riding on the donkey. I am aware that many generations of theologians, Biblical scholars and readers of these texts would have asked questions, such as:

Why did Jesus need a donkey, especially a colt (which probably could not carry a grown man!) and not a horse?

How did the owner of the donkey let go of his colt, and obviously without any payment for it?

Jesus was used to walking everywhere, and therefore why did he not walk up to Jerusalem? The city was not too far, about two miles from the Mount of Olives!

As this is a familiar Bible reading, we of course know the answer to all the above questions - that is, all this happened in order to fulfil the Old Testament prophecy, which was spoken by the prophet Zechariah in chapters 9:9 and 14:4. This day was meant also to display a different kind of Kingship and Kingdom to all those who had gathered that day in Jerusalem for Passover, including the Roman soldiers/officials. We read that Jesus, the King of the Jews, entered the city in peace (one would not go into battle riding a donkey!) contrary to the victorious king who would enter the conquered city, riding on his 'warhorse', symbolising a judgment on the people of that city.

Adding to this, we are reminded “this is the day crowd shouts openly and claim allegiance with God rather than Caesar” which was quite a daring thing to do, given that not only was the ruling party watching everything closely, but also the religious leaders who were so concerned that they had said, “...look how the world is gone after him...” (John 12:19). They had their own agenda, but Jesus’ journey on a donkey was extraordinary, unexpected and un-imaginable and therefore they were frustrated to see the large crowd cheering for Jesus.

Perhaps, it was that day when Jesus and his teachings meant something for the followers. The whole city would have been in a joyous uproar on that day! If you have an experience of being in a parade or carnival, you would sense the feeling of joy and something bigger to come, but things did not turn out as people expected! For we know that soon after this event, Jesus was arrested, interrogated and crucified.

The texts for Palm Sunday teach us that Jesus did not comply with the values and expectation around him, and nor should we. This is easier said than done in the Western world, where there is no ‘pressure’ to live the Christian life, where there is not a great need to rely on Jesus for the daily bread or basic necessity. However, we must live the ‘servant leadership’ in all circumstances and even when it is hard and challenging.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Prayers adapted from Roots Worship, 10th April 2013

As Jesus wept over Jerusalem and cleansed its Temple, let us pray for our cities and our churches today.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities in conflict, where dictators hold on to power and oppress their own citizens, and the voice of the people is not heard. Especially for Ukraine...

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities in economic trouble where the current Covid crisis has put many out of work, new businesses cannot get loans to start, and people do not feel they are all in it together.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for cities suffering natural disaster, where storms, tsunamis, flooding or fire have destroyed the infrastructure and rebuilding has been slow and inefficient.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for all those suffering poor health, personal disaster, or the death of a loved one. Make us faithful in praying, visiting and caring for those in difficulties.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

We pray to you for churches of all denominations, as what unites us this week is so much bigger than what divides us. May we love one another, so the world may know

you are among us.

Help us know what will bring us peace, O Lord.

Amen

We join our prayer together as we say 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: Make way, make way, for Christ

Graham Kendrick

StF264

1. 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), make way (make way),
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);
make way (make way), make way (make way),
and let his Kingdom in.**

2. He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see. **Make way...**

3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify. **Make way...**

4. We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him,
their thrones must fall! **Make way...**

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A prayer of blessing

May God grant us exuberance of the Palm Sunday crowd, and the humility of Jesus riding a donkey;

the energy and excitement of the crowd, and the calm holiness of Jesus;

the expectation of the crowd, and the understanding heart of Jesus

who journeyed to Jerusalem for love of us all.

Amen.

