

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 13th April 2025 at 10.45 am
Family Worship for Palm Sunday

Hello, I hope you are well. Our readings will be Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Philippians 2:5-11. As many of us as are able will gather outside at the front of the church. Let us worship God together:

Introduction

Minister: Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel!
 All: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**
Hosanna in the highest.

The Minister welcomes the people and introduces the Service.

Welcome to our Palm Sunday Service of Worship. May I offer a special word of welcome to any visitors with us this morning.

We come together at the beginning of the most momentous week in the Christian year. During Lent, we have been preparing 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. We will go with him in faith and love, so that united with him in his suffering, we may share his risen life.

Gospel Reading Luke 19:28-40

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' ³⁴They said, 'The Lord needs it.' ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying,

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

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' ⁴⁰He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

The Minister continues:

On this day we relive the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem, humbling riding a donkey.
 We recall the crowds lining the way, carpeting the road with their cloaks, we hear the enthusiastic cry, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!'
 We bear our palms in commemoration.

We hold up our palm crosses while a prayer is said.

Gracious God,
 as we remember this day how Jesus entered Jerusalem
 to cries of celebration,
 help us to welcome him afresh into our own hearts and lives.
 Accept the praise we bring you,
 and give us a real sense of expectation
 as we look towards his coming Kingdom.
 In moments of weakness we may not always see you clearly
 nor understand you as we should
 but take the faith we offer and deepen it through this day,

so that we may truly welcome Christ as our King
and worship him with joyful praises, now and always. Amen

The Minister addresses the congregation:

Let us go forth, walking together in fellowship,
In the company of Jesus our Messiah.

We process into the Church holding up our palm crosses.
We enter the church and sit in our places.

Choir Introit *Hosanna to the Son of David* (Stephen Hogger)

Call to Worship

Jesus is king!
King of creation, of all nations, of our lives!
Let us worship with joy, gratitude, and respect.
Hosanna to the Son of David,
to God's Anointed One!
Hosanna to the king who rides a peaceable donkey!
Hosanna here and in the highest!

R&S 208 All glory, laud, and honour

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 Blessed One.

2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal flesh 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!

Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821) tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66)*

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord of lords, King of kings,
your love for us transforms and startles us.
Your gift to us amazes and bewilders us.
Your life given for us brings us to our knees.
Your abundance reveals our poverty.
Your presence comforts and upholds us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord of lords, King of kings,
We adore you like no other. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Lord Jesus, you came to change the world.

Forgive us when we become complacent, when change is difficult – and we give up.

Lord Jesus, you came to serve, not to be served.

Forgive us when we put ourselves and our needs before those of our brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, you came to bring peace.

Forgive us when we cause more fights, more trouble, and more wars than peace.

Lord Jesus, you came to set the captives free.

Forgive us when we don't stand up for justice and freedom for our neighbours.

Lord Jesus, you came to meet us where we are.

Forgive us when we don't stand with each other through the pain and struggle.

Help us to change the world by serving one another, working for peace,

standing up for justice, and walking with our fellow pilgrims. **Amen.**

An assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God, you always know our hearts, even if sometimes we feel lost in our wrongdoing, lost in the crowd, you are always there – to pick us up and put us back on the right track, to teach us to improvise even when we feel bogged down, to bring new life and forgiveness in your wings.

So we can truly rejoice in travelling with you. **Amen.**

Palm Sunday Praise

Loving God,

we join this day in glad and joyful praise.

we welcome Christ once more

as our king, Lord and Saviour –

we promised him our loyalty,

we bring him our love,

we bow to him in worship,

we greet him in wonder.

Hosanna to the son of David,

glory in the highest heaven.

Loving God, come to us again through Christ this day.

Speak to us as we read familiar words,

as we sing familiar songs,

as we recall his triumphal entry into Jerusalem long ago,

as we remember all it meant and all it cost.

Hosanna to the son of David,

glory in the highest heaven.

Help us to see that it was not only in the welcome of Palm Sunday,
but in the rejection which followed

that Jesus revealed your glory,

and so help us to offer him our service in the days ahead,

through the good times and the difficult.

Hosanna to the son of David,

glory in the highest heaven. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Family Talk

R&S 141 Make way, make way, for Christ the King

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
for the King of kings, King of kings!
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! 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! Make way...

4 We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no other gods but him:
their thrones must fall!

Make way! Make way...

Graham Kendrick
© 1986 Thankyou Music

Our Children and Young People go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

A Song of Victory

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing;

it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷ The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ
Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

R&S 209 Ride on! ride on in majesty!

1 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark all the tribes hosanna cry;
thine humble beast pursues his 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!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father, on his sapphire throne
expects his own anointed Son.

4 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!

H. H. Milman. (1791-1868)

A Palm Sunday Talk followed by a moment for personal reflection**Hymn Children of Jerusalem**

1 Children of Jerusalem
sang the praise of Jesus' name;
children, too, of modern days
join to sing the Savior's praise.

Refrain:

*Hark, hark, hark, while infant voices sing,
Hark, hark, hark, while infant voices sing
loud hosannas, loud hosannas,
loud hosannas to our King.*

2 We are taught to love the Lord,
we are taught to read His word;
we are taught the way to heaven;
Praise for all to God be given. [Refrain]

3 Parents, teachers, old and young,
all unite to swell the song;
higher and yet higher rise,
till hosannas fill the skies. [Refrain]

Words: John Henley.

Music: Arr. by R. M. McIntosh.

Our prayers of intercession

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.

This Easter week we pray to you, Son of God:
For the choices you made to bring the world hope,
For your servanthood and humility,
For your words of power and challenge of corruption,
For the sacrifice of your life so we can fully live.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.

In this turbulent and complicated world we pray to you, Son of God:
For the countries in poverty and despair,
For the nations in war, conflict and turmoil,
For the peoples persecuted and rejected,
For you to bring your kingdom of peace.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.

In this world damaged by humanity we pray to you, Son of God:
For those who farm the land, facing changes in weather,
For countries in drought, flood, and starvation,
For people helping and supporting those who have lost their land,
For you to bring weather in season, and good crops.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.

In this world of greed and bullying we pray to you, Son of God:
 For those facing loss of jobs, businesses and income,
 For those who have international, life-changing decisions to make,
 For those who have far too much, but desire more,
 For you to bring fairness, morality and generosity into selfish lives.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord,

To the glory of God the Father.

In the family of this church and our community we pray to you, Son of God:
 For all our local leaders, councillors and MP,
 For all those who work in surgeries, schools, shops and all places that serve,
 For all those in need, in sickness, in pain and in turmoil,
 For you to bring your healing and light into darkness.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord,

To the glory of God the Father.

In our own country we pray to you, Son of God:
 For time this Easter to rest, reflect, and pause our busyness,
 For a return to your ways of compassion and kindness,
 For the peoples' money to be spent wisely,
 For you to bring calm, vision and purpose. Amen.

R&S 422 Lift high the cross

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
 till all the world adore his sacred name!*

1 Here we display God's foolishness, which came
 to put the wisdom of this world to shame.

(1 Cor. 1:18)

2 Our only boast is Jesus crucified;
 we die with him and shall be glorified.

(Gal. 6:14)

3 Bearing our human likeness as his own,
 in death and suffering Christ took up his throne.

(Phil. 2:8)

4 Sin's deadly bond which sealed our total loss
 he set aside and nailed it to the Cross.

(Col. 2:13)

5 All nameless powers that human life betray
 are led as captives on his triumph day.

(Col. 2:15)

6 May we, baptized according to his word,
 take up his cup and drink it with our Lord.

(Mark 10:38)

Refrain: George W. Kitchen (1827-1912)

and M. R. Newbolt (1874-1956)

Verses: Stephen Orchard (1942-) and compilers

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A sending out prayer

As the crowds gathered to welcome and celebrate the coming kingdom of freedom, peace and justice, so we lay ourselves before our donkey-riding king, Jesus Christ our Lord. Let his vision be our vision, his kingdom be our kingdom, his call be our call, his journey be our journey, and his life, death and resurrection be our salvation.

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

And may the blessing of God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be with you and those whom you love,
 now and always, Amen.

The Grace is shared with one another

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