



## Palm Sunday 5 April 2020

If you can, please pray at about 11 am so that we can feel connected and in spirit are together as a church community, even though we each pray from our own homes.

If you have a palm cross have it to hand

The Roots material I use to prepare worship gives 'a community on the move and a city in turmoil' as a theme to explore for today, Palm Sunday. We are certainly not a community on the move but we are a world in turmoil. Our lives are certainly in turmoil in these uncertain and difficult times.

*As we gather virtually,  
let us bring our palms and branches, our shouts and praise.  
Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Hosanna to the King of kings!  
Let us journey to Jerusalem  
to worship the king who came to save us.  
**Amen.***

A hymn to be said or sung holding your Palm Cross.:

- 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.

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

The reading is Matthew 21: 1-11

Some thoughts from Roots worship material:

Good news – the Messiah has come! The people acclaim him. Bad news – they see somebody else. They wanted a conquering monarch, a military leader, not a peacemaker riding on a donkey, on the way to a cross. Expectations can distort vision, so for many – those who want quick solutions rather than the revolution of the heart – Jesus is a disappointment. In a culture that worships power, celebrity and heroes, Jesus is seen as a failure. Yet power declines, celebrity fades, heroes dwindle. Read '[Ozymandias](#)'. What endures? What sustains? In a world of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, who will we follow?

We know that Jesus and his love endures forever.

### **A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

*based on Psalm 118*

Give thanks to the Lord,

***his steadfast love endures for ever.***

We celebrate Jesus, arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey, coming as a humble peacemaker.

The crowds came out to wave branches and lay down their coats,

shouting 'Hosanna, Hosanna'.  
He came to turn the world upside down,  
to serve, not to be served.  
He came as a liberator, to set people free.  
***We give thanks to the Lord;  
his steadfast love endures for ever.  
Amen.***

### **Prayers of intercession**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who give of themselves sacrificially,  
for those whose lives are dedicated to serving others:  
parents, carers, foster carers, doctors, nurses...  
those caring for children or elderly relatives.  
***Let us travel together and lighten the load.***

We pray for those serving in war-torn countries around the world:  
medics, those who work in missions, the media, NGOs and  
charities...  
who bring food, shelter and healing to those in need,  
sometimes putting their lives on the line.  
***Let us travel together and lighten the load.***

We pray for those in our communities who need our unconditional  
love:  
those hurting from broken relationships, abuse, bullying, domestic  
violence...  
children and adults whose lives are bereft of love and hope.  
***Let us travel together and lighten the load.***

We pray that we might be Easter people, laying down our lives to  
serve others, bringing hope to hopeless situations – the hope of the  
cross and resurrection.  
***Let us travel together and lighten the load.  
Amen.***

Let us travel together as we say the Lord's Prayer: *Our Father ...*

Lord Jesus Christ, we bless each other with your peace, your joy and  
your love as we travel into next week and the weeks to come.  
Amen