



Chet Valley Churches



Holy Communion for Palm Sunday

28th March 2021

The Liturgy of Palm Sunday

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 also with you.

If you have received a palm cross during the week, please hold it up as we pray together:

**Bless to us these palm crosses, loving God.
May they help us to praise you
from our hearts today.
May they help us to understand
how much it cost for you to die for us.
As we live through this Holy Week,
and all through the coming year,
may they remind us that you promised to be
with us always. Amen.**



Acclamations

Humble and riding on a donkey, **we greet you.**

Acclaimed by crowds and cheered by children, **we cheer you.**

Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,
we salute you, Christ our Lord.

You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity;
You are giving majesty a new face;
You are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing.
With them, with heart and voice, we shout HOSANNA!

♪ *Hymn: All Glory, Laud and Honour*

*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:**

All glory, laud, and honour...

**The company of angels are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things created make reply:**

All glory, laud, and honour...

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went:
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present:**

All glory, laud, and honour...

**To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise:
To thee now high exalted our melody we raise:**

All glory, laud, and honour...

**Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious king:**

All glory, laud, and honour...

Let us lay our pieces of greenery near our candles as we remember the greenery laid in front of our Lord as he rode into Jerusalem.

Prayer

God of our days and years,

**We set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ,
So that our lives may glorify you. Amen.**



The minister introduces a period of silent prayer. Then the Collect is said.

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.**

First Reading: Psalm 118 1-2; 19-24

○ give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

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

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

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

At the end of the readings the reader says:

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest

Hosanna, hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

**Lord we lift up your name, With hearts full of praise,
Be exalted, O Lord, my God, Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory, glory, Glory to the king of kings.

Glory, glory, Glory to the king of kings.

**Lord, we lift up your name, With hearts full of praise,
Be exalted, O Lord, my God, Glory to the king of kings.**

📖 The Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon [Rev Alison]

What wouldn't I give to be in a crowd right now! Well, that's how I started my sermon this time last year. We were only three weeks into lockdown and we knew how long it was going to be for—or so we thought! We were feeling the absence of contact with other people, feeling a bit isolated, but that was OK as we knew that once we'd done our time, the pandemic would be defeated and we would be back in the crowd again.

Except that it hasn't been quite like that and being in a crowd again—well, I am not sure how I feel about that. I sense a bit of anxiety, hesitancy, uncertainty, reluctance in me as we move out of our 'final' lockdown. I'm not ready to be in a big group just yet though I am excited at the prospect of seeing family, some for the first time for months, of holding and hugging them; and I am excited about meeting one certain little young lady for the first time as she was born just a few weeks ago. In that mixture of emotions, I don't think I am alone. None of us are really quite sure what the future holds.

What about that crowd in Jerusalem? The people were there to celebrate the feast of the Passover, the time when they remember how God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt and took them through the water to freedom in the promised land. I can imagine them in holiday spirits, some having journeyed quite a distance to get there; looking forward to catching up with others that they rarely saw, to feasting with them, having fun together for a few days.

I wonder, though, how the party with Jesus felt. His close friends, the disciples had journeyed with Jesus throughout his ministry—it was a time of excitement, and wonder, and baffling bewilderment all mixed together. Whilst they journeyed together a good distance geographically, they were also on a long journey of understanding.

Just who was Jesus?

At the start of the journey to Jerusalem, when Jesus asked them who they thought he was, Peter had answered, “You are the Messiah.” Jesus went on to tell the disciples that he would undergo great suffering, be rejected by those in authority and be killed though he would rise again three days later. Peter rebuked him and was rebuked in return by Jesus for thinking in human and not divine terms. Jesus then spelled out just how difficult the journey was if they continued to follow him. “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”.

Later during the journey he tells them once more, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But the disciples don’t understand what Jesus is saying and are afraid to ask him.

And a third time, just as they are going up to Jerusalem, Jesus takes his friends aside again and begins to tell them what is to happen to him: “The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.”

Perhaps the disciples were unable to take it in the first or the second time. Maybe still struggling with the news as they hear it for the third time. What are they to make of it?

I wonder just how the disciples felt as they journeyed with Jesus into Jerusalem. Amazed at his reception, maybe, though crowds had been enthusiastically following Jesus throughout his ministry. Excited, maybe, to be celebrating the Passover feast with their friend. Anxious, apprehensive, uncertain, maybe, about what was coming.

Was it this time, now, in Jerusalem that Jesus was going to suffer, be betrayed, rejected and killed?

Was the kingdom Jesus spoke of just pie in the sky?

How were events going to unfold? Were they going to have a part in Jesus’ betrayal and death?

What would happen to them? What would they do?

Would it be the end to all their hopes?

How could it be that God's son, their saviour, would come to an end like that?

So many questions swirling round their heads.

It seems that, for the moment at least, Jesus has everything in hand. He has arranged for a donkey to be available to ride triumphantly into Jerusalem. Well, not so much a triumph in the Roman way, but more of a comical spectacle. A king not on a fine horse but on a donkey. A king surrounded not by an armed guard but by a motley cheering crowd who have gathered from all over. A upside down sort of kingship where the king does not display the usual trappings of pomp and power. Maybe some of them would be reminded of the prophecy in Zechariah:

*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.*

It's a great arrival with not a hint of trouble evident as they come into the city. Jesus goes to the temple, looks around and then they all leave to go and stay overnight in Bethany; presumably at the house of their friends Mary and Martha. What are the disciples to make of it all?

I think that all they can do is to take things one day at a time as they unfold. Hoping that it will all come clear in the end. Trusting still in Jesus. Trusting that God has everything in his hands.

Perhaps that is the lesson for us as we move anxiously, apprehensively, uncertainly, excitedly out of lockdown. Like the disciples, perhaps we should take things one day at a time, trusting in Jesus, trusting that God is in the midst of all that is to come and trusting that God holds everything in his hands. Amen.

Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for all those who face suffering in any way. Particularly we pray for those targeted because of their race, their gender, their faith or just because they are not like those around them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who just cannot believe in Jesus and all that he stands for. And we pray for those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross as being just too challenging.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the times when we are complicit in the suffering of others by our silence. Prompt us to speak out and give us courage to take a stand against abuse and discrimination wherever it takes place.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those facing an uncertain future: those who are stuck in poverty; those without the security of shelter or employment; those who have no food; those who are sick with no prospect of help.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are feeling hopeless. Particularly we think of the mental health crisis unfolding amongst our young people.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died in faith that they may find mercy in the day of Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you, **and also with you.**

In our hearts, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

♪ **Offertory Hymn: An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare**

**An upper room did our Lord prepare
For those he loved until the end:
And his disciples still gather there
To celebrate their risen friend.**

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
To share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
He by his cross shall lift us up.**

**And after supper he washed their feet,
For service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete:
Sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

**No end there is! We depart in peace,
He loves beyond the uttermost:
In every room in our Father's house
Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.**



Prayer of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and

eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. And now we give you thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through

him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



The Communion

Draw near with faith, receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,

And feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

 **Hymn: Blessèd Assurance, Jesus, is Mine**

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my saviour all the day long. [Repeat]*

**Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

This is my story, this is my song,

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

This is my story, this is my song...

**Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my saviour am happy and bless'd,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

This is my story, this is my song...

The Blessing & Dismissal

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

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 the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Palm Sunday
