

Palm Sunday All-Age Service

Thank you for joining us for our Palm Sunday all-age service. As we begin Holy Week, the Sunday before Easter is the time we remember Jesus and his friends entering Jerusalem, with Jesus sitting on a donkey. The cry of today, which we shall repeat, is Hosanna a word of praise which means "God, save us"!

You will find a palm cross on your seat/pew. For those watching online, they are also available from the church porch throughout Sunday – or simply make a cross shape from a piece of paper

The Blessing of the Palms

We hold up our Palm crosses

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

Hosanna, hosanna, HOSANNA!

Blessed is the one who is obedient unto death.

Hosanna, hosanna, HOSANNA!

Blessed is the one who saves us.

Hosanna, hosanna, HOSANNA!

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

Hosanna, hosanna, HOSANNA!

Jesus, we welcome you into the midst of us today.

May our voices join together to give you all our praise.

May we honour you, King of kings in all we do and say.

Amen.

Song

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.

We come to worship

the bringer of our salvation,

the hoped-for one, who stands among us now.

We lay our lives before him,

everything we have we offer him;

may the Lord of life accept our praise today.

Amen.

A prayer of confession with palm crosses

These crosses remind us of what Jesus went through.
Let us ask his forgiveness as we recall his death for us.

We hold these crosses over our heads.

Jesus, we have sinned in what we have thought.

Cross out our selfish ideas, and fill us instead with your love of seeing the best in others.

We hold these crosses over our mouths.

Jesus, we have sinned in what we have said.

Cross out our hurtful words, and fill us instead with your concern to speak blessing into others' lives.

We hold these crosses over our hands.

Jesus, we have sinned in what we have done.

Cross out the evil we do, and instead make us channels of your peace and love.

We hold these crosses over our hearts.

Jesus, we have confessed
what comes to our minds.

**By your Word and your Spirit, pierce our hearts,
and help us to see deeper into our condition, so we can be further healed.**

We hold these crosses in our hands.

Jesus, we thank you for your promise to forgive all who repent and believe your good news. Amen.

May God who loved the world so much that He sent His Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve Him in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

People travelled to Jerusalem in groups with friends and family. Passover was a big festival, with lots of preparation. Imagine that we are going to the Passover festival and the excitement is growing as they get nearer. Picture the scene, the noise you can hear and the sight of Jesus in the distance.

Bible reading Mark 11:1-11 (NIV)

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly."' "

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, 'What are you doing, untying that colt?' ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

'Hosanna!^[a]

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

¹⁰ 'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!'

'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

(children's version – with acknowledgment to Roots on the web)

Hosanna! Hosanna!' The crowds shouted and sang as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Now who'd get excited about a man riding on a donkey? People who had read the Old Testament, that's who. Some laid their cloaks down in the road, and some cut branches from the nearby trees to mark the way, as they would do for a king.

A king? A king on a donkey? What made them think of that? Well, the Old Testament prophet, Zechariah. Years before, he'd said: 'Shout for joy, Jerusalem! Your king comes to you, riding humbly on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.' Jesus knew the Old Testament very well, of course. That's why he'd sent his disciples ahead of him to get the donkey in the first place. 'Go into Bethphage,' he'd said. 'You'll find a donkey and her foal tied up there. Bring them to me.' Just as his followers were about to go, he'd said, 'If anyone tries to stop you, just say, "The Lord needs them," and they'll let you go.'

So the disciples had gone and got the donkey, a humble animal, just as Zechariah had described it, and thrown cloaks on its back for Jesus to sit on. And that's what he was riding into the city. 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' cried the crowds, both behind and ahead of Jesus. 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! 'who is this?' the people asked. And the singing crowds replied, 'This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Talk from Rach...

A prayer of response:-

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of 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*

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The prayers

After a moment of silence for our own prayers, we join together as Jesus taught us to pray:

**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**

(At Cudham we continue with the peace and sharing in Holy Communion)

Closing responses

We hold our palm cross...

**Lord, I have received my palm cross today.
I have seen you ride into Jerusalem,
heard the hosannas, seen the crowds.
But Lord, I do not really understand
why you have to suffer and die;
help me during this week to understand better.**

Let us be still for a moment,
as we prepare to follow Jesus
on his Holy Week journey to the cross.
As we cheer today,
as we are sad on Good Friday,
and as we celebrate Easter,
let us be true pilgrims together.

Focus on your palm cross. As we move from Palm Sunday to Holy Week, let us commit ourselves to walk with Jesus the way of the cross, sharing together on Maundy Thursday, thanking God for Jesus and his death for us on Good Friday, and being ready to celebrate Jesus offer of New Life next Sunday – Easter Day...

**God of steadfast love,
we give you thanks.
Your love does not fade;
its strength endures,
stretching out across history,
beyond time and space.
Such love we cannot grasp;
we can only marvel at a love so big.
We thank you for your great love. Amen.**

Song

**MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN,
My Saviour's love to me:
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

He came from His blessed throne,
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew 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.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Blessing

May each day bring you opportunities to be thankful,
each night bring you rest and sleep,
and may this Holy Week draw you closer
to God the Father and to his Son, Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Thank you for following our service today. Full details of services for Holy Week and Easter are found on this week's notice sheet and on the website pcd.org.uk