

Caught up in Celebration

A PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION

A Prayer of Approach

*The Gates of Holy Week are open,
And we gather to celebrate our
King who rides on a donkey.
We bring to you the best of what
we are, Lord Jesus,
laying down our lives in service,
as you laid down your life for us.
AMEN*

Take time to still yourself
Sit comfortably
Be aware of your breathing
Slowly and gently into God's
presence.



Read the passage once – then pause to imagine
yourself into the noisy streets - read the passage again,
maybe aloud to yourself.

What words, feelings, smells, sounds hold you most?

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and 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. ³If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." ' ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹¹ 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.

Reflection

'A teacher asked students to suggest some modern-day heroes. After a thoughtful silence, one student ventured, 'It's difficult, because to day we have celebrities rather than heroes.' As he rode into Jerusalem, Jesus seems to be both of those things: well known and acclaimed, like a celebrity, but also recognised as one who is worthy of praise. How do we see Jesus? A good person from history? A celebrity from the past? Where would we have been in that Palm Sunday crowd – on the edge and hanging back? With the crowd that acclaimed him? Or with those who turned on him days later? In today's world, how do we show that Jesus is someone whose life, death and resurrection have meaning for us now?'

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks for all the good things in our lives;
For times of celebration, when we share our best and give of our best.
Praise be to you, Father, for blessing us so bountifully.
We thank you for the one who had nothing, who rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey.
Praise be to you, Jesus, for giving of yourself so richly.
As we enter the gates of Holy Week, may we embrace the celebration with all that we have.

Amen