

Palm Sunday
5th April 2020

Dear St Peter's Church Family

Welcome to this week's at home service sheet. We love to hear from you. Please do get in touch with your comments and suggestions as we work out how best to enhance our corporate worship from our homes. This week will include a video link to a short message from John. While it will now not be possible to ring the church bells at 10.30am as earlier promised, we are encouraged to spend some time in worship using this sheet as a guideline.

A message from Rev John Itumu <https://youtu.be/UWDJULqhYfU> May we suggest you copy and paste the youtube address into your web browser.

This Week's Service

Welcome to our virtual/at home service. We start as we usually do with notices!

Sunday Service on BBC

This week's service on BBC1 is from Hereford Cathedral at 11am.

Funeral of Diana Todd

Diana Todd's funeral is scheduled for April 15th. Susan is due to officiate and would be grateful for prayers on this day, giving thanks for the life of Diana. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Peter's at a later date.

Children's Society Boxes

The total amount collected from the Children's Society Boxes £691.89. It was a very good total and thank you to everyone who contributed towards this amazing amount.

Call to prayer from bishop Christopher

An invitation to you all to join with me in saying the Lord's Prayer daily at 1pm and 7pm.

Prayer Walking

Prayer walking will be cancelled April/May/June, but subsequently we will advise you when we restart.

Giving - if you would like to continue to give to St Peter's during this time you can either pay by BACS or standing order using the following details: Sort Code: 40-52-40; Account number: 00028950; Account name: 'St Peters PCC' or send a cheque payable to St Peters PCC and your gift aid envelope to Alan Carter, 23 Prestbury Crescent, Woodmansterne, Surrey SM7 3PJ. Please note cheques may not be paid in immediately.

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O Lord open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Dear friends in Christ, we have come before God, our Father, as his loving and trusting children, to praise him, to thank him and to pray for others and ourselves.

### **We say sorry to God**

Jesus says: "I will never turn away anyone who comes to me" (John 6:37)

So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin,  
Renew a right spirit within us and  
restore us to the joy of your salvation;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May God who so loved the world that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, cleanse us from our sin, restore us in his image, and strengthen us to walk in the power of his Spirit. Amen We praise God

Blessed is the Lord, for he has heard the voice of our prayer;  
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy,  
and in our song will we praise our God.

#### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

#### We hear God's Word

##### **Bible reading 1: Matthew 21:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,<sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>"Say to the Daughter of Zion,  
'See, your king comes to you,  
Gentle and riding on a donkey,  
On a colt, the foal of a donkey'"

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road. While others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

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

"Hosanna in the highest

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

<sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

## **Bible reading 2: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

<sup>2</sup>Let Israel say: "His love endures for ever."

<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

<sup>21</sup>I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

<sup>23</sup>the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup>This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

. From the house of the Lord we bless you."

<sup>27</sup>The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup>you are my God, and I will give thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

## **A reflection by Rev John Itumu**

Who is this?

The people ask as Jesus marches into Jerusalem, the capital of Judea in pomp and ceremony. There were thousands of other pilgrims streaming into Jerusalem Temple for the Passover. This man Jesus has been a crowd puller in the three years of his ministry but never before allowed himself to be pampered and praised like an earthly king. Bethphage was a suburb of Jerusalem about 2 miles away – separated by the valley of Kidron. The present day Franciscan church of Bethphage is a likely location. If he had walked all the way from Galilee, then a donkey wasn't really necessary when he was just within sight of his destination. Jesus clearly has an agenda – to present himself as King of Jews! A deliberate, provocative act in an occupied territory. The triumphal entry is a last attempt to force his critics to face up to his Messianic claims. He had repeatedly reminded his disciples that another chapter of his life was soon to be unveiled. *From that time Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life...* Mathew 16:21

So, both animals are elaborately decked for the self-proclaimed king. People spread their cloaks on the road and they sing the words of Psalm 118. 25fwd

*O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*

And as the decibels went higher and higher, the crowd growing bigger and more frenzied, this throws the whole city in turmoil, and everyone asks – who is this??

The people travelling with him from Galilee had an answer: *This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.* A true description but far from complete, for Jesus was and is more than that. He is not just another prophet. He is not just another great teacher. He is not just a wise man. He is life itself.

He is the one who says: *Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest....* Matt 11:28 Rest from continuing anger, bitterness, lack of self-confidence, greed, selfish ambition, pride. He is the son of the living God, one in the Holy Trinity, one with

God, who was, who is and who is to come. He has no equal. He is in very nature, God.  
(Philippians 2:6)

Who is this? – many of who should have known didn't have a clue. John, one of his disciples records quite accurately. *He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.* (John 1.11) Shortly after, they were crying for his blood, and his words came true. They hung him on a cross. For that is why he had come. This is our king who rode on a donkey today many years ago! I commend this King again to you today. May we know him in new ways this Holy Week and beyond, and as we await the joyous celebration of Easter. Amen.

### **Our profession of faith**

Let us profess the faith of the Church

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ?

**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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

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

### **We talk to God – by Simon Gill**

On this Palm Sunday as we remember our Lords arrival into Jerusalem and have time to reflect on the last week of Jesus' earthly life, we pray for our world at this most difficult time.

We pray that our Government makes wise decisions in its efforts to stop Covid-19 spreading.

We think of all those who have suffered and who are suffering with the virus.

We are so grateful for all members of the NHS, Lord Jesus in these desperate times; keep them strong yet loving; and when their work is done, be with them in their weariness and in their tears.

We pray for our congregation here at St Peter's, keep them safe and well. We look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Lord in your mercy:  
**Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father:  
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**We say the Lord's Prayer together wherever we are**

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

**The Blessing**

Now to him who is able to immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, for ever and ever. Amen

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

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All Glory, Laud and Honour

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pHN8UAK6Yow>

We have a King who rides a donkey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJqFuiafDf8>

My Song Is Love Unknown - King's College, Cambridge

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXslo>

Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mowhHHgFWcc>

Ride On ! Ride On In Majesty - King's College, Cambridge.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=g-qDQSjnzH8>

CHILDRENS PAGES

These pages are designed for children by the Together@Home team but everyone is welcome to read them and have a go at the puzzles!

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



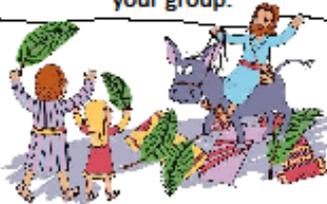
Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Matthew 21 v 1–11

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem. Thank you that you came to be a Saviour for everybody.

As we prepare for Easter help us to draw close to you and learn more about who you are.

We pray for those in the world who do not know you yet. Help them to recognise you as their Saviour

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What did the people in the story shout? What do you think 'Hosanna' means?

The word Hosanna in Hebrew meant 'save us' – You can find an example of it being used in Psalm 118 v 25, the verse after today's memory verse. The people who were welcoming Jesus into the city recognised Jesus as their Saviour. Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem on a colt was a fulfilment of the prophecies that had been made about him in the Old Testament. He was the Messiah that the people had been waiting for.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you had a visit from somebody important or exciting? What happened and how did it make you feel?

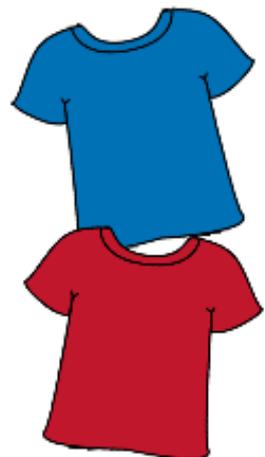
Family Activity 1

You will need: fabric you don't mind standing on e.g. old t-shirts, pillow cases.

Using just two or three pieces of fabric can you get your whole family from one side of the room to the other?

You are only allowed to stand on the fabric and not touch the floor. You will need to work as a team standing on one piece while you move the other.

Use this as a reminder of the clothes that the people put down for Jesus to walk on.





A verse to remember

Psalm 118 v 24 "This is the day that the LORD has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it"

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Sometimes when life is difficult, or we are feeling sad or worried it can be hard to be glad. But every day we have things to be thankful for. Why not make a list of all the things you can be grateful for and say a big thank you to God for all He has provided for you and your family today.

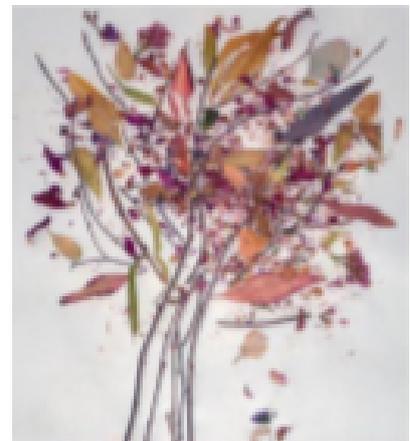
Family Activity 2

You will need: Leaves, sticks, rocks

In your garden or on your daily walk why not collect some leaves to make into a collage at home.

The people in the story were so excited to welcome Jesus that they grabbed what they could find to worship Him.

What other items can you find in your garden or on your walk to make some worship art from? Arrange the items you have found to make your own picture.



Active Prayer

A virtual Mexican wave.

We might not be able to meet up with people but we can send a wave of encouragement and pray for others.

Why not start your own virtual Mexican wave of encouragement. Video call another family and give them a big encouraging smile and wave. Take a moment to pray for them and then ask them to send the wave on to another family.

How far will your prayer wave travel?

Maybe it will even come back to you!



Helping Older Children

Your child may have heard that the virus is causing many deaths around the world, do not be afraid of talking to your children about death. Easter is a time to remember that Jesus defeated death and rose again.

We have a Saviour! - Even though it is hard to lose people, God has made a way through Jesus that everybody can become his friend, be forgiven for their sins and live for eternity with God. In heaven there is no pain, sickness, sadness or death.

God is bigger! - God is bigger than anything we are scared or worried about, bigger than sickness or death. When we are sad or scared or worried we can call out to God. God is always with us and always hears us. It's good to talk to grown ups who we trust too, share how we are feeling so that they can pray with us.

A colouring page you could print and colour together



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