



# ~AT HOME WORSHIP~



## Palm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Theme: A Powerful Sign



### Preparation

We look for an all-powerful king,  
but Jesus confidently comes among us  
as an ordinary commoner.  
How extraordinary!  
Are we still looking for God in the wrong places?



### A gathering prayer

Wonderful God,  
thank you that you meet us  
right here where we are sitting –  
in the ordinary stuff and activities of this day.  
As we journey through Holy Week,  
may we recognise you in Christ Jesus,  
be empowered to live like him –  
to live into the preciousness of the life  
that you sustain in us.

**Amen.**



### Hymn/Song – Through all the changing scenes of life

<https://youtu.be/gNDCyAB1Mvs>

Make way, make way, For Christ the King  
In splendour arrives.  
Fling wide the gates And welcome him  
Into your lives.

#### Chorus

*Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
For the King of kings  
(For the King of kings).  
Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
And let his kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal;  
The prisoners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, The lame shall dance,  
The blind shall see.

#### Chorus

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
Who weep and sigh,  
With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify.

#### Chorus

We call you now to worship him as Lord of all.  
To have no gods before him;  
Their thrones must fall!

#### Chorus x2



## **A prayer of adoration**

Lord of power and humility,  
the crowd roared, their spirits soared –  
for you were a king.  
Their king.  
They longed for your rule, though you rode on a donkey –  
for you were a king.  
Their king.  
And here today,  
as we worship and pray,  
we adore you as king.  
Our King!  
Amen.



## **Prayer for the Day**

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.



## **Saying Sorry**

We are sorry, Lord Jesus, for the moments  
when our hosannas are loud but lacking in love,  
when we chase the lure of worldly power,  
but miss the signs of heavenly glory  
when we choose popularity over integrity,  
when we would silence those who speak the truth  
and are silent when we could speak out.  
Forgive us, and inspire our steps as we follow you to the Cross...  
and beyond.  
Amen.



## **Assurance of forgiveness**

God of all that is,  
your power is both mighty and vulnerable,  
and you both judge and forgive.  
Your son is both King and servant,  
and he both teaches and serves.  
You hear our words and you understand our silence  
and you both accept and inspire.  
Loving God,  
thank you for this day,  
for this journey,  
and for your Son who draws us closer to you.  
Amen.



## BIBLE READING



### Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSV)

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.



### Gospel Reading – Luke 19:28-40 (NRSV)

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.  
<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives,  
he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it  
you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone  
asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were  
sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners  
asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they  
brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he  
rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching  
the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise  
God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying,

"Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!"

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to  
stop." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."



## REFLECTION TIME



### Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication

#### Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet

On 11 February 2013, Pope Benedict XVI unexpectedly announced his resignation in a speech in Latin before the cardinals in Rome, citing a 'lack of strength of mind and body' due to his advanced age. He is the first pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415, and the first to do so on his own initiative since Celestine V in 1294. He was succeeded by Cardinal Bergoglio as Pope Francis. The film *The Two Popes* (2019) is the story of the remarkable relationship between the two men. It is the story of power and humility; the ability to take up power when God requires it. And even more remarkable, maybe, to give it up when God requires it.

Jesus in the first 30 years of his life was a carpenter, apparently living an ordinary, obscure life in Nazareth. We imagine he spent his days living close to ordinary village folk, part of all their joys and challenges. Following his baptism, he recognised a call from God to leave home, and begin the life of an itinerant preacher. It must have been a big disruption for his family and village. He didn't just rush out to do this but was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness to pray through how God was wanting him to do this.

In the first part of Jesus' ministry, he powerfully seized the initiative – he was in charge. Jesus was very aware of the source of his power from God, and his words and actions were astoundingly authoritative. By any normal human standards his ministry was beyond successful, and he amazed people with his ability to cast out demons, to heal, to raise from the dead and to teach. But Jesus never forgot the source of his power. He always did what he saw His Father doing. This meant he did not conform to how the religious authorities interpreted God's way in the law: Jesus healed on the Sabbath; touched lepers; consorted with tax collectors and prostitutes.

In the film *Chariots of Fire* about the 1924 Olympics, Eric Liddell is a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God. He almost misses his opportunity to compete because when he discovers the heat for the 100 metres is on a Sunday, he refuses to run. He believed Sunday to be the Lord's Day, and that the Lord was the source of his power to run. Fortunately, an alternative race was offered to Liddell. Perhaps, this gives insight into understanding how Jesus had to do what he saw God wanting to do. His Father was the source of his power and he had to be obedient to that.

Jesus' actions profoundly rattled the religious authorities of the time, who saw Jesus as a threat to their power and authority. In the last day of Jesus' life and ministry, he allowed himself to be handed over. He allowed himself to be no longer the one taking the initiative, but the one 'done unto'. This began when he was handed over to the authorities by Judas, and then by the religious authorities to the Romans, and then to the verdict of the crowd. It ended with his crucifixion on the cross.

It seems that in the providence of God, there is a time when we have to put our hands up, put our heads above the parapet and take the initiative in order to be faithful to God. But there is also a time when God requires us to let go, and to hand over influence, sometimes maybe even unto death, to be faithful.

The challenge for those 'living in Jesus' way,' is to discern – at any particular moment – when is the moment to take up, and when is the moment to lay down. Both take courage. Both are difficult. For both, we can be very reluctant and feel our resistance. Both require God's power and guidance.



## Family Song - I've got that Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

<https://youtu.be/NC-IVZOIHgQ>



## Reflection Song before Prayers – You are the King of glory

<https://youtu.be/2fhxKGalLI4>

You are the King of glory,  
You are the Prince of Peace;  
You are the King of heaven and earth,  
You're the Sun of Righteousness.  
Angels bow down before You,  
Worship and adore, for  
You have the words of eternal life,  
You are Jesus Christ the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Hosanna to the King of kings!  
Glory in the highest heaven,  
For Jesus the Messiah reigns.  
(repeat all)

*Julie Sharp and Mavis Ford (1979)*



## Time for Prayer

For all those, who, tonight, will go to bed hungry;  
for those who rely on food banks;  
for those whose harvest has failed;  
for those whose family members are too ill to work  
- gracious God, **mercifully hear us.**

For all the place in the world where there is war,  
especially we pray for Ukraine and its neighbours;  
where people have to leave their homes because of violence;  
for families and friends separated by the trauma of conflict and migration,  
that they may soon be reunited  
- gracious God, **mercifully hear us.**

For all the different communities within the Church throughout the world;  
that they may have vision to serve in imaginative ways  
offering compassion and hope to those to whom they relate  
- gracious God, **mercifully hear us.**

For us; for those we love easily and those who challenge us;  
that we may be strengthened and supported  
- gracious God, **mercifully hear us.**

**Amen.**

*Take a few moments to reflect on what is going on in the world today. Ask God to be known to those who are in danger and suffering; pray that his presence brings peace.*



## Lord's Prayer

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.



## Hymn/Song – Ride on, ride on in majesty!

[https://youtu.be/Teva2\\_x2aXo](https://youtu.be/Teva2_x2aXo)

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 Hark all the tribes 'hosanna' cry;  
 Thine humble beast pursues his road  
 With palms and scattered garments  
 strewed.

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.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
 The Father on His sapphire throne  
 Awaits His own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride 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*



## Closing Prayer

May God grant us  
 exuberance of the Palm Sunday crowd,  
 and the humility of Jesus riding a donkey;  
 the energy and excitement of the crowd,  
 and the calm holiness of Jesus;  
 the expectation of the crowd,  
 and the understanding heart of Jesus  
 who journeyed to Jerusalem for love of us all.  
 Amen.



## Dismissal

Go and walk the Jesus way.  
 Go with him in triumph; go with him in suffering.  
 Go with your cross as he goes with his.  
 Go knowing his blessing and his peace.  
 Amen.

God bless you now and always

