

We are sharing these prayers and readings among members of our Church families to bring us together during this difficult period when we aren't able to hold our usual services. We are happy that you have joined us.



5th April 2020

PALM SUNDAY

THE PARISH CHURCHES OF
STANTON, HILTON AND
BROOKFIELD

Thought for the day

Since Christmas we have traced the life of Jesus through his birth, childhood, Baptism and preparation in the wilderness and touched on the main areas of his ministry; and now we come to that final week of his earthly life.

Today we begin the week known as HOLY WEEK *Susan Sayer*

This week we find Jesus in a stressful fast changing situation. So we may pray with confidence that he will understand as we pray now:-

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

COLLECT – *THE SPECIAL PRAYER SET FOR TODAY*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour 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

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Ch 21.1–11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.'

This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'

The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee

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

Psalm 118.1–2, 19–29

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 'This is the gate of the Lord; whoever is righteous may enter.'

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner-stone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Lord, send us now success.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

28 'You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.'

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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

It is usual in Church on Palm Sunday to read the story of the Passion of Jesus at length, often in dramatic form. It is a long reading beginning in Mathew's Gospel ch 26 v 14 to 27v 66 . Please do read it during the coming week if you can

PRAYERS

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

Amen.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray especially for all NHS staff, scientists, and all essential workers
Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Palm Sunday _Marie J. Post (1919-1990), a 20th Century poet and hymn writer

Astride the colt and claimed as King
that Sunday morning in the spring,
he passed a thorn bush flowering red
that one would plait to crown his head.
He passed a vineyard where the wine
was grown for men of royal line
and where the dregs were also brewed
into a gall for Calvary's rood.
A purple robe was cast his way,
then caught and kept until that day
when, with its use, a trial would be
profaned into a mockery.
His entourage was forced to wait
to let a timber through the gate,
a shaft that all there might have known
would be an altar and a throne.

Naomi has sent a reading to share which seems appropriate in the present climate of worry, fear and anxiety over Covid19

The Lord will give us all the grace we need for today. Tomorrow he will give us the grace we need for tomorrow. When you try to think about tomorrow without having yet received power for tomorrow, you will be anxious.

With the promise of grace in hand, Jesus invites you for a walk outside in God's world (Matthew6:25-34). Together you walk by birds that are thriving because your Father cares for them. He teases you about your worries by asking if they can make you taller.

He points out the generosity of his Father as you witness the lavish beauty of creation. He reminds you that those beautiful lilies along the road don't have to work, and yet they are wonderfully clothed.

He concludes by bringing your attention to the present. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. Your worries are taking you away from the present, where God is at work.

Perhaps you think that God will not be with you tomorrow.

Perhaps you think that after rescuing you and bringing you into his family by what his Son has done, he might abandon you in your time of need. Not true.

He will give you power for right now. He is doing something right now. In the midst of chaos, the Spirit often gives us a simple and clear mission, such as choosing to trust in God's love, listening to another person, helping someone in his or her need, or preparing lunch.

Your God has made you a partner in bringing his kingdom on earth.

Meditations on fear, worry and trust by Edward T Welch



You are
Bread of life
Sun of my life
Tree of my life
Pearl of my life
Strength of my life
The soil of my being

The Church office is closed during the present crisis
For all enquiries please email BSHplurality@hotmail.com
or telephone 01642 597454 and leave a message. .

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If you need a priest urgently please phone the Area Dean, Revd Canon John Ford 01642 964664