

Sunday April 10th 2022.
A service of worship for use at home
Prepared by Susan Johnson
Today we follow Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

Nottingham North East
Methodist Circuit

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Hymn Hosanna hosanna hosanna in the highest

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 you name. with hearts full of praise;
Be exalted O lord my God
Glory to the king of kings.

Prayers including silence

Today, O Lord our God, we join with millions across the world and those who have gone before to sing your praises, who bring you our worship. We remember Jesus coming into the city of Jerusalem and the week that lies before him. We come in awe and wonder. Help us to still our hearts and minds and in the silence of the next few moments, as we acknowledge your presence here, may we leave with you all that cases us worry and unease. (Pause)

May we leave with you the sadness's and joys of the past week. (Pause)

May we leave with you the situations we find ourselves in. (Pause).

We thank you, Lord for Jesus Christ your Son, his life and teaching and his death and resurrection. A Living Lord to us all.

We praise you for the gift of your Holy Spirit to the world, moving in us, between us and around us. May the power of the Spirit inspire our worship and enable us to hear your voice,

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

T

he Lord's prayer.

Reading Luke 19:28-40

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"^[a]

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰ “I tell you,” He replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Imagine for a moment that you were there. Would you be in the crowd shouting praises? Would you be a spectator wondering what was going on?

Would you be a Roman guard worrying about the wild procession? Would you be a child wanting to see the man on a donkey? Would you be one of the religious rulers watching Jesus carefully?

Who else would have been there?

I invite you to sit quietly for a few moments just letting your thoughts come and go as you reflect on this day in Jesus' life.

Hymn Make way make way for Christ the king

1 Make way, make way
For Christ the King
In splendour arrives
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him
Into your lives

*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*

2 He comes the broken hearts to heal
The prisoners to free
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance
The blind shall see
Make way!...

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

4 We call you now to worship Him
As Lord of all
To have no gods before Him
Their thrones must fall!
Make way!...

Graham Kendrick

Sermon

How many Palm Sunday services have you all attended? Most of your life or just a few years. For me it would be most of my life. But when I was doing some research for the service, I read this from an American theologian called Marcus Borg. Talking about recent historical findings ...

“Less well-known is the historical fact that a Roman imperial procession was also entering Jerusalem for Passover from the other side of the city. It happened every year: the Roman governor of Judea, whose residence was in Caesarea on the coast, rode up to Jerusalem in order to be present in the city in case there were riots at Passover, the most politically volatile of the annual Jewish festivals. With him came soldiers and cavalry to reinforce the imperial garrison in Jerusalem.

It is clear what Pilate's procession was about. By proclaiming the pomp and power of empire, its purpose was to intimidate. But what about Jesus's procession, his entry into the city?”

Jesus comes, as a wandering preacher, teacher and healer, on a donkey, the sign of peace. People sang Hosanna, which means to “save us “. What were they asking Jesus to save them from? Oppression, hatred, persecution, fear, violence?

What about us today? What would we ask to be saved from? Fear, despair, being lonely, violence, hatred?

But returning to the Passover in Jesus day, two very different processions entered Jerusalem. They proclaimed two very different and contrasting visions of how this world can and should be: the kingdom of God versus the kingdoms, the powers, of this world.

The former is about justice and the end of violence. The latter is about domination and exploitation.

The people following Jesus knew something about this kingdom of Love and Justice and hope for the poor. This was what they longed for. To be free of the Roman oppression. They looked for a Saviour - "save us" they shouted - "hosanna!" Hosanna, save us from the situation we find ourselves in – living in an oppressed country.

Today we only have to look at Ukraine as we see people living in a country that is in danger of becoming occupied.

But Jesus was the one that spoke about a different kingdom, a kingdom of God where love takes precedence and justice follows for all .

That oppressed people should be set free and lives lived to the full.

These different kingdoms bring us to the conflict at the heart of Holy week, as we seek to follow Jesus. Jesus becomes more and more at odds with the Roman and religious authorities as he talks about participating more and more in the kingdom of God, living a different way serving others, giving up a life for the sake of others, with an awareness of God all around. He was trouble to the status quo.

But he knew the way forward. He knew the way that his life was to be given up so that people would understand that through participation in his life, death and resurrection our lives would be saved. By participating in his life of love we would be saved. Years ago a friend said to me that he wasn't worried about what happened after death because he had lived the best life in following Jesus. It had brought him so much.

So today we are challenged to look at our lives and ask ourselves how much our participation in the way of Jesus affects our everyday lives. A way of love and light.

And be thankful that we are united in God's purposes and kingdom.

Hymn From heaven you came helpless babe

1 From heaven you came helpless babe
Enter'd our world Your Glory veil'd
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King -
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King*

2 There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
Yet "Not my will but Yours", He said
This is our God, the Servant King...

3 Come see His hands and His feet -
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.
This is our God, the Servant King...

4 So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving
This is our God, the Servant King...

Prayers of intercession

Lord of love and light we thank you that knowing you has brought meaning to our lives, that your Holy Spirit, guides us each and every day and reveals your truth in each situation.

We pray for those who are in need today and we ask your blessing for them , bringing both practical and spiritual help. So we lift to you those who are hungry, the homeless, refugees, , people facing persecution and who live in fear of conflict. May we be bringers of peace and love. We pray for your worldwide church. Give her the grace to speak out against unjust powers and be a strong voice for peace and justice.

We pray for the leaders of our world. May they hear the voice of love rather than the voice of hatred and fear. Strengthen those who work for peace and reconciliation. And for ourselves, Lord, may we be so filled with your love and light that we make a difference every day to the world around us,
In Jesus name we pray.
Amen.

Hymn Jesus Christ is waiting

1 Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets;
No one is his neighbour,
All alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you

2 Jesus Christ is raging,
Raging in the streets,
Where injustice spirals
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
Let me rage with you.

3 Jesus Christ is healing,
Healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer,
Touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
Healing just like you.

4 Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets,
Where each sign of hatred
He, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
Let me dance with you.

5 Jesus Christ is calling,
Calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

Blessing

May God live in us.
May God work through us.
May we walk with Jesus during this Holy week following his ways.
Amen