



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

"Lighting the Way"

for Palm Sunday 28 March 2021

Welcome to another Sunday and time of worship.

This Sunday some of our congregation will be back in the Naseby Park Sanctuary through a change in the restrictions. Unfortunately, at the moment, this does not apply to Junior Church in the halls, so we await the change to bring our young folk back into the buildings.

As you know, today is Palm Sunday which starts our journey through Holy Week to the joy of Easter Day. Each night of Holy Week we will be having a reflection at 7pm. Please join us as we make the nightly steps via Zoom and/or the Holy Week Booklet.

On Easter Day in Naseby we will be streaming the service which will allow you, if you are not part of the 50, to join us 'live' and will allow you also, in the comfort of your own home, to sing heartily the great Easter hymns! You can then watch the service again and again.

By the time you read this, if you have waited until Sunday, Junior Church will have completed their 21-21 challenge - to the children, the staff and all those who have supported and joined in, many thanks. I am quite sure if you still wanted to contribute, the children would be delighted - and why don't you keep up the exercise regime, it can only do you good!

We all received communication from Paula Pinda, the Heart for Art manager, letting us know that the 'team' are taking part in the 'Virtual Kilt Walk'. If you want to support the Heart for Art team, do so by donating to: <https://virtual.thekiltwalk.co.uk/fundraising/> ScotlandsVirtualKiltwalk2021-MaureenDigby or you can take on any Kiltwalk Inspired challenge you wish (go for a walk of any length, a run, cycle, jump on a trampoline...you decide on your challenge!) by registering for the VirtualKiltwalk. Fundraising £50 will ensure 2 people with dementia have all the art materials needed to engage with their programmes.

More exercise! And even more, now in Holy Week!

As always, my blessing to those who bless others in so many ways,

George

(After George had written the above, we received an update from Junior Church. "We have now raised £1192.50, which is amazing. We set ourselves a target of £350, so we are really grateful for the support from the Church family.")

Bookings for Easter Sunday are open next Friday from 10am until 3pm. Telephone 07851 591 503.

Sunday 28 March - Palm Sunday (Year B)

For those who like to follow all the lectionary readings for the Sunday and dip into the Old Testament and Epistles, the readings for this Sunday are: Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2: 5-11; Mark 11:1-11.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 249 We have heard a joyful sound; 374 From heaven you came; 367 Hosanna, loud hosanna; 370 Ride on, ride on, the time is right.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on Mark but please read and ponder the suggested Scripture and see how it connects and what it says to you.

Rest in His arms read, reflect, rejoice...

CALL

As to a stable,
eager to glimpse the light
that made princes of shepherds
and servants of kings, we come.

As on a hillside
craving crumbs of comfort,
stomachs empty,
hearts fit to burst,
we come.

Caught in the clamour
of a chaotic palm parade
heralding the entrance
of a prophet's promise,
we come.

Lured by the paradox
of the Saviour of the world
upon a common beast,
amid the fanfare of a fickle few,
we come.

Unable to resist
the call of the carpenter
creating commotion as carefully
as he did tables and chairs,
we come.

Because our place
is by your side, Lord,
when the cheering turns ugly,
when the welcome turns sour,
when words turn in our throats
and condemn.

Job done for another year.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER

We call you 'King', Jesus,
but you're not like any king we've ever heard of;
You don't flaunt your power,
waving your hand dismissively
to change the lives of your subjects;
You don't hoard your wealth,
and tax your people just to grow more comfortable
in your isolated palace;
You don't exploit the weak and unconnected,
or use the ambition of ladder-climbers
to further your control.

No, you are the King who lays down his crown
to walk among us as one of us;
You are the King who lays down his life,
to bring abundant, eternal life to all who seek it;
You are the King who draws the weak,
the rejected, the poor, the child
into the centre of the conversation
and into the heart of where real power lies.

You, Jesus, are the UnKing – the King whose Kingdom
redefines everything we know
and will continue to do so for eternity.
We make our prayers this Palm Sunday
as you ride into Jerusalem
and make way in our lives.
(we say together...)

(The Lord's Prayer - together we say...)
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever, AMEN



Let us turn to God's Word, found in Mark 11: 1-11
'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'

...and now a hymn to sing along to, as we contemplate the readings.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Loving God, come to us again through Christ this day. Speak to us as we read and hear familiar words, as we recall the triumphal entry into Jerusalem long ago, as we remember all it meant and all it cost. Hosanna to the Son of David, glory in the highest heaven. AMEN

REFLECTION

365 days + have now passed since the first lockdown.

One whole year and counting, of being locked down, freed temporarily and then restricted once more. Who can remember the initial comments of both governments to, 'stay at home'? 'Stay at home' took on a meaning of its own with working at home, schooling at home, meetings at home, deliveries at home, isolation at home and the inability to leave home.

As the pandemic increased so did the slogans from the UK and Scottish governments, sometimes, it seemed, in competition:

'Stay at home', 'Stay alert, control the virus, save lives,'

'Wash hands, cover face, make space',

'Stay safe', 'Remember F.A.C.T.S.'

We even used the last one when John Luca was actually going to school:

F – face covering; A- 'and sanitizer'; C – correct books; T – timetable; S- sandwiches!!

If I asked you what 'the slogans' are in the story of Palm Sunday, you might say, 'Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord.'

But perhaps the better one is 'Hosanna', 'Hosanna, loud Hosanna,' we used to sing carrying palm branches down the middle aisle.

'Hosanna' which doesn't mean 'Praise the Lord' or 'Great is God,' but 'Save now.'

If there has ever been a more appropriate word during this past year, it is the word 'Save'. 'Save our N.H.S; save our key-workers, save lives.'

'Hosanna' – it's a prayer. It is a plea. I wonder if everyone who took the government's slogan to heart realised that their cry of 'saving lives' was the cry also of 'Hosanna'?

'Hosanna to our N.H.S.' 'Hosanna for our key workers.' 'Hosanna for our Care Home staff.'

Whilst in a different way, the Roman occupation was like a pandemic. The virus of Roman authority and rule invaded and tainted the lives of the people of Israel, so the call of 'Hosanna' was understandable. Here was a king-of-sorts, offering something different, something new, something alternative that was not a collusion with those in charge.

'Hosanna', they shouted. 'Save us. Save our lives' and in rode Jesus, the vaccination to this Roman disease, who some were willing to take while others had doubts.

Whilst the triumphal entry into Jerusalem always seems to be that, joyful, exciting; there are undertones; political theatre; those gearing up for a fight against those ruling over them.

Earlier this week there were ugly scenes in Bristol. Some might argue that the

right to protest as a human right against a new bill of government was taken over by those with ulterior motives and agendas. You can see, if you look deeply enough and imagine the entrance of Jesus, people watching, waiting, stirring up the crowd in a way that would soon be swayed at the end of the week by the shouts of 'Crucify.'

'Save us', they shouted.

'Save lives' we exclaimed, and clapped outside our doors and on this horrendous anniversary lit a candle at our window, and used our mobile phone to light up the darkness at 8pm.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week, like our experiences this year, cover the whole gamut of our emotions. Within both the triumphal entry and the year past we have had highs and lows; hopes and fears. We have celebrated at times and then had our hopes dashed. We've squinted our eyes believing we see the light at the end of the tunnel and that light then seemed further away.

Likewise, in the span of seven days these emotions will be felt again – the praising, the processing, the breaking of bread and the sipping of wine, the promises made and the promises then broken, the denials made, the betrayals, the condemnations, the agonies, the death, despair, the disbelief and the delight drenched in glory.

It's all there in the Holy Week journey which starts off with the waving of the palms and the laying of coats on the ground and the singing and shouting of, 'save us, save lives.'

Hard to take on a daily basis was the way we came to accept the daily death toll. We were shouting the slogan but the numbers rose. Some became sanitised to the numbers, perhaps in the same way when we watch the plight of Syria, the treatment of the refugees in Myanmar or those picked up in a life-boat seeking asylum on our shores.

'Hosanna', we said, only quieter, knowing that the collateral damage of our responses to COVID was also affecting lives in other health issues – 'Save the N.H.S. Save lives' – but we were losing lives.

From the shouts of joy of the man on a beast of burden, we will move to the man on the cross carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. Hanging there, he will hear the words again but this time as a taunt and a jibe,

'You saved others. Save yourself.'

The words of abuse at Jesus have resonance with the year now passed.

Many people who have worked through this pandemic have, in their own way, saved others but were unable to save themselves. Those who thought of others first put their lives at risk and, for me, those people should be commended for taking up the cross, and for some, dying, that others might live.

There is that subtle change from the beginning of the week 'til the end – 'Hosanna', 'Save us', becomes 'Save others.'

When all this comes to an end, what do I want to, 'save'? What do I want to keep of the life I had and what do I want to change? Likewise, in the Gospel story, what do we choose; what is humble, real and hard: or the delusions of an Empire and a kingdom that will not last? Despair and hope travel the road to Jerusalem and they travel on our journeys through each and every day.

Here is the thing – I believe in a God, though there are times, many times, when my worship and devotion is half-hearted at best.

Is it done to save face? – perhaps,
but God stays by me just the same.

I sit at my computer and because I have lost out before I continually, after a paragraph or a page, move the cursor up to the left-hand corner and press 'save.'

I have saved my written words to be preached, 'Praise the Lord'.

No wait, 'Hosanna.'

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thank you, generous God.

The abundance that you gift us is a wonder for us to ponder.

We have searched our hearts and now offer these gifts.

Bless them we pray,

so that they may reach far and wide into the world
with joy and good news.

AMEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God,

we have heard a joyful sound, 'Jesus saves.'

Grant to us a humility like that of Jesus

and grant that we may ever obey

and serve him by showing love for one another.

Put in our minds and our hearts his eternal example
and guide us in the way of peace.

Help us be ones who care for those who suffer.

Help us to have a heart of compassion,

a tongue that utters words of forgiveness

and hands that bring comfort.

Assist us to be more expressive in the love we carry
into our relationships

and into our work in our communities and world.

Let us find ways that we might

give evidence to your boundless grace.

Today we pray for those who live in

war-ravaged areas in our world:

let there be peace.

We pray for the poor people of the world:
those poor in the basic necessities of life;
let there be enough food and water,
medicine and other resources that people's
lives can be turned around.

We give thanks for the courage for those
who have endured difficult times;
those who have been hurt by the violence of others;
shunned and disrespected by others who
show no care for the rights of all.

We remember those who are far away
from friends and family because of work,
service to country,
still separated by this virus,
or the desire to find work and so be able to provide
for family elsewhere.

We pray for the families of those who have died
asking that they may never be forgotten,
and that the bereaved may be supported,
especially as we mark this anniversary.

May your creative spirit bring restoration
to our world and peace to all of humanity.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who saves –
may we, in our response,
'save hearts', 'save lives', 'save our world'
in His Name. AMEN



(Traditionally in the early church there was no Benediction on Palm Sunday. It was one continual service throughout the whole of Holy Week with the Benediction pronounced in Easter Day.

We carry on this tradition, one of journeying, day by day through the week.)

SENDING

The time is not yet,
but the darkness is gathering.
The time is not yet,
but the main players are taking their positions.
Dither not,
but come back tomorrow
and wait with the Son of God,
for his friends are few
in this world of hatred.
The time is not yet,
but our time is now;
to be here
and trust a love
that will see this thing through.
Go,
but be back
for Jesus needs his friends.



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