

Call to Worship:

We are the church – maybe some of you have placed branches on your doors or windows to celebrate today? Please send pictures to Gill Smith or Revd Kyla for a website gallery!

Children of God, Rejoice!
Sing out in celebration, God's people!
Your King is coming to you, humble, riding on a donkey,
on a donkey's foal.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name.
Glory to God! Hosanna!

Praise and Celebration

Lord God, loving Friend and Parent,
You deserve our worship, our love and our devotion,
Because You have entered our broken world,
You have joined us on our journey of pain and pleasure, of sorrow and joy.

Even in these challenging times of human restrictions,
You have given us access to life eternal and abundant.

All: We lift our voices to praise You, O God.

Prayer over Palms

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these palms be for us signs of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name,
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
He, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn: 'All glory, laud and honour'

*All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

**Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's Name comest,
the King and Blessed One.**

Chorus

**The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.**

Chorus

**To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.**

Introduction to Confession

What a strange paradox; the King is coming, the people rejoice, singing 'Hosanna!', yet they fail to understand that the King they welcome is the Servant King, the King who washes his disciples' feet, the King who came not with an army, but a weapon so powerful, that not even death could resist, the sacrificial love of God laid out upon a Cross.

Let us pray

Lord God, as we sing our 'Hosannas' today, may we also remember what you were riding towards;

the suffering and rejection, pain and humiliation, the cruel Cross.

May we look forward to the joy of Easter Day, when you rose from death to reign forever.

Help us daily, as we lay our lives before you, to live the resurrection life, that acknowledges Jesus as Lord and King over our lives for ever.

Jesus, your Son rode into Jerusalem, not as a conquering king, but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world.

Lord, please forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves. Please remind us always that you ask from us lives, dedicated to service to you, and to our neighbours, especially in these times, wherever and whoever they might be.

Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet.

Pause for Reflection

Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,

We recognise that Your life among us was one of sacrifice;

That You came to confront the hatred, fear, violence and evil in us;

That You seek to throw over the tables of greed and injustice in us.

Forgive us when we resist Your coming. **Lord, graciously forgive us.**

When we reject You and seek to silence Your transforming and challenging influence. **Lord, graciously forgive us.**

Silent confessions are offered

All:

Have mercy on us, O God,

Do not cease to come to us and to call us to life.

Help us to embrace the way of the cross

And to live in the power of Your death-defying love.

For Jesus' sake. Amen.

'Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.' Psalm 32:5

Readings

God draws near to us through the Scriptures.

All: We open our ears to hear, and we open our hearts to receive. Amen

The Old Testament

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.

⁶I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

⁷Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!

⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.
Who will condemn me?

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
chapter 21 verses 1 - 11**

All: Glory to you, O Lord

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”^[a]

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”^[c]

“Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

The Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we celebrate Your coming to us,
not with political power or military might,
not with glamour or fame or wealth,
but in humility and love, gently and with great compassion.
We lift our voices to praise You, O God.

Intercessions

O Lord our God,

We bring You the needs of our world, broken by division and suspicion,
by hatred and war and all peoples in their needs.

We bring You the needs of our land, the hungry and homeless,
the wounded and despairing.

We bring you the leaders of the nations and pray they will all work together
more and more for the common good.

We bring to you the suffering and those working so hard to bring relief,
release and cure.

We bring to you all our concerns; for ourselves and our loved ones, seeking
Your peace and healing, Your wisdom and protection.

Silent Prayers

Hear us, O God,
come to us, in compassion and love
Rescue and restore us,
And make us a people
in whom your light and your love is seen.
Amen.

The Peace

The Prince of Peace fill you with God's peace,
and be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself, that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.
Amen.

Hymn: 'All heaven declares'

All heaven declares

**The glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare
With the beauty of the Lord?
Forever He will be
The Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow the knee
And worship Him alone**

I will proclaim

**The glory of the risen Lord
Who once was slain
To reconcile man to God
Forever You will be
The Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow the knee
And worship You alone**

The Holy Communion

Let us open the gates of our hearts

That the Sovereign God of Glory may come in

Let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving

God deserves all honour and blessing.

It is our privilege and joy to exalt the Lord

in every place and every moment.

And so, Dear God, we offer You our worship through Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who comes to us humbly and riding on a donkey's foal.

The Lord Jesus, on the eve of His death, shared a meal with His followers.

Taking the bread, He gave thanks, broke it, and offered it to them with
these words:

This is My body broken for you. Remember Me whenever you eat.

After the meal, taking the cup of wine, He gave thanks, and offered it to
them with these words:

This is My blood poured out for you,
Remember Me whenever you drink.

And so now, O Lord, we eat and drink in memory of Jesus and His great love,
And in this simple meal,
we proclaim His death and resurrection,
giving life to all people.

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we give you thanks
because, for our salvation,
Jesus Christ was obedient even to death on the cross.
The tree of shame was made the tree of glory;
and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All: Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.

**But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

Time for Silent Reflection

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Hymn: 'Ride on, ride on in majesty'

**Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**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!
The angel-squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
expects his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

May the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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