



The Methodist Church

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – Palm Sunday – 5th April 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. (Based on a service produced by the Methodist Church)

Let us pray

May we sit at your feet Lord to receive your word in our hearts. May we always look for ways to know you and to do all that you require of us. Help us Lord, as we wait and pray, to be ready every day to work for your Kingdom.

Amen

This hymn has been chosen because many of you will have sung it year by year. It brings us close to Christians world-wide as well as including the heavenly hosts in verse three.

Hymn: Ride on Ride on in Majesty

To listen to this hymn in a new window, press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the hymn.

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;
thy humble beast pursues its road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**
- 2 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.**

**3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

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

**5 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.**

Henry Hart Milman (1791–1868)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 94

Palm Sunday is a strange feast day. For it is a day when we see the adoration and homage paid to the King of Kings, whilst being prepared for the darkness of the events of Holy Week which follows.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway, in a new window press **Shift** and **Ctrl** together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

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

This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

'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.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’

‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’

The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’

Reflection – Written by Canon Julia Francis

This is a familiar story. One of the Donkey episodes in our Bible, attractive to us from childhood.

We ourselves perhaps rode the gentle donkeys on the beach as a child. Many only having a day out at the sea or a short break with our families. Not like today's sophisticated holiday destinations where last entertainment of all would be to go looking for a donkey ride. Far too old fashioned; not as swanky as a horse or pony. Perhaps we see Donkeys too as the beasts of burden displayed on our TV screens in advertisements for Sanctuaries. There is actually a place between our home and the sea; Dyfi Donkeys. These provide riding for the disabled.

Yes, the Gentle Donkey. Holding its head low, nodding as it walks; looking to the ground; watching its foot hold. A sure and steady transport. But not a grand one.

On this entry into Jerusalem Jesus chose the Donkey to make his journey. A statement of intent that he would be as humble and vulnerable in this last week as any of the least amongst us.

At the moment we are all as humble and equally vulnerable whatever our station in life. Whatever our riches, the car on the drive, the holiday we had planned and must now forego. And if we normally feel so very blessed, now we feel anxious.

Firstly, we are worried for loved ones; especially those within our family members who are ill or far off or elderly. Next we are concerned for our friends and neighbours. Thirdly we look around and as we struggle to

keep ourselves upbeat and busy as well as safe we are surely reminded of the disabled, those without gardens, low income a one parent families, folk in one roomed or high rise flats without a garden.

All of us are the vulnerable, the weak the humble. Yet still there are those amongst us who are far more dangerously placed or on the edge of well-being; both mentally and spiritually. than ourselves.

When we pray in our services for the mind as well as the body we have never needed so much to be aware of the fragility of mental health.

And so on this Palm Sunday we rejoice that our Lord Jesus came to show us that he is amongst the humble and vulnerable when he speaks of the promises of the kingdom and of the Resurrection to new life.

A time of prayer

Let us pray.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

As we read or say these prayers please think of all our health workers, scientists, politicians, everyone concerned with our safety and the continuing supply of the food chain. Pray for all who are ill, in hospital, awaiting operations, organ transplants or for the birth of a child. Those who are already frail. These are especially vulnerable within our communities.

Father, as the crowds welcomed Jesus and sang praises we ask for you to receive our praise and the welcome we prepare for you in our hearts.

We pray for those who will come to hear your word in the coming year.

We ask for the opportunities and the confidence to spread your good news.

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

Father, the children sang and shouted your praise. We pray for children everywhere. In this and other lands we pray for children confused by household isolation; missing their friends and the routine of lessons at school.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father the crowds responded to the healing ministry of your son, as they had witnessed it.

We bring to you in love those working to save lives and heal the sick.

We pray for our own nation and all across the world. The displacement, famine and war have not gone away; here too are the many afflictions of the world to which Coronavirus and Cholera add to the distress and dangers.

So we pray for Unicef, Save the Children and the World Health Organisation during this crisis. Bless them Lord to save lives and to bring about a healing amongst nations.

Heavenly Father, you have bestowed on us the blessings of family and friends, look with your eyes of compassion on our loved ones. Wherever they may be. Be pleased, we pray, to pour on them the abundance of your mercy. Remain with them and watch over them. Let your heavenly peace rest in their hearts. Strengthen by you Holy Spirit enable us to keep faith.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We commend to your eternal love all who have died; comfort those who mourn and give us at this time the right words of comfort and peace.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

***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.

The next hymn is chosen because it reminds us to rejoice in the presence of God and to join in that joy of Palm Sunday, a hymn which children enjoy.

Hymn: Give me oil in my lamp

To listen to this hymn in a new window, press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the hymn.

**1 Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray;
give me joy oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
keep me burning till the break of day:**

**Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King!**

- 2 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
give me joy in my heart, I pray;
give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
keep me praising till the break of day:**
- 3 Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
give me peace in my heart, I pray;
give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
keep me resting till the break of day:**
- 4 Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
give me love in my heart, I pray;
give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
keep me serving till the break of day:**

Anonymous
adapted by A. Servison
and others)

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A prayer of blessing

Grant us pardon from our sins and peace in our hearts.

May your face shine upon us and bless us.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be amongst us, and remain with us, now and for evermore.

Amen.