

For the Communities Surrounding

St John's Charfield

Holy Trinity Rangeworthy

St Giles Hillesley

St Mary's Kingswood

Holy Trinity Wickwar



Palm Sunday

Some thoughts, prayers and readings
to enable us to 'be' church wherever we are.



Our Churches are closed but Church can still exist. Friendship and fellowship can still flourish.

All glory, laud, and honor
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.



You may wish to light a candle to realise the light of Christ, the light of hope and the light of faith. We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart.

As God's people we have gathered in spirit and in truth;

Let us worship God now together, Sitting apart, yet joined in prayer.

Welcome to some worship and reflection for Palm Sunday.

Today we remember Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

The rumours had got round, the excitement was building, people were gathering.

What was going to happen?

An opening prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



The Palm Sunday Gospel

Matthew 21.1-11

When the Disciples and Jesus 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 fulfill 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 be to you O Christ

The Collect for Palm Sunday

**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**

Some Prayers:

Lord Jesus, as you looked over Jerusalem, you yearned to gather us together as a hen gathers her chicks. Lord we yearn for the time when we can again gather again, in friendship, in fellowship, in need and in joy, and above all in safety and in health.

Hosanna, Lord hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, as you heard the cries of Hosanna, bring your saving grace into the lives of those who shout today, to be saved from the perils of this time, from illness and disease and from anxiety and grief.

Hosanna, Lord hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, as you entered the thronging crowds you knew them as individuals, needing healing, freedom and liberation. We pray for those this day who are suffering, isolated and helpless.

Hosanna, Lord hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, as you enabled your disciples to be alongside those who suffer, we pray for all in vocations of healing and caring, that they may be kept safe as they minister to others.

Hosanna, Lord hear our prayer

**True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. Amen**

Pause for thought:

That shout of Hosanna is well known. Hosanna often figures in our prayers and songs, and if we were together today in Church we would be singing, Hosanna in the highest. But what does it mean? It comes from a Hebrew word *Hosh I ana* and it is also used in the psalms which give us further clues as to what it means or conveys. In Hebrew and Aramaic, the language of Jesus, it means literally, save us, we pray. And like many words it is ambiguous, or more to the point, its meaning can change given the context or the way it is said. For the crowds in Jerusalem, seeing Jesus as a way forward for them, a messiah, a saviour, they shout a word that is easy on their lips, close to their hearts and part of their instinctive language: Hosanna. Save us, we pray.

Some will shout in desperation, thinking back to the suffering voice of the psalm writer.

Some will shout in liberation, motivated by the freeing shouts of the prophets.

Some will shout with exuberant faith, faith in the future, sure of the hope and potential they have heard about this man Jesus. Hosanna. That single word unifies that crowd in all its fear, anxiety, and hurt, in all its faith, hope, and praise. And Jesus is the focus for them all. Hosanna, Blessed is the one who comes.

As our saviour taught us so we pray

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.

**May your blessing go with us,
and all who we love,
this day and for evermore. Amen**

**Let us bless the Lord:
*Thanks be to God.***

Contact us:

Revd Canon David Russell:

01454 294267:

davidrussell@gmx.com

Revd Rick Williams:

01454 260476:

rickatcharfield@gmail.com

Prof Patricia Broadfoot:

07771996495:

patricia.broadfoot@gmail.com

www.wickwarchurch.plus.com

www.stmaryskingswood.org.uk

and find each church on Facebook