

Welcome and Call to Worship

Today is Palm Sunday I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone who receives this service wherever and whenever it is read.

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Opening Prayer for Palm Sunday

Gracious God, this is the day that you have made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Today we greet you with shouts of 'Hosanna!'

Today we greet you as the Creator of all that is.

Today we greet you as our Triumphant King, and as the Prince of Peace.

Today we greet you as Power from on high, and as the Gentle Whispering Breeze.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer for Ukraine

God of all peoples and nations,
Show us the way of peace that is Your
overwhelming presence.

We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and
Russia,

Every child and every adult.

We long for the time when weapons of war are
beaten into ploughshares and when nations no longer
lift up sword against nation.

We cry out to you for peace.

Protect those who desire and deserve to live in
security and safety, comfort those who fear for their
lives and the lives of their loved ones and be with
those who are bereaved.

Change the hearts of those set on violence and
aggression and fill leaders with the wisdom that
leads to peace.

Kindle again in us a love of our neighbour, a passion
for justice to prevail and a renewed recognition that
we all play a part in peace.

Creator of all hear our prayer and bring us peace.

Make us whole.

Amen

Hymn All Glory, Laud, and Honour

1 All glory, laud, and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.

2 The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

3 To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!

The Donkey By G. K. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

The Donkey's Owner

Snaffled my donkey, he did - good luck to him! -
Rode him astride, feet dangling, near scraping the
ground.
Gave me the laugh of my life when I first see them,
Remembering yesterday - you know, how Pilate come
Bouncing along the same road, only that horse of his
Big as a bloody house and the armour shining
And half Rome trotting behind. Tight-mouthed he was,
Looking like he owned the world.
Then today,
Him and my little donkey! Ha - laugh? -
I thought I'd kill myself when he first started.
So did the rest of them. Gave him a cheer
Like he was Caesar himself, only more hearty:
Tore off some palm-twigs and followed shouting,
Whacking the donkey's behind Then suddenly
We see his face.
The smile had gone, and somehow the way he sat
Was different - like he was much older - you know -
Didn't want to laugh no more.
Clive Sansom: The Witnesses

Reading : Please open your Bible and read:
Luke 19 verses 28 to 40

Having read these verses spend a few moments in
personal prayer opening your hearts to the words.

Hymn Jesus Is Passing This Way

Frances Crosby

1 Is there a heart that is waiting,
Longing for pardon today?
Hear the glad message proclaiming
Jesus is passing this way.
Is there a heart that has wandered?
Come with thy burden today;
Mercy is tenderly pleading,
Jesus is passing this way.

Refrain:

*Jesus is looking for thee,
Jesus is looking for thee,
Sweet is the message today,
Jesus is looking for thee.*

2 Is there a heart that is broken,
Weary and sighing for rest?
Come to the Saviour who offers
Peace to the sad and oppressed.
Come to thy only redeemer,
Come to his infinite love,
Come to the gate that is leading
Homeward to mansions above.

Refrain

Hymn Jesus comes with all his grace

Charles Wesley

1 Jesus comes with all his grace,
comes to save a fallen race,
object of our glorious hope,
Jesus comes to lift us up.

2 Let the living stones cry out,
every child of Abraham shout;
praise we all our lowly King,
give him thanks, rejoice and sing.

3 He has our salvation wrought,
he our captive souls has bought,
he has reconciled to God,
he has washed us in his blood.

4 We are now his lawful right,
walk as children of the light;
we shall soon obtain the grace,
pure in heart, to see his face.

5 We shall gain our calling's prize;
after God we all shall rise,
filled with joy, and love, and peace,
perfected in holiness.

Reflection

Today is Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday in the Christian tradition, the first day of Holy Week and the Sunday before Easter, commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is that triumphal entry into Jerusalem which was the start of the final week of Christ's earthly ministry. In a short time He would be betrayed and crucified to rise on the third day after His death.

What a glorious thought, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. This is the week when we are reminded that we can't save ourselves, but we are saved by the grace and unending love of Christ.

This is a pivotal moment in God's plan for the salvation of mankind, for Jerusalem is not only where Jesus will die, but it is also where he will be resurrected and where the church will be born at Pentecost. From that point forward there is a direct link for each of us to Jesus and to his glorious resurrection power

Imagine the scene, the crowd feel the heat, the dust, the smells and noise, it would be unlike anything we, or at least I, have ever been involved in.

Definitely not Tavistock carnival, I wonder how many of you have been involved in Tavistock carnival in one way or another over the years.

True it is not as noisy or as boisterous as it was 30 years ago, pre the intervention of health and safety, when everyone stood on lorry trailers spraying the crowd with water and throwing cheap mementos but it is still a fun couple of hours.

I have been involved with the carnival for many years and the one thing I have noted is that though watching the parade is fun being part of it is a much better experience. It can be tiring and hard work at times but being in the parade is far the better than standing on the sidelines and watching.

If we go back to the parade entering Jerusalem where would you be?

Would you be at the back of the crowd watching anonymously scared to be involved?

Would you be laying your cloak at the feet of Jesus?

Would you be walking with Jesus and following his lead?

Palm Sunday is important because our Lord and Saviour came to save us through His sacrificial death and resurrection. Palm Sunday continues to remind us of that.

Where are you today?

Are you watching from the sidelines standing quietly in the background trying to stay anonymous not wanting to get involved?

Are you worshipping him laying your cloak at his feet every Sunday only to pick it up and walk away when the service is over or the parade has passed by?

Or are you fully committed?

Are you part of the procession are you walking closely with Christ are you following in his footsteps?

We need to be fully committed calling out the name of Jesus for all to hear. For Jesus himself said **"I tell you that if these were silent, the stones would cry out"**

All creation praises Christ but what a blessing that we, above all creation, can sing out his praises.

Are you singing out his praises?

Are you sharing the Love and grace of Jesus?

Don't stand back and watch the procession don't rely on the stones to cry out be there and be involved.

Prayers of intercession

Focus your thoughts and raise to the Lord all the concerns that are dear to your heart.

Events in foreign lands and within our own country, family, friends and whatever's on your heart at this time, take as long as you need.

Focus on the Lord and direct your prayers from your heart to the throne of God

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.

Closing Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,
in your tender love towards humanity
you sent your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take on himself our flesh
and to suffer death on the cross.
Grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
now and forever
Amen

Grace Prayer *Wherever we are, we can share the grace together.*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore Amen

Palm of His Hand: by Dirt Road Delights

May the Lord light your way
When you step in paths of darkness
May he hold you in the palm of his hand
May he lead you to salvation
When every hands against you
May he blaze a path of glory
To the Promised Land

Sometimes when I stumble and light is
growing dim

There is a rock on which I can rely
He is the rock of Ages
Standing strong I know
He's with me He makes my spirit fly

May the Lord light your way
When you step in paths of darkness
May he hold you in the palm of his hand
May he lead you to salvation
When every hands against you
May he blaze a path of glory
To the Promised Land

When storm clouds gather
And my face is in the wind
And all hope seems lost along the way
Call out the name of Jesus
Soon it will be said
Jesus name it brings the light of Days

May the Lord light your way
When you step in paths of darkness
May he hold you in the palm of his hand
May he lead you to salvation
When every hands against you
May he blaze a path of glory
To the Promised Land

**May He blaze a Path of Glory
To the Promised Land**

**May He blaze a Path of Glory
To the Promised Land**