



St Maxentius Church - Worship at Home



PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY 28th MARCH 2021

We are finally open for worship from today our service is at 9.30 this morning and we hope to see as many actually in church. If you prefer not to come into church to worship, below we have an outline of our service for you to follow at home. Choose a quiet reflective space and to make it more meaningful have a cross, bible and candle to make your sacred space.



INTRODUCTION

It has been a long time but finally we are able to open again, Rev Robin is doing our service today and therefore the reflection is from him. Joyce has done our intercessions so thank you to both of them for their help.

Please let us know if you are joining us for our Easter day service so we can ensure your safety on the number that Jo has given, you can text, phone or email us whichever is easiest for you.

Rev Peter will be taking our service next week and indeed most of our services will be taken by Rev Robin or Rev Peter throughout the coming weeks. We will remain at 9.30 with one service only due to Covid restrictions of cleaning everything down, for the foreseeable future.

I hope you have all received a copy of the Holy week services list as you can access services every day at one of our team churches as well as on line worship, so we are well covered. I made a mistake on the intro last week, regarding the Worship at Christ Church, Walmsley - Mon-Thurs. Their services are in the evening at 7pm not the morning as I wrote, sorry for that. It was amended in the digital version but not the printed version.

So we have our palms at the ready, and I hope you are able to feel part of our church and that are communications are a support to you.

Jan B

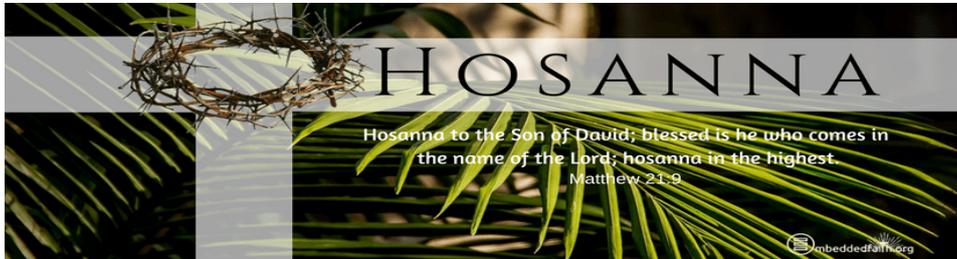
GREETING

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna to the Son of David

Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David

Hosanna in the highest heavens



CONFESSION

We delight to call you King but we have not always accepted your rule. Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy**

We confess we have too often been silent, when we should have spoken of your Kingdom. Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

We ask your mercy on us and on the world; May we honour your name and uphold your ways, lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy**

ABSOLUTION

Almighty and everlasting god, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: enter our hearts today cleanse us and make us new; make us fit to march in your procession and be called to be your people.

Amen

THE COLLECT

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.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - ISAIAH 50, 4-9

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and

spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING - PHILLIPIANS 2, 5-11

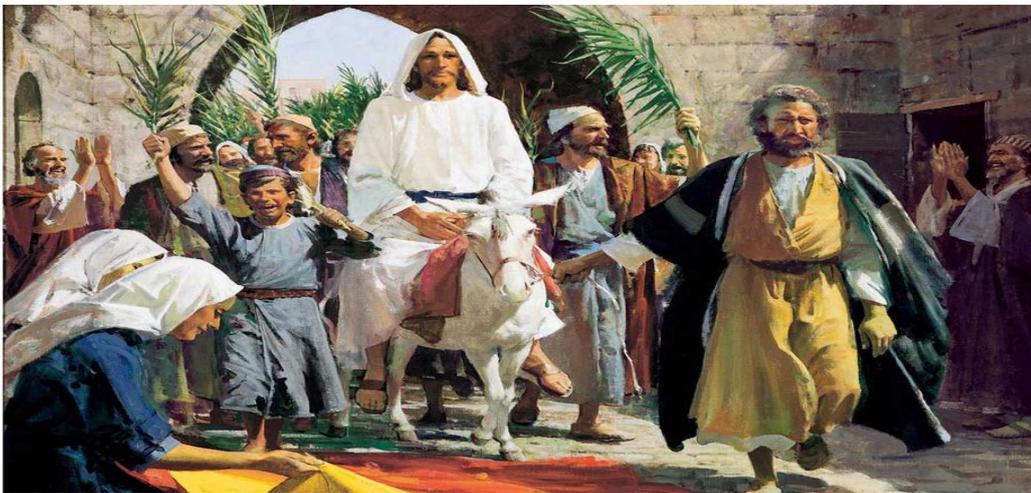
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**



THE GOSPEL - MARK 11, 1-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Hosanna in the highest. Glory to you O Lord



When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION

By the time you read this, I hope you will have received a palm cross. If so, you might like to use that palm cross as a focus for reflection today.

Palms — and nails — lie at the heart of Palm Sunday. The day begins with the joyous entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, welcomed by the crowds waving palm branches — and it ends with Jesus being nailed to a cross!

In addition to your palm cross, most of you will have two other palms, one on each hand! And probably ten nails too! Look at your hands for a moment, and think about all the things that they do each day. Life would be difficult without them.

Hands are one of the most expressive parts of our bodies. They can be both creative and destructive: creating beautiful works of art, or destroying them. They can be both loving and violent: offering a caress, or a punch in the face. They can be used for both healing and harming: tending to a patient in hospital, or killing a victim. It was hands that waved palm branches and applauded Jesus when he entered Jerusalem, but it was also hands that held the whip and hammered in the nails!

Think Jesus on the cross, held there by nails through the palms of his hands. The open hand, the palm held out, is a universal sign of trust, friendship, welcome, acceptance, and peace. On the cross, all of that is violated by the nails through those open palms of Jesus. It sums up, symbolically, the meaning of the Cross: love, being pierced by the darkness and the violence of the world — but not being overcome by it.

It's perhaps too soon to talk about the Resurrection, but, after the Resurrection, the body of Jesus - the 'glorious' body, as it is sometimes called - was not a 'perfect' body. It was a body that still bore the marks of the nails. Jesus vanquishes suffering and death, not by avoiding it, but by taking it into his hands, accepting it, holding it, and transforming it.

The fate of the world lies mostly in our own hands. We have a great responsibility towards the world and towards one another. We can be instruments of healing - or of hurt. To open our hands to others in the attempt to be part of the healing of the world's ills is to run the same risk as Jesus took. To take hold of the world, for good, for love, for healing, may also mean taking hold of the thorn or the nail!

The palm and the nail together represent the two sides of Palm Sunday, the glory and the pain, both of which are held together in the hands of Jesus.

Rev Robin Usher

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH



We believe in God.

Creator of a world most wonderful and of humankind, formed from the clay, made in God's image.

We believe in Jesus Christ

Who took our human nature, who came to bring the Kingdom of justice and peace; who suffered and died for our sin and sin of the world; who rose again redeeming and rescuing us for God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit

The breath of God in creation, whose presence gives us new life and whose interceding strengthens our prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the intercessions, we pray for the church, our country, our government, people in difficulty and those who have died. You can use your own prayers or if you *prefer here are some on today's theme.*



Lord God, our heavenly Father, you raised Jesus from the dead and exalted him to be Lord of all. Hear us as we pray in his name for the needs of this world and for our own concerns.

We pray for your Churches here in the Turton Moorland Team and throughout the world. Give us all, both ordained and lay the strength to truly be the body of Christ, let us stand at the foot of the cross and learn what it means to love and keep on loving; to serve and keep on serving; in the sure knowledge that you are Lord.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray that the kingdoms of this world soak up the values of your kingdom; that leaders and peoples uphold what is right and just and establish a social order which is rooted in Godly love.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for families everywhere, that all homes will reflect the love that you taught us. In all the heartache and joys of human relationships may we be governed by selfless love, be faithful and forgiving following your example.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are suffering or struggling with any kind of need; and ask that God may bring them the healing, peace, strength and comfort he knows they need from him.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

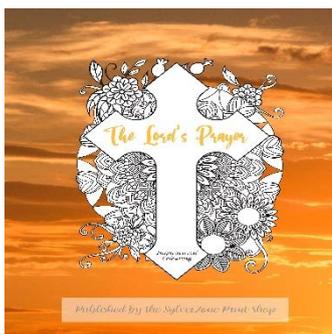
We pray for those who have gone before us and are now with you in glory, from our Book of Remembrance we think of Walter Greenhalgh & John Howard. May they be surrounded with your peace and rest in your love forever.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Loving Father, people didn't recognise Jesus as your son, on that first Palm Sunday; they wanted him to be their hero, to do things their way, to meet their expectations. To be a king of their own creation. Perhaps we still do. Help us to look beyond what we think is best, to see that the values of your Kingdom are very different from the values of this world. Help us to proclaim you as our King, to commit ourselves to building for your Kingdom to come.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

THE BLESSING

The God of hope fill us all with joy and peace in believing and the blessing of God almighty, the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all this Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week.

Amen

