

# St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Palm Sunday

Good morning to all of you joining us for Palm Sunday. It is a bit strange as we are back in Church for “hybrid” services, and we are also online on Zoom and YouTube as well. In whatever way you find it easiest to participate we welcome you.

On Palm Sunday we hold our palm crosses and gather to echo the praise of the crowds when Jesus entered Jerusalem. But we also enter this Holy Week with him, and look towards another cross and beyond it to the triumph of his resurrection. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Please join in the text in **bold** print.

## Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **And also with you.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today, although we are apart, we come together as we can, to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*If you have a palm cross from a previous year or a palm branch that you've made, hold it up now:*

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 all who bear them in his name  
may ever hail him as King,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* Amen.

## The Palm Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord**

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives. There Jesus sent two of the disciples on ahead with these instructions: "Go to the village there ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied up with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to me. And if anyone says anything, tell him, 'The Master needs them'; and then he will let them go at once." This happened in order to make come true what the prophet had said: "Tell the city of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

So the disciples went and did what Jesus had told them to do: they brought the donkey and the colt, threw their cloaks over them, and Jesus got on. A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, "Praise to David's Son! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise be to God!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was thrown into an uproar. "Who is he?" the people asked. "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee," the crowds answered.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn: Ride on, ride on in majesty (sung by St Martin's Voices)**

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry.  
Thy humble beast pursues his 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!  
The last and fiercest strife is nigh:  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits 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)*

### Opening Prayer (Collect)

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory:

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.

**All Amen.**

### Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.  
Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

### Passion Gospel: (Mark 14:1 – 15:47)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*Due to COVID restrictions, we have recorded our Passion Reading. This will be read by several voices, taking the parts of characters in the passion story.*

This is the Passion of the Lord.

### Talk (given by Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells)

#### Intercessions

*Between the prayers we say*

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say*

Merciful God, accept our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen**

**Hymn – All glory, laud and honour** (sung by St Martin's Voices)

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

- 1 Thou art the King of Israel,  
thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest,  
the King and blessed one:
- 2 The company of angels  
are praising thee on high,  
and mortal men and all things  
created make reply:
- 3 The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went:  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present:
- 4 To thee before thy passion  
they sang their hymns of praise:  
to thee now high exalted  
our melody we raise:
- 5 Thou didst accept their praises,  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King:

*Theodulf of Orleans (c.750-821) translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)*

**Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;

as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because, for our salvation,  
he 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.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of St. Christopher and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

### **Distribution of Communion**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*If you wish to receive holy communion please stand*

The body of Christ

*All* Amen

*Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.*

### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*All* Amen

### **Notices**

#### **Hymn – My song is love unknown** *(sung by St Martin's Voices)*

- 1 My song is love unknown,  
My Saviour's love to me;  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
O who am I,  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take  
frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne  
salvation to bestow;  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know:  
But O! my Friend,  
my Friend indeed,  
who at my need  
His life did spend.

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way,  
and His sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King:  
Then “Crucify!”  
is all their breath,  
and for His death  
they thirst and cry.
- 4 They rise and needs will have  
my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save,  
the Prince of life they slay,  
Yet cheerful He  
to suffering goes,  
that He His foes  
from thence might free.
- 5 Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King!  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend,  
in Whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
could gladly spend.

*Samuel Crossman (1623-1683)*

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
bring you by faith to his eternal life. **All Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father’s will,  
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. **All Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ  
that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. **All Amen.**

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

Unfortunately, since we are now doing “Hybrid” services we can no longer meet virtually after the service to share news (and any socialising in the Church is not permitted).

**If you are in the church, please stay in your place until you are directed by a steward to leave the building.**

Thank you for filling in our COVID-19 track and trace book, if you feel unwell during the week, please ring 07824 323815 so that we can contact others who were here today.

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