

Sunday April 5th *For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or at another time*

Prayer

Loving God, we come to worship you on Palm Sunday.

Please help us to open our hearts and our minds to you, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Hymn

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;
Your humble beast pursues its road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, your power, and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791 – 1868)

Psalm: 118 v 1 – 2, 19 – 29

Lectionary Gospel Reading : Matthew 21 v 1 – 11.

For thought (Looking at the Bible text this week!)

v 5 *The quote is from Zechariah 9 v 9 and was a well-known messianic text.*

v 8 *Spreading cloaks underneath a person's feet was a traditional act of paying homage to a King. You may like to look up an example in 2 Kings 9 v 12 – 13.*

v 9 *'Hosanna' means 'Save!' which, through use, had become an expression of praise. What do you think is meant by 'Hosanna in the highest heaven'?*

N.B. Matthew is the gospel writer who, writing for Jews, often quotes the Old Testament.

Hymn

All glory, laud, and honour
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 Blessèd One.

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

St Theoldulph of Orleans (d. 821) translated by John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866)

For Prayer

We pray for all those who need saving today, or feel that they need saving.

We pray for our world, our country, the Methodist Church and our own Central Norfolk Circuit, our community, our local church and fellowship, our family and friends, ourselves.

We pray for anyone, and everyone, coping with the coronavirus emergency – in any way.

We say the Lord's Prayer...

Offer to God your offertory for the week: and, if cash, put it aside in a special place.

Message from a Circuit Friend (different person each week)

I would like to tell you about what I did on my Sabbatical 5 years ago which may be of some help now. I hadn't made any firm plans as I was awaiting medical appointments. I started the first day of the Sabbatical with little idea of how I would make the three months special and holy. Then I saw a baby boy just a week old, and took a photo. It made me think we have no idea what life will hold for this little chap. The same would have been true for Jesus. Jesus was just a tiny little baby like that and he was to grow up and change the world. I was reminded of the 5th verse of "Angels from the realms of glory" - Though an infant now we see him, He shall fill his Father's throne.

I now realised how I would shape my Sabbatical. I committed to myself to take photos every day. Then at the end of the day I chose one to reflect on, adding either a line of a hymn or a verse from the bible. It became very profound as I continued this for 91 days.

With us all being in our homes at the moment, I have started to take photos and to reflect on where I see God, and what God is saying to me. If you wish to do something similar the secret is to take a few photos to choose from, they can be quite 'mundane', in the house or garden or on a walk. They don't have to be brilliant photography just that they mean something to you. Adding a bible verse or hymn gives added depth to the reflection. Perhaps at the end of all this we could share some of our favourites together. That would be something special to look forward to!

Jen Woodfin (Deacon and Circuit Minister)

Optional act of Praise

Say, or shout, or sing (StF 263 is good for this):

Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Wave a branch or a leaf or a piece of paper or a spoon!

Hymn

This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,
whose love is as great as his power,
and neither knows measure nor end:
'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come.

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May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us (and all those we love) this day and always, Amen.