

Worship at Home – 13 April 2025 (Palm Sunday)

A short act of worship for use in people's homes prepared by Helen Watson.

Introduction

Hello, this is the service for Palm Sunday. My name is Helen Watson and I'm a Methodist Local Preacher in the Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Circuit. It's good to be with you today!

Call to worship¹

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever **Psalm 118:1**

Hymn

STF 262 All glory, laud and honour to thee Redeemer King

1.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 Blessed One.

2.The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.

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

3.To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

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

Prayer³ and Lord's Prayer

God of hopes and joys,
When our hearts ache from brokenness, you nourish us with your love.
When the world's pain fatigues us, you carry us in your arms.
When the loneliness of our souls drains our very being, you come and live with us.
You are our God.

Jesus Christ, God's True Son,
You did not profit from your Oneness with God but emptied yourself to become servant to all
humanity.
You humbled yourself to lift us out of sin's grave.
You are our Lord.

Holy Spirit, Teacher from God, humble us to be obedient and to deny and reject all that keeps us
from following Jesus.
Teach us the words we need to confess him as our Lord and Saviour.
You are our Helper.

One day we are crying to God, 'Save us', the next we are turning our backs on God and walking
away.

Despite our fickle nature, God is steadfast in loving us and constant in forgiving. Let us confess our sins and our shortcomings to God.

Forgive us, Lord, when we allow ourselves to fall away from you and to fall short of your great example. Forgive us and help us to reform for we are nothing without you.

Hosanna to David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name, not to judge us, but to save us. We humble ourselves in gratitude to God and in service to others, as Christ did. Hosanna in the highest! **Amen**

God in Community, Holy and One, we lift our prayer to you as Jesus has taught us...

You may wish to say out loud the **Lord's Prayer** in a translation and version with which you are familiar.

Reading Luke 19: 28 – 38

Jesus Enters Jerusalem ¹

After Jesus had finished speaking to his disciples, he went on ahead. He was going up to Jerusalem.

He approached Bethphage and Bethany. The hill there was called the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent out two of his disciples. He said to them,

"Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey's colt tied up. No one has ever ridden it. Untie it and bring it here.

Someone may ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' If so, say, 'The Lord needs it.' "

Those who were sent ahead went and found the young donkey. It was there just as Jesus had told them.

They were untying the colt when its owners came. The owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "The Lord needs it."

Then the disciples brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their coats on the young donkey and put Jesus on it.

As he went along, people spread their coats on the road.

Jesus came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives. There the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God with joy. In loud voices they praised him for all the miracles they had seen. They shouted,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Psalm 118:26) "May there be peace and glory in the highest heaven!"

Reflection

There are several surprises in this story.

Think of the colt! We don't usually consider the poor animal, do we? But there it was, quiet in its stable. Then some people took it away and suddenly it was surrounded by noise and shouting and a stranger was sitting on its back! That surprised the colt, I expect.

But of course, the biggest surprise for the people of the time was Jesus himself. They were expecting a Messiah, a kingly representative of Almighty God. God had promised this many years ago. He would solve all Israel's problems, defeat the Romans and bring the peace of God to the whole nation. How could a roving preacher from Galilee do all that?

And now he was calling for transport – not a fine horse but a donkey colt, and one which had never been ridden before.

Think of the contrast with the coronation of King Charles, think of the ritual, the pomp, the Golden Coach, the fine robes which King Charles had. Nothing like that for Jesus. Was he really the Messiah, was the question on everyone's lips.

God works in ways which are often surprising. When he chooses people to do his work, he often picks unexpected people. There was King David, a shepherd boy, the youngest of his family, who became a just and famous ruler, and of Mary, a young unmarried girl who became the mother of the Son of God. And remember the prophets who were often reluctant to do what God asked, but who did it anyway.

God has many reasons for his choice of people. They are according to his plan, but they are not always obvious. For us, today, it's wonderful to know that God's plans are firm and true, and they encompass each one of us. We are unique and we each have many tasks which only we can do. So be of good heart if you are faced with a situation you didn't expect, and work that you feel is difficult. God will provide the means and the ability that you need to fulfil his plans.

God always acts with love and with understanding. Act in the same way and rejoice in his love and know that you are serving the King of kings! **Amen**

Hymn STF 264 Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives!

1. Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.

2. He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see.

Chorus

Make way (Make way),
make way (make way),
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);
make way (make way),
make way (make way),
and let his Kingdom in.

3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.

4. We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him,
his thrones must fall!

Prayers of intercession ⁴

There is a response in these prayers.

When I say;

Lord, hear us

The response is

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray.

Let us pray for the church, for our local churches and their leaders and for the church throughout the world.

Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for those who have power and influence and for all who govern the nations. For our leaders and politicians and those who make decisions in our name.

Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for the powerless, for all victims of famine and war, and for all who work for justice and peace. For those suffering in Myanmar, for those who are helping in rescue and aid work, and for those agencies which are able to bring help.

We continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and in Gaza and for peace in these places.

Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for the afflicted and the sorrowful and for all who need our healing prayers just now. For those in hospital or at home who are sick or injured and those who are bereaved or sorrowing in other ways. In particular today, we pray for those who are known to us who need healing. Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for ourselves.

We could triumphantly claim that you came just for us, Holy One, but your gifts are poured out for all the broken, all the wandering, all the struggling. So, may we be just like you, pouring out our lives and our treasures, so all might be blessed through you and your blessing should remain with us.

Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray all our prayers in the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

Hymn STF 317 At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow

1. At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.

'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

2. Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed:

3. Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,

to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

4. In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

5. For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all and with those we love now and evermore.

Amen

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