

## News and Prayer Update for 5<sup>th</sup> April

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**Do You Need To Talk To Someone?** Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call we are here for you.**  
All conversations are in strict confidence.



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## READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Link to this week's short reflective service from the Vicarage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCBvRh-IZjI&feature=youtu.be>

### Psalm 118: 19-end

- <sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- <sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- <sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
- <sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- <sup>27</sup> The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.
- <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.
- <sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

### Matthew 21: 1-11

- <sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,  
<sup>2</sup> saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.  
<sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.'
- <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,  
<sup>5</sup> 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

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<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;

<sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

<sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'

<sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

### **Reflection on Liturgy of the Palms from Revd Patricia**

On Friday morning, as I started to put this reflection into words, I looked at a webcam in Jerusalem to see what was happening. It was around noon Jerusalem time. The camera took me to the Old City and the Western Wall, the famous landmark that welcomes millions of visitors each year, but it was completely still, apart from a flag wafting gently and the odd bird flying across the square, no one there at all until one person walked through the area. I looked back of the recent history and found that very few people had been there in the last few days. What a stark difference between now and when Jesus entered the City on Palm Sunday over 2,000 years ago. This year our busy world is falling silent, we will not meet in church to receive our palm crosses and have them blessed.

However, we can still join the crowd and acknowledge the coming of the King to his own capital city, a moment of real significance. This King is the Son of God who followed the divine command of the Father, entering in the manner prophesied and coming in peace, not as a conquering king although, he would conquer more than any human King could do and he would be enthroned, but not as the crowd had envisaged. Israel's prayers were answered but not in the way they envisaged.

We stand at the beginning of Holy Week and this year we have more time to stop and take in what happened over 2,000 years ago, and why it happened. God came to his disobedient people then and he comes to us now, not waiting for our lives and motives to be pure but willing to answer our prayers more deeply and thoroughly than we can imagine. So let us, not only welcome the King to his City but welcome him into our lives again.

*We may not all have new Palm Crosses this year but if you have one from a previous year please find it and use it this year. If not, why not make a cross from card, paper or another plant leaf or twigs. Philip will bless the Crosses during his short service which you can access through the link with this update.*

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### **Liturgy of the Passion Matthew 26: 14 – 56, 69 - end**

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

### The Passover with the Disciples

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' <sup>18</sup> He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."' <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; <sup>21</sup> and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' <sup>22</sup> And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' <sup>23</sup> He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

### The Institution of the Lord's Supper

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### Peter's Denial Foretold

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

"I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

<sup>32</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.' <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

### Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is

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possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.’<sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?’<sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’<sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’<sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.<sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.<sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.’<sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’

### The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.<sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.’<sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ and kissed him.<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, do what you are here to do.’ Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.<sup>51</sup> Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.’<sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?<sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?’<sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, ‘Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.’<sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.’ Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, ‘You also were with Jesus the Galilean.’<sup>70</sup> But he denied it before all of them, saying, ‘I do not know what you are talking about.’<sup>71</sup> When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’<sup>72</sup> Again he denied it with an oath, ‘I do not know the man.’<sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, ‘Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.’<sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, ‘I do not know the man!’ At that moment the cock crowed.<sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: ‘Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.

### **New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)**

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### Reflection on Passion Readings from Revd Trish

Stephen Cottrell in his book "The Things He Carried" (2008, SPCK) suggests that as well as carrying the hopes of God and the sins of the world, Jesus carried the disappointment of his followers. He also carried the heavy burden of the betrayal of his closest disciples.

In the first part of Matthew's passion narrative we see Judas Iscariot – a byword for betrayal – plan that betrayal with the chief priests. We don't know why Judas betrayed the man whom he had followed closely for three years. Was it – as many suggest – that he was disappointed in Jesus? Did he expect him to be a warrior Messiah who would overthrow the occupying forces and restore Israel's fortune? Did he gradually realise that Jesus was a very different sort of Messiah? Did he long for a fighting King of Israel but begin to see that that, in fact, Jesus was a servant King? Whatever the reason, Judas betrayed the purpose of Jesus, betrayed all that Jesus had taught and embodied throughout his ministry.

And then in Gethsemane that close inner circle of disciples – Peter, James and John also betrayed Jesus. They betrayed his desperate need of them in his most difficult hour. At this pivotal moment they simply fell asleep – not such a big betrayal perhaps but in his hour of need for the support of close friends, they weren't there for him. Imagine you are unburdening your heart to a friend, sharing your deepest emotions, most intimate concerns and you look up to find them yawning or looking at their phone. They just aren't there for you when you need it. You know how it feels?

And then Peter – big-hearted, bird-brained Peter – discovers his weakness. "I will never desert you" turns to "I do not know the man". Peter betrayed the love of Jesus.

As well as betraying Jesus they also betrayed themselves and all that the last three years had meant.

**BUT**

James, according to tradition, went on to spread the gospel to Spain. He is the patron saint of Spain and his symbol – the shell - is still frequently used during baptisms. After his martyrdom his remains were transferred to Santiago de Compostela and still today thousands of Christians still follow his pilgrimage – the Way of St James.

John became a pillar of the newly emerging church that would come to be known as the Christian church. His teachings were responsible for one of the four gospels, three letters and the final book in the New Testament – the Book of Revelation.

And Peter became the one to whom the resurrected Jesus imparted the responsibility of feeding and tending his flock (John 21: 15 – 17).

Peter the betrayer became Peter the Rock on which Jesus built his church, James became a missionary and martyr and John became an evangelist and writer.

Each one came to accept themselves and their need for forgiveness and through God's transforming love helped to establish the Christian faith and church.

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But what of Judas? He couldn't forgive himself or live with himself. He couldn't believe that God could forgive such a dreadful sin as betrayal – he didn't realise how big God's grace and forgiveness are.

As you travel through Holy Week, consider what your weakness and sins are, accept God's forgiveness and open your heart to the transforming love of God.

Let us pray:

Holy Father, as Christ entered Jerusalem, let him enter our lives that he might rule in our hearts and that we may offer our love and our lives to him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who offered his life for us and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

Perhaps you would like to hear or join in with the hymn "My song is love unknown"

You can find a version here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsI0>

It is followed by "Abide with me" so press stop if you don't want to listen to that hymn.

### PRAYER

#### Prayer for the week from #LiveLent Daily Reflections

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell,  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

You can receive #LiveLent Daily Reflections by email each day— just go to [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org) (link is on home page) or download the #LiveLent App

#### Collect for Palm Sunday:

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,

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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.

### Items for prayer:

- The Government, as they lead the country at this time
- The scientists who are trying to develop vaccines etc
- Those who are ill
- Those at the forefront of treating those who are ill
- Those who are at the forefront of caring for the vulnerable
- Those who are alone and face months of isolation
- Those who are anxious about their jobs and/or finances
- The families and friends of those who have died
- Our Clergy, as they seek to provide support for those in their Church Families and Parishes at this time

### STORYTELLING SERVICE

You will find Philip telling the story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wEfGS35370&feature=youtu.be>

### Songs

For this first song you might like to make 'branches' to wave from rolled up paper or newspaper. Secure it with sticky tape and then cut down the roll in several places and then gently pull out the middle so that it looks like a tree. The children can wave these.

### We Have a King Who Rides a Donkey

*(Sing to the Tune of What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor! You can see it on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSbEEwik2hs> – you don't really need the link, it comes up easily - sung by the Jamborees with video where you will see ideas for craft during the coming week. It leads on to other songs. The next one is Cloaks and Branches which is also a good one for this story,)*

We have a King who rides a donkey, (x3)  
and his name is Jesus.

Refrain:

*Jesus the King is risen,  
Jesus the King is risen,  
Jesus the King is risen  
early in the morning.*

Trees are waving a royal welcome, (x3)  
for the King called Jesus.  
*(Refrain)*



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We have a King who cares for people, (x3)  
and his name is Jesus  
*(Refrain)*

What shall we do with our life this morning? (x3)  
Give it up in service.  
*(Refrain)*

We have a King who rides a donkey (x3)  
and his name is Jesus.  
*(Refrain)*

### **Our God Is A Great Big God**

*(Again, on YouTube but click on the one that says “with actions” for some real fun.)*

Our God is a great big God.  
Our god is a great big God.  
Our God is a great big God  
and He holds us in His hands. x 2.

He's higher than a sky-scraper.  
And He's deeper than a submarine.  
He's wider than the universe and  
beyond my wildest dreams.  
And He's known me and He's loved me  
since before the world began.  
How wonderful to be a part  
of God's amazing plan.

Jo & Nigel Hemming  
Songs reproduced under Copyright Licence CCLI: 209226

### **Craft**

Lots of ideas on the internet just search “Craft for Palm Sunday”.

- Next week there will be the Easter Story for you to join in.

Please send in pictures of what you have be doing for your craft and any Easter Gardens you may make. We will include them on the websites.

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## NOTICES

- **Prayer Chain:**

- Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which will be done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

- If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let them know.

- Chris Stanisstreet Tel: 01925 755559; Mobile 07918 981 723;  
Email: [stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk)

- **Access to services:**

- While self-isolating and while possible to access services using the radio or internet, eg:
- Daily Service on Radio 4 long wave at 9.45am Monday to Friday
- Sunday Worship on Radio 4 at 8.10am on Sunday morning
- Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) click on "Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for Churches" and scroll to the bottom where there is a list of Churches that livestream on YouTube.
- There is also access to the #Livelent daily reflections.
- Premier Christian Radio (on-line station), website: [www.premierchristianradio.com](http://www.premierchristianradio.com)

- **A Message about Giving for Our Regular Congregation**

- If you are able to continue to give please consider helping us by contacting our Treasurers and arranging to send a cheque or, preferably, make a direct payment into the bank. If you already give by direct debit or standing order, we hope you will be able to continue to do this. We still have to meet the costs of running the churches although we do not want people to give what they cannot afford or have not got. So if you find your income is affected, and you are unable to afford to give normally please do not worry about giving to the church for the time being.

- St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137
- St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969
- Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717
- St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

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### **Christian Aid Collection**

If you have been using the Count Your Blessings material during Lent and have collected money for Christian Aid, please pay this online if possible. Otherwise count it up and send in a cheque or, just put your collection to one side and pay it in when daily life returns to a more normal pattern or bring it to church then.

### **Morning and Night Prayer**

If you would like to join with us, we are saying Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday and Night Prayer at 9.00pm Monday to Saturday. Whenever you are able, why not say it at the same time as we do, then we will be joining together in prayer and worship.

If anyone does not yet have a copy of the "Worship at Home" booklet, which contains the orders of service for Morning Prayer and Night Prayer, one can be downloaded with this update. However, if you need a paper copy, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out.

### **Coffee and Chat 10.30 Wednesday 8 April 2020**

Make your cup of coffee and get your biscuits or cake ready. Go to Zoom.us this is the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/122850641?pwd=WkRqVFQ0UG5WeTZwRmRNb3dHbFQzQT09>

If you need the password it is 590532. If you have trouble doing this Patricia can invite you to the meeting with an email so just let her know.

### **Holy Week**

Hopefully you will have received this update on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April ready for Palm Sunday. We hope that on Sunday you will receive a further update of ideas and reflections for each day in Holy Week.

### **Easter Gardens**

Included in that update will be ideas of celebrating Easter in our gardens. There will be plenty to keep you thinking and keep you busy.

We hope you will be able to make an Easter Garden outside in your garden if you have one.

**Bishop Keith** is encouraging us all to join together as a diocese every Sunday at 8pm by placing a lit candle in one of our windows and praying for the diocese and our nation.

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