

Welcome

Call to Worship - 'I rejoiced with those who said to me,

Let us go to the house of the Lord.

And now we are here, standing in your gates,

O Jerusalem.' - *Psalm 122 v 1-2*

Hymn 202 - Stand up and bless the Lord

Stand up and bless the Lord

Ye people of His choice

Stand up and bless the Lord your God

With heart and soul and voice

Though high above all praise

Above all blessing high

Who would not fear His Holy Name

And laud and magnify

O for the living flame

From His own altar brought

To touch our lips our minds inspire

And wing to heaven our thought

God is our strength and song

And His salvation ours

Then be His love in Christ proclaimed

With all our ransomed powers

Stand up and bless the Lord

The Lord your God adore

Stand up and bless His glorious Name

Henceforth for evermore.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer (debts)

Father God, we gather here today as a family.
We are proud to be called Your children,
Your heirs and joint heirs with Your Son.

You take care of us as a father looks after his very own.
You praise us and encourage us when we need it.
You discipline us with gentleness and loving concern.
You recognise our needs and meet every one of them.
You are patient and understanding at all times.

Father, as Your children, we thank You.
There is none like You.
No one can compare with You
None can match Your great love and compassion.

Father God, we worship You this day
We are here to praise You
To lift our voices to You as one
As Your grateful children
As Your faithful servants
As Your loyal friends

Receive our worship this day.
And receive ourselves.
Forgive us for the things we have thought, said and done
which have been unworthy of us as Your children.
Let us learn from the mistakes we have made.
Growing in our faith day by day as You lead us by Your Spirit.
Always striving to become more and more like our Brother Jesus.

Father, we know we have a long way to go
We are far from perfect.
But we are Yours and we are eternally grateful
that You love us just as we are, with all our faults.
And that You constantly encourage us

to grow and to develop as Your devoted children.

Receive now our offerings, which we give to You with our grateful thanks.

And hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven

Hallowed be Thy Name;

Thy Kingdom come;

Thy will be done;

On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 52 v 1-2 & 7-10 (GNB)

God will rescue Jerusalem (Susan White)

Jerusalem, be strong and great again!

Holy city of God, clothe yourself with splendor!

The heathen will never enter your gates again.

² *Shake yourself free, Jerusalem!*

Rise from the dust and sit on your throne!

Undo the chains that bind you,

captive people of Zion

How wonderful it is to see

a messenger coming across the mountains,

bringing good news, the news of peace!

He announces victory and says to Zion,

“Your God is king!”

⁸ Those who guard the city are shouting,

shouting together for joy.

They can see with their own eyes

the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹ Break into shouts of joy,

you ruins of Jerusalem!

The Lord will rescue his city

and comfort his people.

¹⁰ The Lord will use his holy power;

he will save his people,

and all the world will see it.

Mission Praise 249 - How lovely on the mountains (*Our God reigns - Popular Version*)

1. How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him
Who brings good news, good news,
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,
Our God reigns, our God reigns!
Our God reigns, our God reigns! (twice)

2. You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,
Shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

3. Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

4. Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:
Your God Reigns, your God reigns!

Prayer - Gordon Junor - Ashkirk

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing.

Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share, and may our feet tread lightly on the
road ahead.

On this Mother's Day -

Thank you God for the love of our mothers:

thank you God for their care and concern;

thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;

thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;

thank you God for all that they give us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God we have to believe that nothing is beyond Your power and no one is beyond Your
care.

And so we ask that You might be present in situations that trouble us.

We seek healing from ongoing climate change for our broken planet, wisdom for those whose
decisions change its course, and energy for those who raise awareness of the damage we do.

We seek healing for our broken people, relief for those who are victims, insight for those who are
perpetrators and tools for reconciliation .

We seek healing for our broken humanity, compassion for those on the margins, welcome for those
who are strangers, courage to speak out and determination to do things differently.

We seek healing for our broken selves, strength to recognise our shortcomings, humility to ask for
help, the re-emergence of hope and the simple joy of trusting You.

Lord, we seek Your light in whatever darkness befalls us.

When we contemplate darkness we think , especially at this time , of the people of Ukraine in their deadly struggle against Russian aggression and for their future freedom from that impending tyranny.

We ask that we might be that light for others and that, through our actions, others might come to know Your love.

At home , while this wretched virus is still with us , we continue to hope for final lifting of covid restrictions which we have now had for over 2 – long – years.

We think of all those places where public health lockdowns have been in place, where people have been indoors struggling with relationships, with a lack of space and freedom applying added pressures.

Those wrestling with emotions

because they have not been able to be beside some of their loved ones

as they would have liked at significant moments –

from birthdays to serious illnesses – or worse !

Those patients, residents and staff,

in hospitals and care homes in so many places

where staff have been – and remain - stretched,

where resources are scarce,

where illness either threatens or dominates.

Those suffering the pain of bereavement.

Those people and situations uppermost in our minds

which we lift up to You now in this silence....

Silence

Though Ukraine will be principally in our thoughts at this time we recognise that across the world today so many places – Syria , Yemen , Sudan or Afghanistan - lack peace

Breathe on these situations.

May Your peace offer some respite

in the midst of today's concerns
and may it point to better days to come.
As well as peace
You gave the Holy Spirit;
God present with us in all we do.
May we be guided by that Spirit,
to offer help and convey peace
wherever that is possible.
Hear our prayers,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour.

AMEN

Praise - See, what a morning! (new hymn to learn for Easter Sunday)

Verse 1

See, what the morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!

Verse 2

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;

It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years, speaking life,
Stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound 'til He appears, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!

Verse 3

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with power and authority.
And we are raised with Him, death is dead,
Love was won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!

Bible Teaching - Luke 19 v 41- 44 (*GNB*)

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem

4th Sunday in Lent (Mother's Day) 27/3/22 Yarrow 10am

I'm really pleased that all the congregations have agreed to gather in Selkirk Church on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate that great day together. And I am looking forward to it very much! Next Sunday is Passion Sunday, when we will focus upon Jesus' death on the cross and all that it means for us today.

This morning we are going to look together at what happens when Jesus approaches the great city of Jerusalem, looks upon it and thinks deeply about the people who live there.

Jesus approaches the city from the Mount of Olives. He comes down the Mount of Olives on a donkey, on the day we now call Palm Sunday, which we will celebrate in two weeks time.

Let's look together at what happened on that day:

(Read out) LUKE 19 v 41- 44 (GNB)

41 He came closer to the city, and when he saw it, he wept over it, 42 saying, "If you only knew today what is needed for peace! But now you cannot see it! 43 The time will come when your enemies will surround you with barricades, blockade you, and close in on you from every side. 44 They will completely destroy you and the people within your walls; not a single stone will they leave in its place, because you did not recognize the time when God came to save you!"

Jesus has a magnificent view of Jerusalem, with the whole city being laid out before Him. As soon as He sees the great city, He is overcome with emotion!

He weeps over the city! Why? Why did the sight of the city of Jerusalem affect Jesus in this way?

What is it about this city which brings about such a strong reaction?

The Bible only records that Jesus wept on two occasions. On this occasion and when He approached the tomb of His friend Lazarus, in John chapter 11.

And it's there that we find the shortest verse in the Bible, John 11 v 35:

'Jesus wept!'

But the 2 occasions were very different.

The words used for 'to weep' were very different!

At the tomb of Lazarus the Greek word used means to shed silent tears, tears which well up in the eyes and run down the cheeks.

Here, as Jesus looks upon Jerusalem, the word used means crying which can be heard out loud.

The kind of weeping which so suddenly seizes you that you lose control and cry out - crying that cannot be hidden, crying that is very visible and audible!

So here, when He sees Jerusalem,

Jesus breaks down!

A sudden, violent passion grips Him!

He is completely overcome with emotion!

But why? Why does Jesus react in this way as Jerusalem comes into sight?

He does so because He feels deeply about the people who live in that great city!

He knew what they were like. Stubborn and proud, self-righteous & hypocritical, yet vulnerable and sensitive.

Jesus loved them, He loved each single one of them, without exception!

Jesus longed for the people of Jerusalem to have peace - inner peace, peace in their hearts & minds and peace with God!

That's why Jesus cries out: 'O people of Jerusalem, if you only knew today what is needed for peace! But you cannot see it!'

And He concludes:

'You did not recognise the time
when God came to save you!'

Bishop JC Ryle says that we make a big mistake if we think that Jesus only cares about those who believe in Him, and not about anyone else.

'Jesus cares about everyone!

His heart is wide enough to take an interest in all humanity!

His compassion extends to every man, woman and child on earth!

Jesus loves those who continue to reject Him and go against Him, AND Jesus loves those who follow & obey Him!'

God so loved the world, EACH ONE OF US, that He gave His only Son!

So that EACH ONE OF US could believe in Him and not perish, but have everlasting life!

And so each one of us across the whole world can sing these words:

Jesus loves me! this I know!

For the Bible tells me so!

Yes! Jesus loves me!

Yes! Jesus loves me

Yes! Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so!

Let's imagine for a moment that instead of Jesus looking upon Jerusalem, He is looking upon the parishes of Ashkirk, Ettrick & Yarrow and Selkirk, upon us!

How does Jesus feel about the people here, about ourselves and others?

He surely REJOICES over all those who have recognised that He HAS come to save them and who know His peace in their lives.

But surely Jesus WEEPS over those who do NOT recognise Him and who do NOT know His peace.

How many people are there in our communities? - our Jerusalem?

How many of us, as Jesus says here:

'Need to know what's needed for real peace in our lives?'

Jesus wanted the people of Jerusalem to individually welcome Him into their lives as their Saviour.

He wanted them to receive forgiveness, He wanted each one of them to have a new life, a life in all it's fullness.

And that's exactly what Jesus wants for all of us in our communities!

Jesus did all that He possibly could for the people of Jerusalem - He even gave up His own life for them & that's exactly what He has done for each one of US!

So what are WE going to do for the people here in the Borders who are indifferent to Jesus? How do we feel about them?

Bishop Ryle urges us, as Christians, to have a deep concern for the souls of those around us, just as Jesus did.

He writes: 'A lazy indifference to the spiritual state of others, may doubtless save us much trouble.

To care nothing about the spiritual state of those around us is no doubt the way of the world.

But it is not the way of the Christian!'

It is not the way of David, who said:

'I cry rivers of tears because nobody is living by Your Book!'

It is not the way of Paul who wrote:

'I carry with me at all times a huge sorrow, an enormous pain deep within me and I'm never free of it!

And it's a hurt about my own family - the people of Israel!'

And it's definitely not the way of Jesus, who broke down in sorrow and wept profusely over the people of Jerusalem!

So how do WE show that we care about the people of our communities here?

Well, first of all, we can pray for them!

Each one of us needs to ask the Lord to bring to our mind someone he wants us to pray for.

And then we pray for that person, that he or she will become aware of God's presence in their life.

That he or she will begin to sense that God is real & that He cares deeply about them!

The thousands of men, women and children in our communities are far too much for us to pray for.

But if we can each pray for just one person, one person whom God brings to our mind, then we are making a good start!

We need to spend just a minute or two praying quietly for them.

And then, every day this week and in the weeks to come, keep on praying for that person.

Bringing them before the Lord in prayer, asking Him to open their eyes to know that He is God and that He loves them!

And that's only the start!

We then have to ask the Lord to help us to be ready to answer the questions which people might ask us.

Questions about God and about faith and in particular, at this time of year, about the death of Jesus on the cross and the Easter story of His rising from the dead!

'If anyone asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell them, and do it in a gentle and respective way.'

writes Peter.

Those we are praying for WILL have questions, some of which we can answer, others which we may not be able to.

We all need the Lord's help in this.

The Lord our God WANTS you and me to be INVOLVED in all of this.

Praying is only the start!

We don't necessarily need to go out evangelising, although there are some who are called by God to do this.

But we each need to be ready for those whom God will bring to us, with all their questions and doubts.

Ready to tell them how we too had many questions & doubts & at times, we still do

How we do not have ALL the answers, but are ready to listen and to tell them how

WE came to believe in Jesus and in His death and resurrection, when they ask us about such things.

At this time of Easter, many people ARE asking questions.

They ARE genuinely thinking that there must be more to Easter than eggs & bunnies & daffodils.

And we must be ready to explain to them that there certainly IS more to it.

We must try to gently explain about what we personally believe happened on that very first Easter and how it has changed our lives.

Jesus wept over the people of Jerusalem
He showed a deep, deep concern for them.

Jesus DID something about His deep concern - He DIED for those people and He died for each one of us here in our communities, to bring us peace!

Jesus wants everyone to come to experience His peace for themselves, a 'peace which passes all understanding!'

Jesus promises His peace to each single one of us: 'Don't let your hearts be troubled, trust in God and trust in Me....'

Peace is what I leave with you, it is My own peace that I give you, not the peace' that the world gives, but MY peace.

So do not be worried, do not be upset;
do not be afraid..... for I am with you always, even until the end of time!'

Jesus is CONCERNED about each single one of us.

Jesus LOVES each single one of us.

Jesus DIED for each single one of us.

Jesus ROSE AGAIN for each single one of us.

Jesus LONGS for each single one of us to be reconciled to God and to experience the everlasting inner peace which only He can give.

May each single one of us share in that longing.

As we continue to PRAY for,
continue to LISTEN to,
continue to ANSWER
and continue to ENCOURAGE,

ALL who are searching for real peace in the 'Jerusalem' which is our community.

(Let us pray)

Hymn 248 - For My sake and the Gospel's, go

"For my sake and the Gospel's, go

And tell redemption's story";

His heralds answer, "Be it so, and thine, Lord, all the glory!"

They preach his birth, his life, his cross,

The love of his atonement for whom they count the world but loss,

His Easter, his enthronement.

Hark! Hark! The trump of jubilee

Proclaims to every nation,

From pole to pole, by land and sea,

Glad tidings of salvation.

Still on and on the anthems spread,

Of alleluia voices;

In concert with the holy dead,

The warrior Church rejoices.

He comes whose advent-trumpet drowns

The last of times evangels,

Immanuel, crowned with many crowns,

The Lord of saints, and angels.

O Life, Light, Love, the great I AM
Triune, who changest never,
The throne of God and of the Lamb
Is thine, and thine for ever.

Benediction - 'And now may
the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Love of God
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and forevermore.'

(3 fold Amen)