

## **Palm Sunday 10/4/22**

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

“Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion!  
Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem!  
Look your King is coming to you!  
He comes triumphant & victorious,  
but humble & riding on a donkey.” - Zechariah 9 v 9

### **Hymn 367**

Hosanna, loud hosanna  
the little children sang;  
through city street and temple  
their joyful anthem rang.  
They shouted out their praises  
To Christ, the children’s friend,  
who welcomes all with blessing,  
whose love will never end.

From Olivet they followed  
a large exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving,  
and chanting clear and loud;  
bright angels joined the chorus,  
Beyond the cloudless sky,  
‘Hosanna in the highest!  
Glory to God on high!’

‘Hosanna in the highest!’  
That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer,  
the Lord of heaven, our King.  
Oh, may we ever praise him  
with heart and life and voice,  
and in his living presence  
eternally rejoice.

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### **Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we come to praise You as the crowds in Jerusalem praised You on that first Palm Sunday.

We shout out: ‘Hosanna!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!’

We lift up Your Holy Name  
The Name that is above all names  
That at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord  
To the glory of God the Father.

Lord our God, we praise You  
We praise You with all our hearts  
We will never forget the wonderful things You do for us.

You have sent us Your only Son  
By His death on the cross and His glorious resurrection,  
He has paid the price for all our sins  
He has made forgiveness possible  
He offers us eternal life!

What a wonderful Saviour He is!  
What amazing love He has shown us  
Help us Lord, to acknowledge just how  
marvellous He really is.  
Help us to tell others about all that  
He has done for each one of us.

Lord God, thank you for the forgiveness  
made possible by Your Son.  
Help us to accept Your forgiveness  
and to forgive others as You have forgiven us.

Help us to live out our lives as faithful  
disciples of Your Son.  
Following His example  
and being led by Your Holy Spirit within us.

**And we further pray as Jesus taught us:**

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  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil  
For the Kingdom, the power  
And the glory are Yours  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.

**Old Testament Reading - Psalm 118 v 19-29 (GNB)  
(Iona MacNeill)**

Open to me the gates of the Temple;  
I will go in and give thanks to the Lord!  
20 This is the gate of the Lord;  
only the righteous can come in.

21 I praise you, Lord, because you heard me,  
because you have given me victory.  
22 The stone which the builders rejected as worthless  
turned out to be the most important of all.  
23 This was done by the Lord;  
what a wonderful sight it is!  
24 This is the day of the Lord's victory;  
let us be happy, let us celebrate!  
25 Save us, Lord, save us!  
Give us success, O Lord!  
26 May God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
From the Temple of the Lord we bless you.  
27 The Lord is God; he has been good to us.  
With branches in your hands, start the festival  
and march around the altar.  
28 You are my God, and I give you thanks;  
I will proclaim your greatness.  
29 Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good,  
and his love is eternal.

### **Hymn 364**

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

You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessèd One.

Chorus:

The company of angels is praising you on high;  
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.

Chorus:

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

Chorus:

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Chorus:

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,  
for you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!

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

### **Prayer - (Jane Telfer)**

Lord, we are eternally grateful that  
You sent Your Son into our world.

That He made Himself nothing, took on the nature of a servant  
and was made in our likeness. That He humbled Himself  
and became obedient to death - even death on a cross.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for all that You have done for us  
We are eternally grateful to You  
Listen to us now as we bring to You  
those we are concerned about.

We pray for those in our communities of Ashkirk,  
Ettrick & Yarrow and Selkirk.  
We pray Lord, that at this time of year,  
they will come to realise just what Easter is all about.

We pray that they will be able to think about the Cross  
And about the empty tomb.  
We pray that each one of them may sense something  
of the great victory which Jesus accomplished  
for each one of us on the Cross and the triumph of His resurrection.

We pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital  
Bring them Your comfort Lord, let them know that  
You are right there with them.  
That You know what they are going through and  
are able to help them.

We pray for those who are worried about operations  
they are to face or about hospital appointments,  
Let them know that You are there, ready to take on  
ALL their worries and cares.  
Let them know that You are always thinking about them  
and watching over everything that concerns them.

Lord, we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine.  
For those who have lost family and friends.  
For those who have lost their homes and their income.  
For those who live in fear of shelling and bombs.  
Thank You Lord for the amazing resolve of  
the people of Ukraine.  
Strengthen that resolve and enable them to  
continue to stand up to those who oppress them.

And we pray for Your guidance for the governments in the West and for NATO and the United Nations as they seek to bring an end to this terrible conflict.

We pray Lord for those who are worried about the future,  
for themselves and for their children, grandchildren  
and great-grandchildren.

Lord we know that You have great plans for our future,  
Plans to prosper us and not to harm us,  
plans to give us hope and encouragement.

Lord God, we know that the future is in Your hands  
and we place all our trust in You.  
We place all our confidence in You,  
for You are faithful and true.

Lord, we bring all our prayers to You this day  
In the Strong and wonderful Name of Jesus Christ  
our Saviour and Lord.  
Amen

### **Hymn 774**

Jesus, name above all names  
beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord;  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.

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### **Bible Teaching - Matthew 21 v 1-17 (NIV)**

The People on Palm Sunday - The Disciples, The Crowds,  
The Chief Priests, The Children.

It was an incredibly wonderful day, that very first Palm Sunday in Jerusalem. The city was chock-a-block, you couldn't move for thousands of people. Think of a Common Riding Day in Selkirk, multiplied a thousand times and more!

People from far and wide had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate The Passover, the commemoration of God delivering His people out of slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

And each year the Jewish people looked forward to a 'new freedom' which The Messiah, The Promised One, would usher in.

Each year they had high hopes that THIS was the year He would come at Passover to set them free.

And hopes did indeed run high this year, because they had heard about one man, Jesus from Nazareth.

Amazing stories of miracles He had performed, of words He had spoken, of people He had healed, even of people He had raised from the dead!

Could this man Jesus, be the long awaited Messiah?

Let's look together at what happened on that 1st Palm Sunday:

MATTHEW 21 v 1-17 (New International Bible)

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

4 This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

5 'Say to Daughter Zion,  
"See, your king comes to you,

gentle and riding on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”[a]

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

‘Hosanna[b] to the Son of David!’

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’[c]

‘Hosanna[d] in the highest heaven!’

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’

11 The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 ‘It is written,’ he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,”[e] but you are making it “a den of robbers.”[f]’

14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David,’ they were indignant.

16 ‘Do you hear what these children are saying?’ they asked him.

‘Yes,’ replied Jesus, ‘have you never read,

“‘From the lips of children and infants

you, Lord, have called forth your praise”[g]?’

17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

And this morning we are going to focus on the people who were there in Jerusalem, on that Palm Sunday:

THE DISCIPLES

THE CROWDS

THE CHIEF PRIESTS

THE CHILDREN

First of all then, THE DISCIPLES

In particular, at two of the disciples. The two whom Jesus sent on a special mission: “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them, and bring them to Me.”

And we can imagine what the thoughts of those two unnamed disciples might have been:

“What does He want with a donkey, and what if someone says something to us when we are untying them?”

Anticipating this, Jesus adds: “And if anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

And so the disciples go and do as Jesus has asked them.

They obeyed His request, they went into the village and sure enough there was the donkey and her colt tied up, just as Jesus had said.

And sure enough some people asked them what they were doing as they untied the animals. And they answered just as Jesus had instructed them & they were allowed to take them.

The disciples OBEYED Jesus.

They didn't understand WHY He was giving them this strange order, but they obeyed none the less.

We find the same thing, just a few days later, on the Thursday of Holy Week, when Jesus instructs two of the disciples to go into Jerusalem where they will find a man carrying a jar of water.

They are asked to follow that man to a house and ask the house-owner where the guest room was where the Teacher and His disciples could eat the Passover meal.

And they would be shown to an upper room where they could prepare for the meal.

Or, when Jesus asked the wine stewards at the wedding in Cana, to fill seven large jars with water and take them to the Master of Ceremonies.

And Mary, His mother, adds: “Whatever He says to you - do it!”

Two strange requests, but those who received them listened very carefully to what Jesus was asking and they obeyed Him!

And surely that's something for you and I to do also, as disciples of Christ today!

WE need to listen to what Jesus is saying to US and do as He asks, obey His requests, His commands - no matter how strange they might sound to us!

You see those disciples & others didn't challenge Jesus about His requests, they almost certainly DID think they were strange and peculiar. But they didn't question Him:

“But why do you need a donkey Lord?”

They didn't exclaim:

“Men don't carry jars of water, women do!”

They didn't say to Him:

“Why are you asking for water when we need wine?”

They all simply obeyed, WITHOUT question!

Just as Peter obeyed when Jesus asked Him to throw his net over on the other side of the boat in order to catch some fish: “Lord we fished all night and we caught nothing - but if You say so I will do it!”

That's the sort of attitude you and I need to have:

“Lord, we don't know WHY you are asking us to do this thing - it doesn't make sense to us - but if YOU say so - we will do it!”

We need to need those words of Mary at the wedding:

“Whatever He says to you - do it!”

So what is Jesus saying to you, this Palm Sunday?  
What is He asking you to do for Him?  
Be ready to hear His voice.  
Say to Him, just as young Samuel did in the Temple:  
“Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

Trust Him, that He knows what He is asking of you.  
And then DO as He says!

‘Trust and obey, for there’s no other way,  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey!’

Jesus tells us: “Whoever hears what I am saying  
and does as I ask - is like a wise person who  
builds their house upon the rock.

But whoever hears what I am saying and ignores it - is like a foolish person who builds their house  
on the sand!”

So, let’s be wise and not foolish.  
Let’s listen for His voice -

And DO as He asks!

Be encouraged by Paul, who tells us in Philippians:  
“God is at work in you, helping you WANT to obey Him,  
and then helping you to DO what He wants!”

We move on to the second group of people who were there on that first Palm Sunday:

## THE CROWDS

What did they do?  
They took off their cloaks and spread them on the ground, forming a royal pathway for the King, a  
red carpet for Jesus to ride on.

And they used the branches from the palm trees which grew there, as flags to wave to welcome  
Him.

There were two crowds of people there that day:  
One group had come with Jesus from Bethany, having witnessed the amazing miracle of Lazarus  
being brought back from the dead.  
The others were pilgrims who were already in Jerusalem.  
They had heard about this great miracle and had come out the Eastern Gate to see Jesus for  
themselves.

BOTH of these groups cried out:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!”

Their shouts were a mixture of prayer and praise.  
'Hosanna' means: 'Save us now, save us we pray.'

They were echoing the words of Psalm 118  
(which we read earlier) part of the Jewish 'Hallel' or 'Praise.'  
And from where we get the Hebrew word 'Hallelujah',  
meaning 'Praise God.'

What a day that was!  
Wouldn't it have been just amazing to have been there?  
The excitement was tremendous!

But where is that excitement today?  
Is it not good for us as Christians to be:  
'lost in wonder, love and praise?'

To lift our voices as one and shout out to the Lord in thanksgiving and praise.

Perhaps we don't want to get carried away and get too emotional. But we must ENGAGE our  
emotions, our minds  
and our wills in our praise.

We are called by Jesus to: Love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul and  
all our strength!'

Surely there are times when we should just 'let ourselves go' in worship, to feel something of the  
great joy and excitement and anticipation which everyone felt that day as they welcomed Jesus.  
God can do great things HERE in His Church,  
in Ettrick & Yarrow, Selkirk & Ashkirk.

We need to acknowledge this.  
We need to PRAISE HIM for who He is.  
We need to THANK HIM for all that He HAS done,  
all that He IS doing and all that He WILL do  
in our lives and in the lives of others.

If we cannot get excited about the Lord our God,  
who loves us with an everlasting love and about His only Son, who gave His life for us, then rose  
from the dead!

- what can we get excited about?

But it's not all about AUDIBLY shouting out  
our thanks & praise.  
As Christians we need to let our LIVES  
as well as our voices, shout out for Jesus!

What do I mean?  
I mean that everything we do must be done  
in a way that will cause people to think about Jesus!

We are called to be AMBASSADORS for Christ!  
We are to be ADVERTS for Jesus!

When we help someone with the shopping,  
when we give a word of encouragement,  
when we take time to listen to someone,  
when we go out of our way to help people.

Jesus said: "By this shall everyone know that you are my  
disciples - when you show love for one another!"

How does the old hymn go?.....  
'And they'll know we are Christians by.....  
how often we go to church?  
by..... how well we know our Bible?  
by..... how often we pray?

No! They'll know we are Christians by our LOVE!!!'  
'By our LOVE,  
Yes! they'll know we are Christians by our LOVE!'

By showing our love to those around us,  
we of course, help them.  
But we also cause them to be CURIOUS, curious  
about WHY we are concerning ourselves with them,  
WHY we are helping them, WHY we

And as they ponder these questions in their minds,  
we pray that they will come to see that it is Jesus  
in us Who is prompting us to love them as we do.

We pray that they will look beyond ourselves  
and see HIM!  
We need to allow the way we behave towards  
those around us to point them to Jesus!

And just as the crowds of people shouted out for Jesus  
on that first Palm Sunday -  
So may WE by the way we live and the way we treat others,  
shout out for Him today!

The reactions of the crowd towards Jesus that day in Jerusalem caused those who heard them to ask:

'Who is this? What's all the fuss about?  
Who is this man Jesus, who causes you to behave in this way?'

And that's exactly what we, as Christians, want people to be asking today. 'Who is this Jesus? Is He  
the Son of God?  
Did He really rise from the dead? and much more.

OUR shouts, OUR lives must cause those around US  
to ask such life-changing questions, today!  
And finally we look together at the last two groups of people  
Who were there on that first Palm Sunday:

## THE CHIEF PRIESTS & THE CHILDREN

The Chief Priests were annoyed at Jesus.  
They were annoyed, Matthew tells us:  
“about the wonderful things He was doing!”

What was Jesus doing?  
He was healing the blind and the lame  
who came to Him in the Temple!

They didn't like this.  
How dare He do such a thing in the House of God.  
How dare He encourage people to come to Him  
for healing - only God can heal.

Weren't THEY the Chief Priests of the Temple!  
The people should be coming to THEM, not to  
this obscure Galilean. They were jealous of Him.

And to crown it all, listen to what these noisy children  
are chanting - in the very Temple courts themselves!

“Do You hear what these children are saying?”  
they ask Jesus.

“Hosanna to the Son of David” is what the children  
were shouting out that day in the Temple courts.  
Tantamount to saying that this man Jesus was the Messiah!

The Chief Priests were claiming that this  
was a terrible blasphemy against God  
and should be put a stop to immediately.  
These children must be silenced, they protested.

But Jesus thought otherwise.

Yes,” He replies, “I hear them - but you are the  
people's spiritual leaders, have you never read...”

And then Jesus quotes from Psalm 8:  
“From the lips of children and infants  
You have ordained praise?”

Jesus was explaining to them that the words which the children were shouting were entirely  
appropriate,  
in fact God Himself had spoken of this.

These children are only saying what is natural and right,  
said Jesus. And God can take what they are saying and use it for His glory - so what's wrong with  
that? - Let them speak!

You could learn something from these young children,

Jesus told them.  
You who think you have arrived.  
You who think you are so religious.  
You too should be shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

And you and I can also learn from these young children  
AND from the young children around us.

WE should never think that we have arrived,  
or that we have nothing new to learn from  
those younger than ourselves - younger in years  
and younger in faith.

The simple faith and trust of a child or of a new Christian  
is something that we can ALL learn from!

By their attitude towards these children, the Chief Priests were preventing themselves from  
experiencing the unspeakable joy, the certain hope and the immense satisfaction which the children  
and others were experiencing that wonderful day in Jerusalem.

Let us not be like THEM.  
Let us be like those in the crowds and those young children  
Let each one of us cry out with great joy on THIS Palm Sunday:

"HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID!

BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!"

### **Hymn 481**

Jesus is the name we honour;  
Jesus is the name we praise.  
Majestic Name above all other names,  
the highest heaven and earth proclaim  
that Jesus is our God.  
*We will glorify, we will lift Him high  
We will give Him honour and praise  
We will glorify, we will lift Him high  
We will give Him honour and praise*  
Jesus is the name we worship;  
Jesus is the name we trust.  
He is the King above all other kings,  
let all creation stand and sing  
that Jesus is our God.

Jesus is the Father's splendour;  
Jesus is the Father's joy.  
He will return to reign in majesty,  
and every eye at last shall see  
that Jesus is our God.

**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)