

**Saint Columba's Church, Corby**  
**Palm Sunday Service**  
**10 April 2022**

**Pre-Service Worship** My lips will praise you

*My lips shall praise you,  
My great Redeemer;  
My heart will worship  
Almighty Saviour.*

You take all my guilt away,  
Turn the darkest night to brightest day,  
You are the restorer of my soul.

**(chorus)**

Love that conquers every fear,  
In the midst of trouble You draw near,  
You are the restorer of my soul.

**(chorus)**

You're the source of happiness,  
Bringing peace when I am in distress,  
You are the restorer of my soul.

**(chorus)**

**Opening sentences**

We pray that the Lord of Palm Sunday will bless you today:

Come into our town, Lord;  
bring hope and a cause for joy.  
Hosanna to the King!

**Who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Come into our fellowship, Lord;  
cleanse it at all that is not in accordance with your poor will.  
Hosanna to the King!

**Who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Come into our hearts, Lord;  
Teach us your love and your truth.  
Hosanna to the King!

**Who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Opening prayer for Palm Sunday** (said together)

**So, Lord Jesus Christ, who on this day received the worship of those who hailed you as their King: accept our praise and adoration, our worship and love; grant that we, who now confess you with our lips, may never fail to give you the service of our lives, for the honour of glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**Distribution of Palm Crosses** contact Ian on 01536 400225 if you would like a Palm Cross

**Blessing of Palm Crosses** *please hold up your cross.*

God our saviour, let these palms be for us signs of his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hailed him as our king, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.

**Song** Lift up your heads to the coming King

Lift up your heads  
to the coming King;  
Bow before Him  
and adore Him, sing....  
To His majesty, let your praises be  
Pure and holy, giving glory  
To the King of kings.

**A Palm Sunday Shout** *Said with enthusiasm!!*

*All:* **Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Shout for Joy you people of Jerusalem

*All:* **Shout for Joy your king is coming to you.**

Triumphant in victorious

*All:* **But humble and riding on a donkey.**

*All:* **Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!**

**THE VENITE** Psalm 95, from Morning Prayer

O come, let us sing to the Lord:

**Let us rejoice in the strength of our salvation.**

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:

**And be glad in him with Psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God:

**And a great king above all gods.**

In his hand are all the corners of the Earth:

**And the strength of the hills is his also.**

The sea is his, and he made it:

**And his hands prepared to dryland.**

O come, let us worship and fall down:

**And kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is the Lord our God:

**And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:**

World without end.

**Amen.**

**Song** Make way, make way

Make way, make way, for Christ the King

In splendour arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome Him

Into your lives.

*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.*

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

**(chorus)**

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
Who weep and sigh;  
With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify.

**(chorus)**

We call you now to worship Him  
As Lord of all.  
To have no gods before Him,  
Their thrones must fall!

**(chorus)**

### **Confession for Palm Sunday**

We keep a moment of quiet reflection as we will be praying before the Lord knows things of which we are ashamed.

On Palm Sunday, the crowds held Jesus asking; on Good Friday they shouted for him to die. Confessing that there have been times when we have failed our Lord, we asked for forgiveness for our sins.

Lord Jesus, you come to us in peace, but we find it hard to make peace with others.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you come to us in humility, but we prefer our proud ways.  
Christ, have mercy  
**Christ, Have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you come to us in judgement, but we cling to our familiar sins sins.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Receiving God's forgiveness**

May Almighty God, who sent his son into the world to save sinners, brings his partner in peace now and forever. Amen.

### **Collet for Palm Sunday**

Lord, let love come among us, and gentleness be within our cities.  
My worship be upon our lips, and adoration in our hearts.  
In the name of him who comes, seated on a donkey.  
Jesus is our king. Amen.

### **Song** Hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Lord we lift up Your name, with hearts full of praise,  
Be exalted, O Lord, my God,  
Hosanna in the highest.

Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings.  
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings.  
Lord, we lift up Your name, with hearts full of praise,  
Be exalted, O Lord, my God,  
Glory to the King of kings.

## **Bible Reading** – Luke 19:28–44

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" say, "The Lord needs it."

<sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?'

<sup>34</sup> They replied, 'The Lord needs it.'

<sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

<sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: <sup>38</sup> 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'

'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!'

<sup>40</sup> 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'

<sup>41</sup> As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup> and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup> They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you.'

This is the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon** by Rosie Hughes

I wonder if like me you watched the Thanksgiving Service for Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, from Westminster Abbey. I like to see what is going on and the good old BBC always gives the viewer a first class seat, with the advantage of a loo nearby! I love all the pomp and ceremony, the trumpeters heralding the entrance of the Queen, trying to remember who is who in Royal, Military, Diplomatic and Political circles and which of the Royals should have taken a leaf out of the Queens book and worn more comfortable shoes. I watch too with interest to see which of the dignitaries are able to sing the hymns with gusto and those who were not.

As I looked around the assembled congregation something caught my attention among the female members of our Royal Family. The more I looked the more intrigued I became and realised it couldn't have just been chance. What I was seeing was that many of the senior Royal women were wearing a rather nice shade of green, what you might call a Forest Green. I later learnt that they were wearing a colour called Edinburgh Green, the Duke of Edinburgh's own livery colours. Our Queen, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Princess Royal, former Queen now Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands and Queen Letizia of Spain amongst others. When the young representative of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme stood to pay tribute to it's founder, Doyin Sonibare too was wearing this special shade of Green. This is closest shade I could come up with for me to wear today.

Edinburgh Green is also the colour of the uniform of the Rifles, an Army Regiment. Prince Philip had been their Colonel in Chief since their founding in 2007 before handing the role over to the Duchess of Cornwall in 2020 and in further tribute she was wearing a beautiful Diamond brooch in the design of the Rifles emblem. The Duchess of Cambridge also paid tribute to her Grandfather-in-law by wearing a Bugle Brooch, a badge that is worn on the headwear of the Rifles Regiment.

There were many other symbols during the service including the choice of hymns, the colours and variety of the flowers.

Our reading today in Luke's gospel is full of symbolism, meaning and significance. It is a story we have grown up with. As children many of us would have sung Ride on Ride on in Majesty, Hosanna, Hosanna and more recently Graham Kendrick's Make Way, Make Way. We know the story very well – or do we. I've discovered a few surprises along the way as I studied this passage in Luke's gospel.

As I began to work on this sermon I grabbed the relevant editions by my two favourite commentary writers – 'The Gospel of Luke' by William Barclay and Tom Wright's 'Luke for Everyone'. I began with Barclay and as I read his words I found something that stopped me – I read it again, and thought, he's got that wrong. So I put that book down and went back to my old favourite Tom Wright. Tom Wright agreed with Barclay and I realised I've probably misunderstood part of this narrative all my life. When we read that the disciples went into the nearby village to get the colt of a donkey for Jesus to ride, I had always thought that the fact that the donkey was where Jesus said it would be and that the owner would let it go with the password 'the master needs it', happened because of the intervention of the Holy Spirit. These two learned gentlemen have now helped me to see that in fact the provision of the donkey's colt had probably to have been prearranged with the owner. Forward planning not the intervention of the Holy Spirit then. Anyone else learnt something new. Actually it doesn't really matter whether it was prearranged or managed by the Holy Spirit, the important point is that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a young previously unriden donkey. It's the who, what and where that is significant and not the how.

Over the previous couple of years Jesus had been walking around and telling people about the Kingdom of God, to repent and believe. He was telling parables to illustrate His point and performing miracles too. As the Prophets of old had discovered people often didn't listen. Many of us today learn more easily if we see something, not just read or hear about it – many of us are visual learners. When Prophets came across disinterest and felt their message was going in one ear and out of the other they resorted to using actions or objects to draw the attention of the crowd to their message. In the book of 1 Kings, Jeremiah and Ezekiel for instance every day objects like lumps of clay, belts and cloaks were used to demonstrate point a Prophet wanted to get across.

On that final Sunday that we refer to as Palm Sunday, Jesus wanted to make a statement not with words but by His actions, bold and unmistakable. The time for talking and expecting the people to hear and act on his words had passed. Time was very short, Jesus knew what was to come and He wanted to get His message across in both a simple but very powerful way. He was not only going to act very publicly, to put Himself very firmly centre stage but also given that there was a price on His head, very courageously too.

In Zechariah chapter 9 verse 9 we find these words:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Those words had been written many years before but on that first Palm Sunday the prophesy came true. On Mount Zion, in the City of Jerusalem, the King, the expected Messiah, rode up to and into the city on the back of the foal of a donkey. For all who saw it, it would speak volumes, more than a speech the length of War and Peace would have, and there was no mistaking the fact that Jesus was coming in peace. To get over to the crowds how significant this journey and entry into Jerusalem was, it was almost as if it had been stage managed to get the most impact from the event. There was the biggest possible

audience as not only local people but tens of thousands of pilgrims from all over were making their way to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover.

Today the donkey is seen as a much more lowly animal, a beast of burden, very unlike the horse. Kings and conquering heroes used to enter the City on horseback, and in the same way they would also ride into battle. Jesus was not a warrior King, not the kind of King the people were hoping to ride into Jerusalem and kick out the Roman occupiers. Jesus rode on the colt of a donkey – He came in peace, for all peoples, Jews and Gentiles. He was demonstrating His peaceful but also all encompassing Kingdom, a King of Love and Peace.

I'm sure the mood must have been a mixture of tension, excitement and joy. The crowds of disciples put their cloaks on the back of the donkey and now threw them down on the road just as people would have at the approach of a worldly King. The disciples had probably been worried that Jesus' was exposed and vulnerable in such a crowd and being so close to the Roman seat of power. However, they were caught up in the mood and joyfully began to openly praise God, for all the miracles and wonders they had seen and using words from Psalms 118:

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'

Can you imagine being part of that crowd, or even being one of the disciples? Jesus had often said, ssshhh, don't talk about what I've done, my time is not yet come. Now was the time, to hail Jesus as the King of Peace, to broadcast that Jesus came as the fulfilment of the Jewish peoples hopes for a Messiah, not just for the Jews but the whole world, answering the longing for a King who would bring peace on earth.

Sadly not everyone was celebrating. Pharisees and others were worried what the Roman authorities would think and they didn't want to be associated with it, they didn't want to rock the boat and bring the Roman authorities down on them. Jesus knew silencing the crowd would be futile, the sound echoing off the City walls long after the crowd had fallen silent.

Some might think Jesus' intention to make a triumphal entrance that day was a crazy and dangerous act. It must have caused a buzz about the city for some days. Jesus and his disciples would have passed into and out of the city for the next few days, they probably lodged with friends in Bethany, possibly even at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. In fact Jesus was outside the city walls, in the Garden of Gethsemane, when he was arrested.

We remember Jesus' entrance seated on a donkey to this day. While it can be described as a triumphal entrance, we know what would happen only a few days later. We celebrate this day with Palm crosses, but did you notice that there is no mention of palms or branches of any kind in our reading Luke's gospel? I must admit it's something I missed until I found an article on this passage called Clothing Sunday! Luke mentions the symbolic use of garments to greet Jesus as King, rather like our modern day habit of 'rolling out the red carpet.' Many people keep Palm crosses until the following year to burn and use the ashes to mark a cross on their foreheads at Ash Wednesday services – I would advise against trying to burn your cloak to use the ash in a similar way, you'll probably set the whole house on fire! If you need to read about palms branches read John's gospel, Mark and Matthew simply mention branches.

There is another omission in Luke's gospel that at first I overlooked. You don't see the word Hosanna in this passage. Many of us think of Hosanna as hurrah or a similar word of praise and jubilation. While it is a recognition of who Jesus is, it's literal translation is 'Save us.'

So how do we respond to the events of the first Palm Sunday. Would we be like the disciples, accepting Jesus as the King of Peace, shouting for joy and praising God. Would the excitement last for the rest of our lives, or would our faith be tested to destruction after Jesus is arrested and goes to the cross. How quickly does our discipleship falter when we

realize the great cost and risks of following Jesus? How often do our self-serving instincts lead us to deny Jesus and His claim on our lives?

### **Quiet reflection**

**Song** Ride on, ride on the majesty!

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die!  
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin  
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

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

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
The Father on His sapphire throne  
Expects His own anointed Son.

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

**Prayers** by Vera Holmes

Lord God you give us so much, far more than we could ever ask or imagine, and so we bring our prayers to you in the confidence that you will answer them according to your will. Father our first concern is for the suffering people of Ukraine. We ask that the needs of all people will be met by the volunteers sending medical supplies, aid and many other provisions and we pray for ex-servicemen who have been risking their very lives to help those in need. Lord Jesus I thank you for them and ask that you will please keep them safe. Many people have sent money which I pray will reach all those in need and will be spent wisely. We bring this whole situation to you Father, we pray for peace and we ask you to bring an end to the war, in fact we beg you Lord Jesus, please bring an end to the war.

You are an amazing God, we love and worship you and Father I pray that we will do all we can to bring your kingdom in. We are excited about the events planned for the next three months and we pray especially first of all for the visit of Tim and Carol Derbyshire as they share the vision of Hope from Above, taking the gospel by helicopter and balloon to remote places unreachable on foot. Lord Jesus we have prayed for Tim and Carol many times and it is great to be able to meet them again and hear the wonderful story of what you are doing in Australia with them.

And Father I pray that you will be very close to Elizabeth our Queen. Thank you for her Christian witness and dedication to our country and the Commonwealth. We are glad to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee with her. And Father I pray for the visit of Bishop John as he spends time with us and also with the wider community. Father I pray that you will use him and bless him in everything that he does.

Thank you too Father that Ian and Kevin were able to visit the schools in our area. They were able to take the message of you Jesus to over 1000 school children, telling them the Easter story. Lord Jesus I pray that those words that they have heard will stay with them and they will remember that Easter is all about you Lord Jesus and your sacrifice for us. All the plans that are being made are so that the gospel of Jesus will reach all members of our community and Father I want to pray too, please Lord, send revival so that all who used to worship you will be brought back home. We want that, we pray for that more than anything. Lord Jesus I pray that it may happen.

And I bring to you now Jesus all those who need your healing touch. I suppose there is a sense in which we all need your healing touch and I just pray for those in very special need at the moment, you know them each one, you know their particular needs and Father I just pray that you will touch us all again wonderful healer, touch us again. Beautiful One, we love you, beautiful One we adore you, and we bring our prayers to you in the knowledge that you will hear and answer. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **Song** My song is love unknown

My song is love unknown,  
My Saviour's love to me:  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from His blessed throne,  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know:  
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way,  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King:  
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,  
And for His death they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of life they slay,  
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,  
That He His foes from thence might free.

In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death, no friendly tomb,  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heaven was His home;  
And mine the tomb wherein He lay.



Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King!  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

**Closing prayer**

Merciful God, as we enter holy week,  
turn our hearts are going to Jerusalem,  
and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not  
only praise him with our lips, but follow him  
in the way of the cross. Amen

**The grace**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the holy spirit,  
Be with us or evermore. Amen.**

**Going out from worship**

True and humble King:  
**May we be found beside you;**

On the way of the cross,  
**Which is the path of glory.**