



Parish of
St Peter Woking
St Peter's · St Mark's · All Souls'



Sunday 28th March 2021 Palm Sunday



Welcome

Leader Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All Hosanna in the highest

(Hosanna in the highest video from the parish)

Song **All glory, laud and honour**

*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.

All glory, laud, and honour....

The company of angels
Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.

All glory, laud, and honour....

Palm Sunday reflection Jenny Jones

Opening activity Queen's Coronation

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before thee we present.

All glory, laud, and honour....

To thee, before thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

All glory, laud, and honour....

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the love we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

All glory, laud, and honour....

Confession

Leader Living God, Your life in us gives us fullness of life.
Help us to hold onto what is good and true and follow what leads us into life.
Help us to let go of what holds us back.
Forgive us when we choose the wrong way;
Forgive us when we are attracted to the wrong things;
Forgive us when we hold onto what we ought to let go.
Forgive us and heal us.

All Amen

Leader Thank you for Jesus,
Who speaks his gracious word to each of us, saying;
Your sins are forgiven; Go in peace.
Amen.

Collect (Prayer on this day)

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

All Amen.

Everyday Faith *Lyzabelle Waako*

Song We want to see Jesus lifted high

We want to see Jesus lifted high
a banner that flies across this land,
that all men might see the truth and know
He is the way to Heaven. (Repeat)

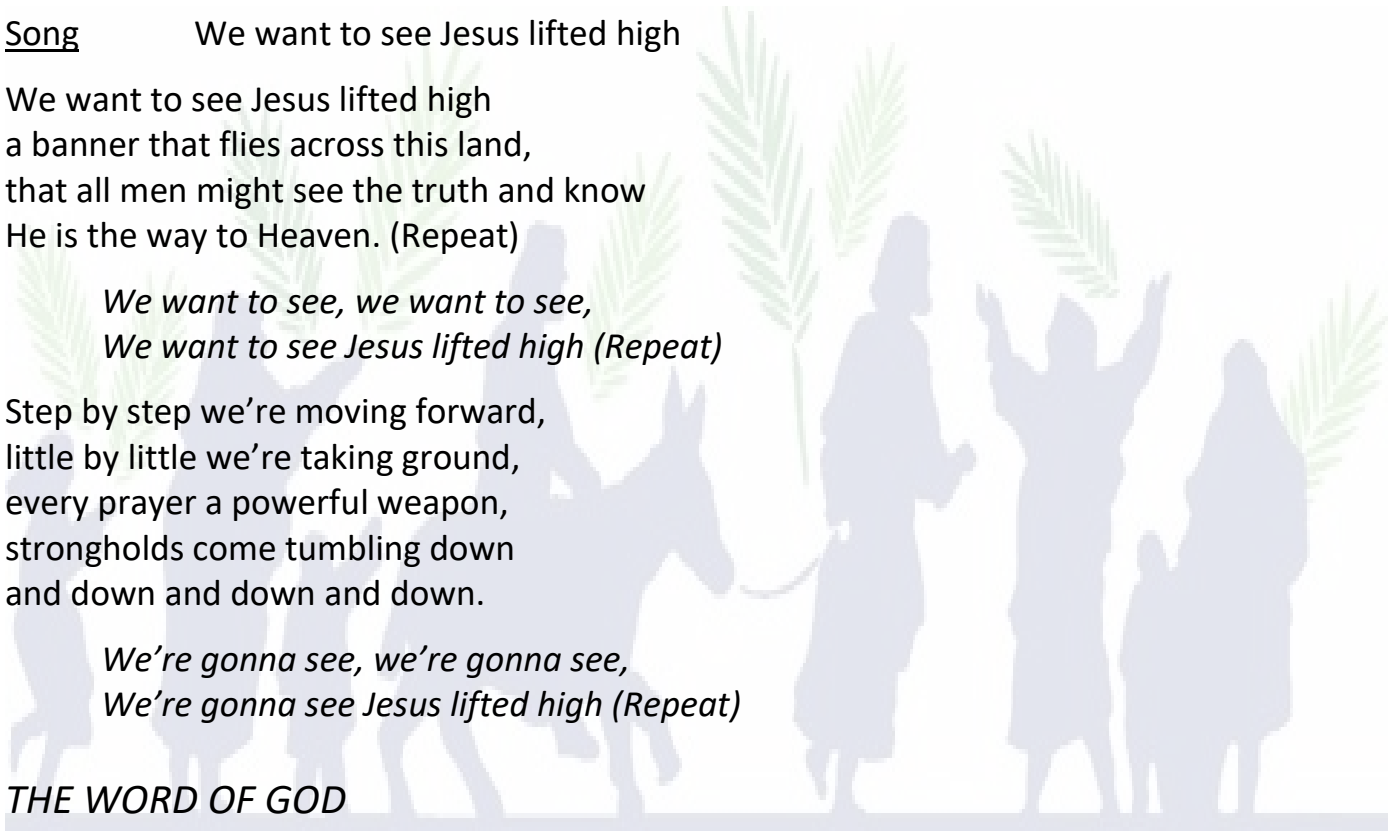
*We want to see, we want to see,
We want to see Jesus lifted high (Repeat)*

Step by step we're moving forward,
little by little we're taking ground,
every prayer a powerful weapon,
strongholds come tumbling down
and down and down and down.

*We're gonna see, we're gonna see,
We're gonna see Jesus lifted high (Repeat)*

THE WORD OF GOD

Bible reading



Psalm 118:19-29 – Neville Pike, All Souls'

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
²⁰This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. ²¹I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²²The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; ²³the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.

²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. ²⁷The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
²⁹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Mark 11:1-11 – Dramatized by Parish youth group

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna! "

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

¹⁰"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Sermon – Steve Green – The Triumphal Entry

Good morning. The theme for today's message on this Palm Sunday is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

I have recently started cycling. I cycle around the local area including the Olympic cycling route because it was in August 2012 that many of us walked to Ripley to see the best cyclists in the world cycle through the village. I remember the sense of excitement as we all arrived early and waited expectantly for the great event of the cyclists arriving.

Let's go back into Jewish history when there was another event another great event a triumphal entry and arrival. In 970BC King David summoned the priest Zadok with the

instructions to make his son Solomon king by putting him on a donkey and riding to Gihon with shouts of “Long live King Solomon” (1 Kings 1:32-35). David’s immediate descendant riding to his coronation as king of Israel on a donkey.

Now fast forward about 150 (820BC) years when an enemy of God, King Ahab, was on the throne. Elisha tells the people to anoint Jehu as the new king. Then all present took off their cloaks and laid them before him (2 Kings 9:1-13). The new king to deliver that people from the evil enemy Ahab had cloaks laid before him.

Now go forward another 230 years to 586BC when the Jews returned from exile in Babylon back to Jerusalem and this is what the prophet Zechariah wrote: See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey..... He will proclaim peace to the nations and His rule will extend from sea to sea. (Zechariah 9:9-10).

In 142 BC the Jews re-entered Jerusalem having won it back from the Syrians to establish freedom for God’s people and to mark this there was the waving of Palm branches. (1 Maccabees 13:51). Indeed the idea of using branches for processions was common in Judaism from the earliest times. For example our OT reading from Psalm 118 “with boughs in hand, join the festal procession” (Psalm 118: 27)

Lastly, let’s go forward another 180 years in Jerusalem and Jesus arrives. Jesus’ arrival would have been pregnant with meaning. Replete with Messianic images from Jewish history. To every Jew this story of a victorious king entering the city had been enacted and re-enacted throughout time. Jesus had arrived to defeat the enemy, establish a new kingdom of freedom and this would be done on a donkey with cloaks thrown over it and cloaks and palm branches laid before him (Mark 11 verse 8). The King and the Kingdom had arrived and that day this cosmic phenomenon was met with 4 types of response. I know it should be 3 in a sermon but I feel God says it is 4. However, I have managed to make them all start with the same letter for easy recollection.

1. Antagonism

2. Apathy

3. Animation

4. Authenticity

The challenge for us is how would we greet Jesus if he came to Old Woking or Westfield or Sutton Green? If in the unlikely event that Jesus was to walk the Parish boundary what would we shout. Would we shout anything at all? Let’s look at each of the options in turn: 1. Antagonism. There would have no doubt been a few in the crowd who felt threatened by Jesus, perhaps the Sadducees who enjoyed privilege with the current broken religious system that Jesus wanted to replace. There are some in our society today who are antagonistic toward Jesus or, more likely antagonistic towards the church, perhaps they have had a bad experience with a church leader and the church needs to repent of that and restore trust.

2.Apathy. No doubt in Jerusalem there would be many who had seen it all before and didn't see a way out of poverty, exploitation at the hands of the system. They had lost hope. In our society there are many – indeed most – who are apathetic towards the Gospel. They don't see it changing their lives in any way. In fairness they just don't think about Jesus at all. Maybe he lived; maybe he didn't – it doesn't affect me!

3.Animation – These were the animated. These were the very excited to see a new king. They shouted Hosanna enthusiastically as they wanted to see Jesus to be a king in a palace to confront their oppressors. The problem was that they wanted a man of arms to incite a rebellion. But Jesus' enemy wasn't Rome it was Satan; Jesus' throne wasn't in a palace but on a wooden cross and Jesus' weapon was not a sword but his blood. Today there were people who follow Jesus when it is popular to do so; when a famous celebrity like Stormzy says it is okay but then switch later in life and may even become antagonistic and shout down Christianity.

4.Authentic – Then there were in the crowd that day those who were authentic they knew Jesus and they had an inkling of the kingdom he was going to inaugurate. I would imagine in this group within the crowd there would be Zacchaeus, Lazarus, Martha, Mary, Bartimaeus and all the people that Jesus healed and ministered to. These people don't shout Hosanna one day and a week later Crucify. They are authentic in their faith. I knew a man in Plymouth called Earl. Now with the Lord in glory. I remember Earl because he was born the same year as my father in 1916. As a young man, Earl fell head over heels in love with a young lady called Joyce in 1936. Earl was a Christian and felt God wanted him to marry this young woman and so he proposed and the young lady, Joyce, said I will marry you on one condition that you put me first in everything. Earl was devastated because he had just promised to put Jesus first in everything and so he replied "I am sorry my dear, I cannot put you first for I will always put Jesus first". Joyce replied, "Because you have said that I know that you will do right by me and so I will marry you." Earl and Joyce were married for over 60 years, they both put Jesus first and enjoyed a long and happy marriage. Today there are many authentic Christians like Earl and there are countless millions who would join the parade. You see these people have grasped that the freedom that Jesus brings was far more valuable than any social, economic or political gain that the overthrow of Rome would bring. The freedom that Jesus brings is for everyone, everywhere and throughout eternity.

Who would we be? What would we shout? If Jesus came to Old Woking, Westfield or Sutton Green?

In closing of course Jesus will not come in the future like this. That phase in God's plan has passed; the next time God comes to earth will be in judgement when according to Revelation all the armies of the earth if they stand in opposition will be obliterated. However, until that time, Jesus is still coming to Old Woking, Westfield, Suttons Green and every global community in the present. He is in the eyes of the stranger, the widow, the

orphan, the vulnerable, the marginalised, the oppressed, the lonely. Jesus is in the lives of all our neighbours. How WE WILL GREET HIM is exactly the same as HOW WE TREAT THEM. At the end of the Olympic cycle race through Ripley we just went home. In Mark's Gospel at the end of His triumphal entry, Jesus visited the Temple and then simply went back to where he was staying in Bethany (verse 11). The scene was set, the most important part of the story was yet to take place. For us too we have a new opportunity ahead of us this Easter to make a difference to the world however tiny in comparison. Because of what Jesus did in the days following his triumphal entry means that, for us, the best is yet to come. AMEN PRAISE GOD.

Song Praise is rising

Praise is rising,
eyes are turning to You,
we turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for
You,
we long for You

'Cause when we see You
we find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears
are washed away, washed away

*Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You,
we turn to You

In Your Kingdom broken lives are made
new,
You make us new

'Cause when we see You
we find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears
are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, Hosanna . . .

'Cause when we see You,
we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears
are washed away

'Cause when we see You,
we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears
are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, Hosanna . . . repeat

Hosanna, Hosanna

Hosanna, Hosanna

Prayers of Intercession Andy Holcombe , St Mark

Loving Father, we thank you for hearing our prayers. We ask you to guide our thoughts and words as we pray now, that we may share our cares and concerns with you.

This week as a nation we took time to think back on a year which has been so hard for each of us. We thank you Lord that almost the last time we met before we entered lockdown, we were together in our Lent courses learning how to pray. And more than anything else in this

year, we have needed prayer. Lord, we may not always know it, but you always give us what we need and when we need it.

Father, we think of the millions of people who have died through this pandemic. We lift up to you all who are grieving the loss of those they loved. We pray especially at this time for the family and friends of Enid Hardman, and each of us may name in our hearts in a moment of quiet, others who need your compassion, your understanding of their grief, and your love.

We think too, of those who have been sick or ill through this year, with the thought of COVID making a trip to the doctor's surgery or to hospital much more unnerving than usual. We pray for those who contracted COVID and who faced the fear of going onto a ventilator or into intensive care. We pray for those who have struggled with their mental health during lockdown, whether through isolation and separation from those they love, or through fear, or through the abrupt change to their lives. And we pray for those who we know who are unwell - Eileen & Peter Bliss, Patrick Chapman, John Hunter, Lynda Kirk, Trevor Lloyd, Catherine Mc Cormack, Olive Park, Joy Storkey and our mission partner, Malcom Pritchard. Lord, we ask that you will bring calm and comfort to all who are unwell, that each of them will know that you are with them and will come closer to you. We pray too that you will continue to equip all those who care for the sick, with the skills and stamina and commitment that they need.

We recognize that others suffered too this year - losing their jobs or livelihood, being unable to work, surviving on foodbanks. We raise them up too Lord, we ask that you will be alongside them as they face the future, we ask you to guide those in power that they will provide the economic support on which so many people will continue to rely, and to encourage us to provide support too – whether buying groceries for the foodbank or just being prepared to listen.

But as we reflect on this past year Father, it's not just sadness that comes to mind. We have been uplifted by a story of love. We thank you for all the acts of kindness, of selflessness, of sacrifice – from key workers like delivery drivers and shop workers and of course NHS staff and care workers, from volunteers supporting testing and vaccination centres, and from neighbours just caring for each other. We thank you Father that each act of love – whether risking life to keep patients alive or just stopping on a walk to talk to someone who might be lonely – every act of love comes first from you.

We reflect too on a story of hope. We thank you Lord for the ingenuity and the diligence of the scientists who have developed the different vaccines so quickly. We thank you for the willingness of medical staff and volunteers to work so hard to ensure that we can all be vaccinated, again so quickly, so that we can have hope of returning to normality. And we pray that our Governments and others will work equally hard to deliver that hope swiftly

and fairly around the world, so that the peoples of all countries – rich and poor, developed and developing – can be made safe.

Spring in England often brings a sense of hope, of new life after the winter. For many of us, we see the bright colours of the flowers, the buds on the trees, we listen to the birds singing, and we are filled with a sense of joy and renewed hope that life can begin again. Lord, we are reminded of when Jesus came to Jerusalem, on the first Palm Sunday. He brought hope for all – but what He has promised is not what the people of Jerusalem, of Israel, thought they wanted. We pray now that we will not return to the old normal. We ask that through your power Lord, that we can take this opportunity to restart the world in a better way, to take those acts of love, that sense of hope and use it to live more as you would want us to live.

And now we bring our prayers together with the words that Jesus Himself taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

**All 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.**

Notices – see Notes and News

Hymn Ride on, ride on in majesty

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue your road
with palms and scattered garments
strowed.
Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
Ride on, ride on in majesty
the angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes

to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on the sapphire throne
expects thee, loved, 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

CONCLUSION

Leader May the Father,
Who so loved the world that gave his only son,
Bring us by faith to his eternal life.

All Amen.

Leader Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

All Hosanna in the highest.



Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

