

Worship@Home 13th April 2025. 6th Sunday in Lent: with Revd Dr Samantha Gillard

Call to worship:

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

**We wave palm branches in anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modelling humility and obedience for all of us.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who brings us the Kingdom of God.

Written by Thom Shuman. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/contemporary-call-to-worship-palm.html>

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, on the first Palm Sunday you entered the rebellious city, where you were to die.

Enter our hearts, we pray, and subdue them to yourself.

And as your disciples blessed your coming
and spread garments and branches in your way,
make us ready to lay at your feet

all that we have and are, that we too may bless your coming.

In the name of the Lord.

Amen.

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/03/opening-prayer-for-palm-sunday.html> posted on the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

STF 263 Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Lord we lift up your name, with our hearts full of praise;

Be exalted, O Lord, our 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 our hearts full of praise;

Be exalted, O Lord, our God! Glory to the King of Kings!

Please read: Luke 19: 28-40 <https://bible.oremus.org/beta>

Time to Reflect

Our journey through lent is ending, and we begin the journey through the Easter week. Luke chapter 9 verse 51 says “Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem”. A journey travelled on foot, the final part of which was from Jericho to Jerusalem. A 14-mile walk, through barren desert and a 3,300ft ascent, but now Jesus’s mode of transport changes. However, before we reflect on Palm Sunday, let us take a moment to pray for peace in the Middle East and for essential aid to reach those in such desperate need in Gaza.

In the 16th century Saint Ignatius of Loyola developed a way of meditating on the Bible narratives, that focuses on using our senses. This means imagining the sights, sounds and emotions of the scene. One way of doing this is to listen to the reading using BibleGateway, <https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/mclean/niv/Luke.19>. Take a moment to reflect on what has caught your attention, maybe it was the ‘colt’ tied up as Jesus had said or the crowds throwing their cloaks down for Jesus as he rode on it into Jerusalem. Are you in the crowds joyfully praising God or standing back watching from a distance, wondering what is going on? It can sometimes be hard to imagine how the crowds might have been feeling, because we know what is ahead for Jesus. The crowds would have been full of expectation and hope for what might happen.

As I listened to the reading, I was drawn to verse 30 “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.” This verse speaks of Jesus planning ahead, the people around Jesus might not have known what was going to happen but Jesus did. How many times do we wish that we could see clearly the road ahead and God says to us ‘Trust me’. Taking one moment or one step at a time is hard, especially if we try to take those steps on our own, without praying and asking those around us for support and encouragement. Jesus had tried to prepare his disciples about what the road ahead would be like, but they didn’t really listen, or perhaps it just didn’t make sense. So often, God doesn’t take away the difficulties we face but instead, walks with us and gives us enough strength to face it.

The two disciples that were giving the instructions to go and find the 'colt', trusted Jesus and found the colt just as Jesus had said. Take a moment now to pause and pray for any difficult situation you may be facing this coming week, knowing that God has gone before you and is with you.

I also thought about the 'colt' who had never been ridden before'; suddenly being untied, a cloak laid on its back and Jesus' riding on it. We do not know whether Jesus had had experience of riding, and we are not told anything about the animal's reaction. However, I think all that information would distract us from the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a 'colt'. Jesus didn't have a stately entry, that was rehearsed, like King Charles's Coronation. Instead, humbly rode in on a colt that had not been prepared for the event. Despite which was guided perfectly by Jesus. On this Palm Sunday, could you set yourself a small goal, to be open to seeing something new as you read in one of the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, Jesus's journey to the cross and resurrection. Courageously, stopping along the way, with an openness to be met afresh by the risen Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

You are invited to pray silently for:

The needs of the world...

The Church and its calling...

Loved ones going through difficult times...

For peace, justice, and reconciliation...

In Jesus name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven...

StF 264 Make way, make way, for Christ the King.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK6XuYhL7JI>

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.

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

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

Noel Richards. © 1986 Thankyou Music. Admin: Integrity Music. CCLI Song Number: 121074

Final Prayer:

What a strange paradox; the King is coming, the people rejoice, singing 'Hosanna in the highest!' yet fail to understand that the King they welcome is the Servant King, the King who washes his disciples' feet, the King who came not with an army but a weapon so powerful that not even death could resist, the sacrificial love of God laid out upon a Cross.

Lord God, as we sing our 'Hosannas' today may we remember also that which you were riding toward, the suffering and rejection, pain and humiliation, the cruel Cross. And let us look forward to the joy of Easter Day when you rose from death to reign forever.

Help us, as we daily lay our lives before you, to live the resurrection life that acknowledges Jesus as Lord and King over our lives.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/palm-sunday-prayer-of-commitment.html> written by John Birch, and posted on his **Faith and Worship** website. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>