

Worship at Home service Sunday 29th March 2026. Palm Sunday **Revd Ian Forsyth**

Call to worship:

At the beginning of this Holy Week, let us join with the crowds of Palm Sunday in welcoming Jesus and celebrating all he means to us. Celebrate, praise, sing and shout, **Hosanna! Amen.**

Make way make way By Graham Kendrick

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alCQ7fb0hEA>

Bible readings

Psalm 31 v 9 – 16 Luke 23 v 44 - 49

Reflection:

Luke 23 v 44 – 49 - Father I place into your hands

Luke 23 v 44–49 describes the death of Jesus, marked by three hours of darkness (noon to 3 p.m.), the temple curtain tearing, and Jesus commending his spirit to the Father.

A centurion declares Jesus innocent, crowds depart in sorrow, and followers, including women from Galilee, watch from a distance.

What do you think your last words would be? Luke wants to present the evidence and eyewitness accounts. He wants the audience to know that the words of Jesus were not a mistake or wrong, but true.

Last words said v 44 – 46 - 'It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last, a final act of trust and surrender.

These words were spoken at the ninth hour (3 p.m.) after three hours of darkness and represent a final act of trust, a voluntary surrender, and intimacy with God, immediately following the tearing of the temple curtain. The significance of this quotation from Psalm 31:5 shows Jesus is in control of his death, entrusting himself to the Father rather than showing defeat. Jesus would have known this Psalm as it was used by children as a night-time prayer.

Last words seen and heard v 47 – 48 - The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man," he recognised who Jesus was and has seen God at work. Jesus clarifies that his purpose is to save the world, not to condemn it, during this mission. Jesus notes that the words he has spoken will serve as the judge on the last day for those who reject him. Rejection of Jesus' message constitutes a personal rejection, making individuals accountable to the word they disregarded. Many people came out as a form of entertainment to watch; however, they went home disturbed, shocked, sad and thoughtful.

Last words thought v 49 - This verse describes the reaction of Jesus' acquaintances and the women who followed him from Galilee during his crucifixion. They stood at a distance, watching the events unfold.

This verse highlights their witness to his death, both their loyalty in staying and their fear or distance in not approaching the cross. The women are singled out as they stood at a distance, they were the last at the cross but the first to arrive at the tomb on easter morning.

Conclusion - The crucifixion was not just another messy death but the hope of the world. Galatians 2 v 20 says, I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude, humbled by the truth that I no longer live for myself, but Christ lives in me. Lord, I surrender my will, my desires, and my burdens at Your feet, knowing that my life belongs to You. **Amen**

Prayer of intercession:

Lord Jesus,

We pray for all those who give sacrificially, whose lives are dedicated to serving others.

Let us travel together and lighten the load.

We pray for those working in areas of conflict, who bring food, shelter and healing to those in need, sometimes putting their lives on the line. And for those working so hard to keep communities functioning during this time of crisis.

Let us travel together and lighten the load.

We pray for those in our communities who need our unconditional love- those hurting from broken relationships, abuse, bullying; children and adults whose lives are bereft of love and hope.

Let us travel together and lighten the load.

We pray for those who are ill, those who have died, and those who are anxious or grieving.

Let us travel together and lighten the load.

We pray that we might be Easter people, laying down our lives to serve others, Bringing the hope of the cross and resurrection.

Let us travel together and lighten the load. Amen

My Lord, what love is this (amazing love)

My Lord what love is this

That pays so dearly?

That I, the guilty one,

May go free

Amazing love, oh what sacrifice

The Son of God given for me

My debt He pays and my death He dies,

That I might live, That I might live!

And so they watched Him die,
Despised, rejected.
But oh, the blood He shed,
Flowed for me!
Amazing love, oh what sacrifice
The Son of God, given for me,
My debt He pays and my death He dies,
That I might live,
That I might live.

And now this love of Christ
Shall flow like rivers.
Come wash your guilt away,
Live again!

Amazing love, oh what sacrifice
The Son of God, given for me
My debt He pays and my death He dies,
That I might live,
That I might live.,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVgmdzQCl6U>

A sending out prayer:

Lord, Lord, as we go with you into this Holy Week, hold us close, help us to be faithful to you as we know you are always faithful to us.

As we journey to the cross, help us to be able to say like the centurion 'Truly this is God's Son'. **Amen**