

Order of Service – Sunday 5th April 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough, why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you?

Opening Sentences:

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.

Hymn: All glory, laud and honour:

1. 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 Blessèd One.
2. The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.
3. To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.
4. All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

Let us pray together:

God our Father, we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus to be our King and Saviour. We thank you that he came to his people in triumph, but also in humility, and was willing to die so that all who believe in him may be forgiven, may become your people, and may share in eternal life. Forgive us for the times we have refused to believe, for the times when we have not listened, and the times when we have been unwilling to follow him on the way, and work in us by your Holy Spirit to make us into the people you want us to be. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness
(1 John 1: 9)

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Time to Reflect:

Think about the last time you saw the Queen in a procession, perhaps on television, at the State Opening of Parliament, or the Trooping of the Colour, or a royal wedding. How did she travel? Either in a limousine or a stately coach most likely. Have you ever seen her arrive at such an event in a battered white van? But that is the equivalent of what Jesus is doing here. He is coming to Jerusalem as King, that much the prophet Zechariah makes clear - he prophesies after some of God's people returned from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem. But they had no king, and it was dubious whether they wanted one

because kings had not done them much good in the past. However, God promised them a king who would be different from any king they had known. Firstly, he would be victorious. That was unusual, though not absolutely unknown in the history of Israel and Judah. And secondly, he would be humble, coming on a donkey - the common working animal in the streets of the city. His victory too would be unusual. It involved dying on a cross, bearing the consequences and responsibility for the disobedience and rebellion of all God's people so they can reign in life. We too can share in his victory, if we are prepared to believe in Jesus as God's chosen deliverer, to ask forgiveness for going our own way rather than his, and to commit ourselves to walking with him the way of the cross.

Take a moment to sit quietly.

A time of prayer:

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people, that through suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

Holy God, holy and strong,
Holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, ...

Hymn: You laid aside Your majesty:

You laid aside Your majesty
You laid aside Your majesty, gave up
everything for me.
Suffered at the hands of those You had
created.
You took away my guilt and shame,
When You died and rose again.
Now today You reign,
And heaven and earth exalt You.
I really want to worship You my Lord,
You have won my heart and I am Yours.
Forever and ever, I will love You.
You are the only one who died for me,
Gave Your life to set me free.
So I lift my voice to You in adoration.

A prayer of blessing:

Christ crucified draw us to himself that we may find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven and the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon us and remain with us always.