



The Smestow Vale Team Ministry
St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede
Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 5th April

Palm Sunday

True and humble King
Hailed by the crowd as Messiah
Grant us the faith to know and love you,
that we may found beside you
On the way of the cross

The Humility of God.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Phillipians 2:5-11

Jesus Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem.

When Jesus and the disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately. This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed .” them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this The crowds were saying,

"This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee

Matthew 21:1-11

A Reflection for Palm Sunday.

Applause for the NHS

Last Thursday evening it was humbling to listen to the clapping for those working for the National health service during the Corona pandemic. The epidemic has affected all of us in the last week. Change that few of us could have imagined just a few weeks ago. Those on the front line, those who have returned to work after retirement, those working in difficult and dangerous circumstances deserve our prayers and our admiration. Prince Charles recovering from the virus,. Boris Johnson about to develop Covid 19, Princes George and Louis

with Princess Charlotte, the demonstrations of public support and solidarity in a time of national crisis will stay with me for a long time.

Waving Palms

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy week. It is going to be very strange this year as we try to follow Jesus through the tragedy of his passion and death to resurrection and hope. I know I will miss the services and that sense of cooperate remembrance and celebration. Palm Sunday starts our journey to the cross with a public demonstration of support for Jesus. In an age that was long before multi media promoted a public gathering, it must have been word of mouth that encouraged the crowd to gather.

Hope.

The men and women of Jerusalem had heard about Jesus; the strength of personality that attracted people to him, the power he revealed in miracles and healings, his identification with ordinary people. They wanted to be there, they wanted to greet him. Here was new hope for their people. Hope of a leader who would bring them freedom from Roman oppression . Hope of a new glorious age that would mirror that of King David. So they tore down palm branches, laid their coats on the road before the donkey and sang "Hosanna, to the Son of David. " A great day, full of expectation and hope. But it changed, their expectations crumbled as Rome exerted its power and Jesus the Messiah was arrested, mocked and crowned with a circlet of thorns. Disappointed expectations turned to anger and Hosanna to Crucify.

Our Expectations of others

As I write this and look back to last Thursdays clapping and think about those in the front line of the fight against Covid 19, and the expectations we have of each other to defeat the spread of the virus, I hope and pray that we will have the strength, individually, to play our part and that when others fail to meet our expectations we will be patient and not lash out in anger.

Paul Brown

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Carl Baker, Ann Aldridge, Heather Gent, Laura Jones, Jean, Joan, Joyce Cort, and Margaret Hatton

Those who have died recently and their families:
baby Felix Jones ,Hazel Dooley, Barbara Richardson
Beryl Dolores Henshaw, Barbara Southwell ,Barrie Fortescue Barton Mann



Prayer during the Week

Palm Sunday:

That we may make Jesus welcome in our hearts.
(Matthew: 21: 8-9)

Monday:

For the hospitability industry, remembering the workers from the closed venues. (John 12: 2)

Tuesday:

That we may put others' needs above our own.
(John 12: 25-26)

Wednesday:

For strength to resist temptation in times of trial.
(John 13: 27a)

Maundy Thursday:

For those caring for the needs of others. (John 13: 3-5)

Good Friday:

For all those who wait and watch. (John 19 :25-27)

Holy Saturday:

For all who care both for the dead and for the bereaved, including those who take funerals and Funeral Directors.
(John19: 40-42)

Prayer

Please let Paul know (prepbrown@gmail.com)if there are any prayer concerns that you would like to be included in my private prayers or on "Keeping in Touch" You can light a virtual candle on Lichfield Cathedral's website.

Daily Worship

Don't forget that there are short booklets to help you in your daily prayers available on the Church of England website. Please join us in a circle of prayer at the time you normally attend worship.

Keeping in touch

If you would like to receive your "Grapevine" Digitally please email Maxine office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk especially if you think you have forgotten to send us your email address or telephone number