

*Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

2 April 2023

Welcome

Prayer : Let us come before the Lord today,
lifting our hearts in praise.
May we be ready to follow him
with 'Hosanna!' on our lips
and love for him in our hearts.

Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.
Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless
you.^[a]
²⁷ The Lord is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal
procession
up^[a] to the horns of the altar.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.

Song:
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*

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

Heavenly Father, help us to recognise Jesus
as the one who comes in your name,
as the one who blesses and saves us.
As we explore your Word this morning,
may we offer true praise and adoration in
our worship,
may we be open to learn more about your
ways,
and may we resolve to walk the road with
Jesus every day.
Amen.

Song: I see the King of Glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes, the whole earth
shakes, yeah
I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing, the people sing

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest*

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith, with selfless faith
I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees, we're on our knees

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity

In our gathering, in our speaking, in our activities.

Let us say, hosanna to the Son of David.

In our thinking, in our sharing, in our praying.

Let us say, hosanna to the King of kings.

In our worship, in our hearts, in our praising.

Let us say, hosanna in the highest heaven.

In our going out, in our coming in, in our daily lives,

We say, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

Prayer

Reading: Matthew 21.1-11

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’

⁴This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵‘Say to Daughter Zion,

“See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”^[a]

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others

cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’^[c]

‘Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!’

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’

¹¹The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’

All age activity: Palm cross prayers

Lord Jesus, (*take up palm crosses*) these palms are our prayers

for those we love, (*wave palm crosses*)

for those we care about, (*wave palm crosses*)

for those in need. (*wave palm crosses*)

We pray also that all we and everyone (*look around at everyone*)

would know the blessing of hope, joy and peace in their lives,

today and every day. **Amen.**

Song: In the darkness we were waiting

Without hope, without light

’Til from Heaven You came running

There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets

To a virgin came the word

From a throne of endless glory

To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son

Praise the Spirit, three in one

God of glory, Majesty

Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming

And to reconcile the lost

To redeem the whole creation

You did not despise the cross

For even in your suffering

You saw to the other side

Knowing this was our salvation

Jesus for our sake you died

And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Sermon: When I was at Poynton Baptist church, we had a children's easter event. It hadn't started well - it was a cold miserable wet spring day up in the north and we'd been a bit disheartened at the number of families who had joined us. Then our talented story teller – Hev, told the kids the palm Sunday story. In the centre of the storytelling circle was a stuffed toy donkey – about the size of a dog. Near the dog-sized donkey, there was one little girl about 5 years old, who was really listening to the story. She was so engaged in the story that as Hev explained about the cloaks being spread on the floor as Jesus came along, this little girl took off her coat, got up and laid it down, right in front of the donkey.

I hadn't ever understood why people took off their cloaks and spread them on the ground before. I knew that in 2 Kings 9 the crowds had done it for King Jehu after he'd been anointed. I knew it was a bit like a red carpet for VIPs in our culture, or a champagne coloured carpet like the Oscars this year.

But as this little girl laid her pink padded coat on the floor, I saw that she was totally absorbed in the story. Just like those crowds she was transfixed by Jesus. Just like the men and women that had followed Jesus all around Galilee, she heard that Jesus was the King, and she heard that the people in the story took off their coats, so she did too. Coats are supposed to stop us from the worst of the weather, to protect us from rain, to keep out the wind and help us to keep warm. Taking off their cloaks the crowd, they take off their outer selves, they remove the protective shield from their bodies and greet Jesus unhindered, ready to act and ready to praise.

King David once similarly removed his outer garments; he danced in an undignified manner as the ark of covenant came into Jerusalem in 2 Samuel 6. He danced with all his might wearing only a linen cloth v14. If King David needed to take off his jacket to truly praise the lord, we should not be surprised that the crowds who are so desperate for a saviour, so indeed of a redeemer, and so aware of the power of Jesus would not take off their cloaks, not to make a donkey's journey easier. Not to make the road look nicer, but as an act of total submission and praise to Jesus the king of kings.

Frances Robert wrote the spiritual devotional book – come away with me beloved, its sold millions all around the world. She writes:

By prayer and faith doors are opened but by praise and worship great dynamos of power are set in motion, as when a switch is thrown in a great electrical power station. Praying for specifics is like requesting light for individual houses, while worshipping and praise flood the whole area with available current.

And that current was felt by the time Jesus got to the city, for the city was in uproar. Why

because a new king was arriving! Not a Roman emperor or ruler. But King of all. Matthew uses the word *seismos*, as in seismic. The whole city was shaken like a spiritual earthquake. Matthew uses this word in chapter 8.24, 24.7, 27.54 and 28.2 and all of these texts relate to a supernatural event. God's intervention in sending his son to the world, and his entry into the city of Jerusalem is the start of holy week which not only shakes Jerusalem but transforms the world by Easter Day with the resurrection of Christ.

'Turn loose your praises', Frances Robert writes, labour not to analyse each need for God operates in the complicated. Hold me close instead. Turn loose your praises. Let our shoulders drop, and our body sway. Let our ears hear again the shout hosanna, a shout of praise to our god. And may we lay our cloaks down in front of Jesus. Every expectation that has been laid on us, every worry we have, every significant challenge that we face, we can laid them down for him. Turn loose your praises, lay down your coats and trust god with your praises as we declare Hosanna with our mind, body and soul.

Song: My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes,
That He His foes
From thence might free.

In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home;
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.

Communion

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had:

⁶He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain^[a] equal with God.

⁷Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had,

and took the nature of a servant.
He became like a human being
and appeared in human likeness.
⁸ He was humble and walked the path
of obedience all the way to death—
his death on the cross.
⁹ For this reason God raised him to
the highest place above
and gave him the name that is
greater than any other name.
¹⁰ And so, in honour of the name of
Jesus
all beings in heaven, on earth, and
in the world below^[b]
will fall on their knees,
¹¹ and all will openly proclaim that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

3 To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!

Blessing

Song: Living bread in mercy broken,
Jesus' body for our need;
we give thanks as we receive it
for this bread is life indeed.

Cup of wine, the blood of Jesus,
poured out freely for our sin;
as we drink we know forgiveness
for this cup has grace within.

Loving saviour, bread of heaven,
here you meet us with your grace;
daily may we know your presence
and abide in you always.

Prayers for the world led by Anthea Denham

1 All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.

2 The company of angels
is praising you on high;