



28 March – 3 April 2021 • Faith 24/7

## Caught up in celebration

### Mark 11.1-11

There was a party atmosphere as Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem – on the day we call Palm Sunday. The authorities and leaders in Jerusalem were not impressed. But there were acts of generosity from the crowd: valuable cloaks, and branches cut for the coming festival were given up in the excitement of celebrating Jesus.

Now read **Mark 11.1-11** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

The Jewish people have been waiting for a Messiah – someone to save them – for centuries. They have definite ideas of what he'll be like, and Jesus doesn't quite fit them. He says and does some fascinating things, but this procession into Jerusalem is all wrong. A king comes on a horse – a show of power and strength – not on a donkey. Yet the crowd that is with him are convinced and are in a celebratory mood. What convinces you that Jesus is the Messiah? What would you give up in celebration?



What is the most extravagant gift you have given or received? What do you have to offer as a gift?

## WATCH

Watch the song Hosanna from the 2000 film of Jesus Christ Superstar:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x530x5kAdk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x530x5kAdk)



Compare this to Mark 11.1-11. What do you think of the interpretation of the story in the film? What strikes you as accurate? Is there anything that jars?

## IMAGINE

Go for a wander down your local high street. As you walk, use your imagination to paint a picture of Jesus on a donkey, surrounded by his followers, and entering your town, village or city. What would the locals make of him? Pray for the people and businesses that you pass, that they may somehow know the majesty of Jesus in this season.

## MAKE

**You will need:** a sheet of green A4 paper; sticky tape; scissors.

- Roll up paper, starting at the shorter end. Roll it reasonably tight to create a short tube. Secure the tube with sticky tape at the bottom and about halfway up.
- Press non-taped end of the tube flat. Cut it along the centre until you reach the tape in the middle.
- Cut each of the strips you've created in half again. Separate all the strips to make 'branches'. On each strip (branch) write a word or phrase giving praise to Jesus.



## Daily Invitation

The crowds laid their robes on the ground for Jesus and the donkey to walk on. This was a costly thing to do. Find some fabric and lay it inside your front door, as if you are one of that original crowd. Imagine laying your only coat there, knowing it would be trampled and spoiled. How does that make you feel? As you enter and exit your home this week and cross that fabric, think about how you can invite and welcome Jesus to be part of all that you are doing, both inside and outside your home.

## LENT GARDEN OF RESPONSES

On Palm Sunday, the crowds shouted 'Hosanna!' as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Hosanna means, 'Please save us!' Each day this week, find a way to recognise that the planet, as well as its people, need saving. For example, you might decide not to use the car, or avoid buying things in plastic packaging, or switch off lights when you leave the room. For each saving action that you do, create or draw a paving slab and make a path in your garden tray or garden page (that you've been progressing throughout Lent).



**Good News!** As things begin to return to normal (we hope!) I'm pleased to say that we are returning to public worship at the Ronkswood Community Centre on Easter Day 4<sup>th</sup> April at our usual time of 10.00 and 10.45 a.m. The risk assessment for the centre remains as before and we will be limited to a maximum of 15 people at any one service so you will need to book in with me if you want to attend if you haven't already done so!

## Services for Holy Week

Services during Holy Week will be held online and will be available to view on the YouTube Channel as normal.

**Palm Sunday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion with a reading of the Passion.**

**Monday in Holy Week 8.00 p.m. Compline with reflection**

**Tuesday in Holy Week 8.00 p.m. Compline with reflection**

**Wednesday in Holy Week 8.00 p.m. Compline with reflection**

**Maundy Thursday 7.30 p.m. Eucharist of the Last Supper**

**Good Friday 7.30 p.m. Tenebrae – the story of lengthening shadows.**

**Easter Day (in the Community Centre) 10.00 and 10.45 a.m. Easter Communion.**

Zoom invitations for each service from Monday – Friday will be sent out on the morning of the service so please do check your email.

Daily Readings for week commencing 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021		
<b>Monday</b>	Lamentations 1: 1-12a	Luke 22: 1-23
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lamentations 3: 1-18	Luke 22 [24-38] 39-53
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jeremiah 11: 18-20	Luke 22: 54-end
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
<b>Friday</b>	Hebrews 10: 16-25	John 18:1 – end of 19
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Peter 4: 1-8	John 19: 38-end

***Pray for those in need...***Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Pete, Ian, June and Juliette. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...especially Jayne and Dick.***