

This material has been put together to enable you to join with others in worship, wherever you may be, on Sunday.

Sunday 5th April – Palm Sunday

During Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we begin this solemn celebration in union with Christians throughout the world. Our Lord Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem in triumph to complete his work as our Saviour; to be rejected, to suffer and die, and to be raised from the dead.

Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share in his risen life.¹

Let us pray:

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Behold your King comes to you, O Zion,
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.

Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice.

Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.

You have loved righteousness and hated evil: therefore God, your God,
has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna!! **Amen.**

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

SPOILER ALERT!!!

This is a warning that the end of a story or a film is about to be revealed. That the "who-did-it" in the "who-dun-it" is about to be uncovered – and if you don't want to know the result "look away now!" If only we could journey through Holy Week without knowing how it ends, as though we are going there for the first time. Because knowing the ending affects how we view the rest of the story.

This year Holy Week is going to be different. We can't *gather* together for worship – but we still can worship together wherever we are. We can't go very far – and some of us are unable to go out at all – but we can still journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and beyond.

¹ Methodist Worship Book, © 1999 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, p.237

Perhaps our changed circumstances may help us to look at the events of Holy Week with fresh eyes, from a new perspective?

This week – walk in step with the disciples as they follow Jesus, as though we don't know where he's taking us. And as we travel together let us read and hear God's word afresh, opening our minds to new things that God is revealing to us. Not taking anything for granted, nor making any assumptions, but rediscovering the love of God coming to us in new and surprising ways.

A question for you to ponder:

What does it mean to walk the way of the cross in the circumstances we find ourselves in today?

Let us pray:

Eternal God,
In your tender love towards the human race
You sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
To take our flesh and to suffer death upon a cross.
Grant that we may follow the example of his great humility,
And share in the glory of his resurrection;
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**²

For family and friends, for neighbours near and far:

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

And His love endures for ever.

For those who work to care for us all, through night and day:

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

And His love endures for ever.

For emergency services and those who protect us:

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

And His love endures for ever.

For food producers and all who serve us and our communities:

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

And His love endures for ever.

For the witness of the church family around the world,

praying today for the Church in Cameroon and Nigeria:

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

And His love endures for ever.

As we walk with Christ into an uncertain future:

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

And His love endures for ever.

² Methodist Worship Book, © 1999 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, p.239
Other material – Rachel Deigh & Sylvester Deigh.

Abba Father teach us to rely on your strength,
learn from your wisdom,
walk in your light and enjoy the company of your Spirit.
Thus, though citizens of earth,
May we live as members of the commonwealth of heaven.

The Lord's Prayer.

A hymn: Ride on Ride on in Majesty (Singing the Faith 265)

1. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;
Your humble beast pursues its road
With palms and scattered garments stowed.
2. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.
3. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.
4. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne,
Expects his own anointed Son.
5. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, your power and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

[Ephesians 3:20-21]

Readings & Prayer points for each day this week:

This is Holy Week.

Monday 6th April:

Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9; Hebrews 9:11-15 and John 12:1-11

Today pray for: NHS staff in hospitals and health centres;
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa
(Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa)

Tuesday 7th April:

Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and John 12:20-36

Today pray for: all those who are working in key services;
The United Church of Zambia and Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

Wednesday 8th April:

Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Hebrews 12:1-3 and John 13:21-32

Today pray for: the government, members of parliament and local councillors;
the Methodist Church in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda

Thursday 9th April – Maundy Thursday:

Reading: Exodus 12:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-36 and John 13:1-17, 31-35

Today pray for: your neighbours & local community
The Methodist Church in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela

Friday 10th April – Good Friday:

Reading: Isaiah 52:13 - 52:12; Hebrews 10:16-25 and John 18:1 – 19:37

Today pray for: the circuit, members of your church, the Methodist Church in
Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay

Saturday 11th April – Holy Saturday:

Reading: Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; 1 Peter 4:1-8 and John 19: 38-42

Today pray for: yourself – how can you be a good neighbour?
The Methodist Church in Bahamas/Turks and Caicos Islands,
Belize/Honduras, Guyana and Haiti