

Reflection for Palm Sunday

Here we are at Palm Sunday, beginning with a celebration: we hear of great crowds waving branches as they welcome Jesus as King into Jerusalem.

And yet we know how quickly that hope turns to uncertainty, fear, and suffering. And these words are probably in the forefront of our thoughts as we read and hear about the news going on in the world right now. They are words that remind us how fragile and uncertain this world still is with global leaders making decisions that affect everyone.

Our recent headlines speak of economic anxiety with fears that inflation may surge as global conflict drives up our energy prices. The conflict in the Middle East shapes our lives and experiences here, reminding us how deeply connected we are to each another.

Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on a different kind of leadership. Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, not with power or force, but with humility, sharing in the vulnerability of ordinary people. Jesus does not promise an end to occupation and conflict, but his faithful presence throughout, giving hope to those who follow him.

In times of uncertainty such as we are experiencing now, we are called to be bearers of that same hope, and to trust that God is at work even when the future feels unclear.

And so as we begin this holiest of weeks in the Christian calendar, may we stand in the centre of the joy and the sorrow of this world and look for Christ's presence, hope and love in the midst of it.

Rev Sarah



NEXT SUNDAY 05.04.26 *Easter Day*

10.30am in the Church



OT Colossians 3: 1-4
NT Acts 10: 34-43
GOSPEL Matthew 28: 1-10

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St Thomas, Exeter

29th March 2026

Palm Sunday

10.30am in the Hall and then into Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

329 Make way, make way for Christ the King

549 When I survey the wondrous cross

540 Were you thee when they crucified my Lord?

536 We sing the praise of him who died

Monday, Tuesday Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday 31st March

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

No St Thomas Tots

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house.

10.30am Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

7pm Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper, Foot washing. Watch

Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am Stations of the Cross

2pm Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday 4th April

6pm Easter Vigil followed by a Bring & Share supper

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21: 1-11

When they 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.'

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a

teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Philippians 2: 5-11

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.

Matthew's Passion Gospel

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Notices

If you would like to make a donation for **Easter flowers** please see Mary Naish or Ian. These donations are eligible for Gift Aid. If you qualify for that please let Mary & Ian know.

Please support the range of services for **Holy Week** as we look towards Easter. See the front of the pew sheet and notices in the Hall.

There will be a **sign-up sheet** in Church and at refreshments for contributions to the Bring & Share supper.

At the meeting of the **PCC** on Wednesday it was decided that a new Sound System would be purchased for the Church, which will make life easier for the clergy and the congregation. It was also decided to buy a printer/copier that will cope with all the posters, booklets and pew sheets.

Community Space - Thurs 2nd April Could you come by the hall sometime between 2pm and 5pm to help us shape how we offer this space in the summer before our new Rector starts? We're still working out how to advertise it so need opinions and feedback. Liz

After this week's meeting the **House Group** will next meet on 14th April.

Exeter Pride is on Saturday 9th May. Christians at Pride and Open Table Exeter will be participating in the March together with banners. Open Table will have a stand at the festival in Northernhay. Do join in! Email exeter@opentable.lgbt for more information.

