

Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit

**At Home Worship 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Palm Sunday**

*Compiled by Rev Phil Summers*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Singing the Faith 262

**All glory, laud, and honour**

To thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring  
Thou art the King of Israel  
Thou David's royal Son  
Who in the Lord's name comest  
The King and Blessed One

The company of angels  
Are praising Thee on high  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply  
The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before Thee went  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before Thee we present

To Thee, before Thy passion  
They sang their hymns of praise  
To Thee, now high exalted  
Our melody we raise  
Thou didst accept their praises  
Accept the prayers we bring  
Who in all good delightest  
Thou good and gracious King

*The one who comes in the name of the Lord*

Gentle Christ, you set your face to Jerusalem –  
The place of trial, of torture and death –  
Surrounded by noise,

By expectation and hope;  
Love unknown, vulnerability unrecognised.

Gentle Christ, we will walk with you;  
We will weep with you; we will watch with you;  
Our eyes on you, our hearts with you, our lives for you;  
In humility, in awe, in peace.

*(Rachel Poolman – URC prayer handbook)*

As you weep over your broken world, Father, we acknowledge our share of responsibility for that brokenness.

Forgive our unwillingness to see.

Forgive our readiness to rationalise wickedness.

Forgive the ease with which we condemn others, while we are complicit ourselves.

Forgive our failure to act and pray.

Grant us the grace of true repentance, that we may know your forgiveness and begin a new way with you. For Jesus' sake.

Amen.

*(Roy Jenkins from 'Just One Year' DLT)*

Singing the Faith 265

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;**

hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry.

O Saviour meek, pursue thy road

with palms and scattered garments strewed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;

in lowly pomp ride on to die.

O Christ, thy triumphs now begin

o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;

the angel hosts beyond the sky

look down with sad and wondering eyes

to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;

the last and fiercest strife is nigh.

Thy Father on the sapphire throne

expects thee, loved, anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;

in lowly pomp ride on to die.

Bow thy meek head to mortal pain;

then take, O God, thy power and reign.

## **Gospel Reading: Mark 11:1-11**

**11** When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup> some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup> They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### **You are the King of Glory**

You are the Prince of Peace

You are the Lord of heaven and earth

You're the Son of righteousness

Angels bow down before You

Worship and adore for

You have the words of eternal life

You are Jesus Christ the Lord

Hosanna to the Son of David

Hosanna to the King of Kings

Glory in the highest heaven

for Jesus the Messiah reigns

*(Words: Mavis Ford)*

Although Jesus' donkey ride into Jerusalem marks the beginning of Holy Week it can be too easy sometime to skip straight the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Yet Jesus has come to Jerusalem and specifically to the temple to challenge the authorities; not just to die. I urge you to take time before Thursday to read chapters eleven and twelve of Mark's Gospel. Here we see Jesus' challenge to a religious system that is as useful as a fruit tree that produces no fruit. If the temple is not communicating the gracious and healing love of God to the people, then what good is it? Jesus argues with Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes. He accuses the system of being corrupt then refocusses the minds of his hearers onto the love of God. The need to love God, heart mind and soul and to love our neighbours.

As we enter this Holy Week let us too refocus our minds on the love of God. Not religious observance for the sake of it. Not worship of our buildings and certainly not a life based on the gaining of wealth. Jesus was willing to die to change the system, the world. Let us make sure we are part of the world that God loves, the world that shares its resources and seeks the good of all. Jesus died that we might live; and we live so that others can live too. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Psalm 31:9-17**

*New Revised Standard Version*

- <sup>9</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief,  
my soul and body also.
- <sup>10</sup> For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery,  
and my bones waste away.
- <sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a horror to my neighbours,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.
- <sup>12</sup> I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.
- <sup>13</sup> For I hear the whispering of many—  
terror all around!—  
as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.
- <sup>14</sup> But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my God."
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- <sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.
- <sup>17</sup> Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD,  
for I call on you.

Singing the Faith 274

**Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice**

You became nothing, poured out to death  
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life  
And I'm in that place once again  
I'm in that place once again

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice  
You became nothing, poured out to death  
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life  
And I'm in that place once again  
I'm in that place once again

And once again I look upon the cross where You died  
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside  
Once again I thank You  
Once again I pour out my life

Now You are exalted to the highest place  
King of the heavens  
Where one day I'll bow  
But for now I marvel at this saving grace  
And I'm full of praise once again  
I'm full of praise once again

And once again I look upon the cross where You died  
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside  
Once again I thank You  
Once again I pour out my life

The blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Be with you this Holy Week  
As you journey with Christ.  
**Amen.**