



Palm Sunday

A Short Service of Prayer for those at home

God, who lives in the depths of the universe,
God, who calls to us in the depths of our hearts and souls,
Joining in our weeping and our laughter,
full of kindness in the deep silences of our painful places,
speaking into the anxious centre of our struggles,
be with us now within the whole of life and in this time of prayer
as we face the reality of our own lives this Holy Week. AMEN

Light a candle
(please ensure this is done safely)

Pause for a moment of quiet

Bless your people O God,
and let the light of your love shine upon us always. AMEN

If you have a palm cross in the house, hold onto it

A Reading from the Old Testament and the New Testament

O Lord, save us; O Lord grant us success

Psalm 118 v 25 - end

As Jesus approached Jerusalem
He came to Bethage on the Mount of Olives.
Jesus sent two disciples ahead to the village
where they would find a donkey tied;
They brought the donkey and the colt,
Placing their cloaks upon them
Jesus sat on them.

A large crowd gathered and spread cut branches on the road,
Crowds went ahead
And those who followed sang their praises,
'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'
When Jesus entered the Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred,
'Who is this,' they asked.

Matthew 21, selected verses

Pause for Thought

Though we enter a journey towards Easter
the journey facing the world at this time seems far, far from
the celebration witnessed as Jesus entered Jerusalem to shouts of praise.

At this time of great concern, where people may hardly walk the streets
and fear consumes the nations -
some will reject the very notion there is a 'God'.
Others, will perhaps pray in earnest for the first time in their lives to God
in the hope that he will save us from this dark and anxious time.

As Jesus came to his people he forced them to think hard
about what was important in their lives,
Some would welcome him into their hearts others would reject him.

In some respects little changes!
The Psalmist of course was succinct in his prayer,
'O Lord save us, lead us to success.'

Holy week reveals many aspects of human nature, some good, some not so.
Reading the Bible points us towards both past trials and future hope.

The journey ahead of us all is uncertain,
my prayer for the world, for each one of us is that we find Faith to believe
and allow God's love to journey with us,
to enter into the anxious centre of our struggles, and to save us from our fears.

May God lead us all back to a place of hope
where life in all its fullness will flourish once again..

Peace be with you. AMEN

Prayers for the World

Gracious God, there is no-one who goes unnoticed
as you tread the road with us.

Show us ways of hearing the cries of your people;
help us to do that which is good
and compassionate towards one another.
Help us in our human relationships,
to respect and to give thanks for those making great sacrifices
for the wellbeing of all who suffer;
hear our prayers for the world,
and especially for all on our hearts at this time, old or young.

(Silently name those we pray for)

Hold onto our hands as we journey forth and keep our hearts
firmly rooted in love and hope. AMEN

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
Let your unfailing love bring hope to the world;
may all who call upon your name
find in you their hope and your eternal salvation.

For the love of Christ, AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But Deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever.

AMEN

Closing Prayer

God be with us
drive away any doubt or darkness,
all fear and anxiety
that we may know that you live in us
and in your love we may find our hope.

God be among us
God be beside us
God go before us
For you are the way, the truth and our life.
AMEN

Blessing

Saviour God,
may every breath we take be for your glory,
may every footstep follow the path of your Son.
strengthen and settle us in our faith;
that we may be a blessing to the world and to each other,
now and always. AMEN.