**Palm Sunday**

**Sunday 28th March**

Introduction & welcome: *Rev Trish*

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

The Gathering: *John Delieu*

Lord Jesus Christ,

**approach and enter the city of our hearts.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

**correct our priorities and still the clamour.**

Lord Jesus Christ,

**find your home in us and give us peace.**

A prayer of confession: *Cerys Bennett*

Forgive us, O God.

Our cloaks of faith are thin with excuse,

frayed with neglect,

crumpled with forgetfulness

and torn with abuse.
Lord, forgive us. Lord, save us. Lord, hear us.
**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

*Silence*

Hear the words of grace ‘Your sins are forgiven’.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

The Collect: *Berwyn Thomas*

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Palms:

*Lesley Brown*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 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.  If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’”  They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?”  They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.  Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.

*Richard Pickles*

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” 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.

A Prayer of Praise: *Des Roberts*

As the crowds gathered to welcome and celebrate the coming kingdom of freedom, peace and justice, so we lay ‘our cloaks’ under his feet as signs of our commitment to the donkey-riding king, Jesus Christ our Lord. His vision is our vision.

His kingdom is our kingdom. His call is our call.

His journey is our journey. His life is our life.
**Hosanna!**

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

The Passion according to St Mark: *Mark 15: 1-39*

*Chris Lawton, Narrator:*

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.  Pilate asked him,

*Michael Winwood:* *Are you the King of the Jews?*

He answered him,

*Rev Matt:* *You say so.*

Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

*Michael Winwood:* *Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.*

But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.  Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.  So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.  Then he answered them

*Michael Winwood:* *Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?*

For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.  But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.  Pilate spoke to them again,

*Michael Winwood:* *Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?*

They shouted back,

***All: Crucify him!***

Pilate asked them,

*Michael Winwood:* *Why, what evil has he done?*

But they shouted all the more

***All: Crucify him!***

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.  And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

***All: Hail, King of the Jews!***

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).  And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him.  The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.”  And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

*Dawn Jones:* *Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!*

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

*Ann Wilkinson:* *He saved others; he cannot save himself.*

*Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.*

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.  At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

 *Rev Matt:* *Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*

which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

*Ferelith Smith:* *Listen, he is calling for Elijah.*

And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

*Sue Tye:* *Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.*

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Silence*

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.  Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

*Alan Tiltman:* *Truly this man was God’s Son!*

A prayer of intercession: *Jean Owen*

Almighty and everlasting God,
We pray for the rootless in our society:

those who know nothing of love and security,

those who have no one to love, no place to call their own.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who live in cities:

those who come with eager anticipation,
those who enter seeking refuge;

the many who look at shop windows showing goods they cannot afford, and those who can easily afford them.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who make their living in the city:

those elected to positions of civic leadership,

all who pay their council tax,

and those with the responsibility of spending it.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you entered the city of Jerusalem in all its rich diversity to celebrate the glory of God,

to conquer by love the forces that demean humankind.

enter the cities of our land, through your church.

enter the cities of our heart, through your Spirit.

**Hear our prayers,and by your power transform all life.**

**For Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

Silence

We pray together as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father…**

The Peace: *Rev Kate*

May God, who watches the world with us, grant peace in our hearts and hope in our lives, that we may be at peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

Tangnefedd yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi bob amser

**And also with you**

Blessing: *Rev Yvonne*

May the blessing of God, who resides in our hopes and our dreams, grant us peace.

May the blessing of Jesus, who rides to wild acclaim and waving palm branches, grant us peace.

May the blessing of the Spirit,
who holds us through fears and nightmares, grant us peace, and the hopes and dreams of the dawning ofan Easter morning. **Amen.**

*Hymn: My song is love unknown (mute!) (* *If there’s time)* *https://youtu.be/bWRcAa-nFIA*

Go in the light and peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**