



Palm Sunday - Sunday April 13th, 2025 ***The Fig Tree Worship Resource***



Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Will you invite them to bring coats to wave and put in the aisle (safely)? You could have palm branches up the font, or in the pews for people to wave. You might want to make palm crosses from the fronds. These are often kept and burnt on Ash Wednesday the following year. There are plenty of YouTube clips or online printable instruction sheets.

*Read: **Psalm 118:26-29 (The Message - alt)***

Blessed are you who enter in God's name,
from God's house we bless you!

God is God,

you have bathed us in light.

Adorn the shrine with garlands,

hang colored banners above the altar!

You're my God, and I thank you.

O my God, I lift high your praise.

Thank God—God is so good.

God's love never quits!

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



*Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress*

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land and her peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the *(please name the people on whose land you gather)* People, the Traditional Custodians, have blessed this place through their law and customs, their care and life. We pay respects to their Elders and leaders past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land.

Singing - All glory, praise and honour TiS 333

OR: The King of glory comes TiS 279

Prayer

God of donkeys and parades, of coats and cloaks and palms and people with varying memories, stories and experiences, we come today with mixed feelings.

We know that this triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem happens just before his walk to the cross. He is riding through the city gates, towards certain arrest. He's not sneaking in the back door or avoiding the conflict before him.

God help us to be like that. To be bold about what we believe is right. To move with calm confidence into contested spaces and claim the room for love and peace.

time of quiet

Help us when we are too scared of what others might think, or when we give up because we seem to be failing, or even when we can't be bothered trying.

time of quiet

Help us to know when to speak and when to be silent, when to step in and when to hold back, when to lift up and when to let go.

time of quiet

God who walks before us, as Jesus walked through the doors of death to life, by the breath of the Spirit make us generous in our loving and persistent in our demands for justice for all. Forgive our failings. Wake us from our sleepy denial. Raise our voices in protest as we move together as one church, with one love, on one path of peace.

And all the people say:

Hosanna, save us, amen, amen, amen.



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Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Listening

Read: Luke 19:28-40

For these words of faith and for Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth

Palm Sunday is an occasion for a procession “Hosanna”, cheering in some of the gospels, in Luke: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

This is a procession like no other. We process into church on special occasions, like inductions. I remember when the Elders would process into church with the communion elements. We have processions at weddings and funerals. Although sometimes given other names there are plenty of secular processions – Anzac Day, victorious football teams, the Olympic team, the Gay and Lesbian Mardi gras, the crowning of a king.

Processions can also be protests, Walk for Justice this Palm Sunday, the Soweto riots began as a peaceful protest walk, the Salt protests led by Ghandi, Martin Luther King’s march for black rights in Washington. You may know of others, where people gathered in a peaceful way to bring something to the notice of their leaders, sometimes with disastrous endings.

Was the journey of Jesus simply that or was it the fulfilment of prophecy? A protest against how God’s people had forgotten the prophecies of old and the central idea of being God’s people – to be a people set apart, in relationship with God the creator who cared for people and the world.

Luke shows us clearly that this journey is important. Jesus is going to Jerusalem for a reason. His disciples know the end of the story and have indicated that they don’t want Jesus to go. Luke alludes to prophecy using eight First Testament books to show that this must all happen. God is involved! Jesus rides as a king, the head of the parade with his followers, but not like a victorious military leader. He rides a donkey with no saddle, no armed companions, no warlike symbols or royal regalia. This is a different procession because Jesus is a different king.

Jesus’ followers are different too. I wonder who we would have found in that crowd – fishermen, tax collectors, those healed or seeking healing, Samaritans and others considered outside God’s people. Those cloaks spread on the ground were not garments of rich colours but plain, ordinary undyed cloth, nonetheless precious to the people who owned them. Jesus is the king of the oppressed and the suffering.

Would we have been in that crowd? Are we willing to leave all we have, use our precious garments to lay before Jesus? Who is the king we worship, someone who looks like us, who follows the practices of our local community, the regulations of our institutional church, a domesticated king? Or is he the king who performs miracles, heals the sick, loves the unlovable and brings the promise of eternal life?

The crowd on that Palm Sunday followed their king because he shared their hardships, relieved their suffering, accepted them when others deemed them unacceptable, gave them hope, and embodied God’s love for them. What does our procession look like and are we ready for the ending?

Singing - Trotting, trotting TiS 244

OR: Hail to the Lord’s anointed TiS 275



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Offering

What we bring is never enough, But here is what we have today. Bless these gifts, God of abundance, and use them and us, to bring about a peaceable place for all of life.
Amen.

Notices

Don't forget the **Palm Sunday Walk** today- "Stand together for Justice and Kindness" - the big one in Melbourne begins at Princes Bridge at 1pm.

The final report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was signed on 15 April 1991, with 339 recommendations.

Prayers for World & Community

Today of all days, Christ of the people,
help us to take our passion for justice
to the streets.
Make our protest loud and long.
Hear our Hosannas and save us from apathy.
We shout **Hosanna, save us.**

for the refugees all over the world,
those who know only the weary tread
of constantly moving on,
those who live under inadequate shelter,
with nothing left of home
except memories,
those who are being tormented by the countries
where they have sought asylum.
We shout **Hosanna, save them.**

for the poor of the world,
starving for want of food and water,
dying from lack of adequate healthcare,

for the ones exclude from education,
because of gender, slavery or oppression,

for the ones caught in endless dispute,
at home or between countries,
We shout **Hosanna, save them.**

for the rough sleepers
who would rather find a home,
for the children
without parental care and guidance,
for the parents
who have lost their children ,
We shout **Hosanna, save them.**

And we pray for the leaders of the world,
Turn around those leaders who are:
propagating violence and greed,
walking away from the common good,
neglecting social responsibility,
reducing government services
and walking back policies of inclusion.
We shout **Hosanna, save them.**

Give strength to those leaders who are:
speaking the truth in love,
calling for peace,
standing strong against the hate,
working for a fair and just world,
connecting us with each other
and bringing justice for all
We shout **Hosanna, save them.**

We pray for our church and all the faith
communities around the world,
that we will have the courage we need
to speak truth to power,
to risk the way of the cross,
to resist the abuse of power,
to do justice,
to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.
We shout **Hosanna, save us.**

In the quiet we pray for those dear to us, the
grieving, the lonely, the sick, the dying ...

We shout **Hosanna, save them.**

As we pray together as Jesus taught us:



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The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Singing - Ride on, ride on TiS 348

OR this re-write by George Stuart, (permission granted to use in worship with acknowledgement and CCLI licence.)

Ride on; ride on in majesty
Yet seeking no hostility;
To ride a colt is to proclaim
That peace, compassion is your aim.

Ride on; ride on compass'nately
For victims of cruel tyranny;
The poor and outcasts need a voice;
Give hope in which they can rejoice.

Ride on; ride on courageously;
Your message of equality
Will anger priests and Roman lords;
They'll silence you; may use their swords!

Can we ride with him here today?
Can we ride with him all the way?
For peace, compassion still remain
The ways we can advance God's reign.

Blessing

We need your blessing more than ever,
Christ who walks before us.
As we move with you into Holy Week,
keep us with you.
Forgive our falling asleep and our denials,
our lack of understanding and our faltering faith.
Lead us on, take us with you.

Siblings in Christ,
go and know that the Spirit goes with you,
as a guide for your feet and companion for your souls.

**We go in love and peace,
in the name of Christ, Amen.**

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