



Palm Sunday

Worship @ Home April 5, 2020



What Can You See?

Getting Ready

As you set up for your worship @ home today, if you're able, go into your garden and bring a piece of leaf or 'branch' to your table.

As you do this task sing to yourself the melody:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

God's mercies never come to an end

They are new every morning

New every morning

Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord

Great is thy faithfulness!

1. Edith McNeill

What can You See?

When you look out your window, see the land and the trees, the sky and all nature:

We live on land cared for since time immemorial by the First Peoples of this place: and we pay our respects to their Elders past & present as a means of healing and reconciliation in our Nation.

Light your Candle

Christ our Light,
Bring light to our World.

Call to Prayerful Worship @ Home

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed be the Name of the LORD!

We gather in our homes on Palm Sunday

■ from Fish Creek to Cowes,

■ Tarwin Lower to Foster,

■ Toora to Inverloch,

■ Wonthaggi to every Christian congregation

We gather to dwell with God in prayer, praise: reading the Bible and reflection, and even song!!!

As we live the Gospel together in these challenging days, let us worship God in Spirit and truth. Amen

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let gratitude rise from the heart like smoke from a candle, curling around in the air, because you, O God, fill our life with abundance and blessing, always, without end.

Let this gratitude rise from us all, forming clouds of thanksgiving above our rooftops, because your love never ceases, never fades, never grows weary or faint.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

Allow me to enter freely into your dwelling place so I can sing your praises with full voice. Here and now, right where I am, let me come close to you.





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I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

*Here I am known and heard, freed from all that held me back from you.
You have been discarded and dismissed, but you uphold all of life with your sure presence.*

**This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Your creative power is a constant source of wonder, awe-inspiring, spectacular.
In this moment, in this day that you have crafted, we will sing with delight and bliss.*

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

*As we sing, we implore you; hear our Hosannas
and let them blossom with the fruit of loving-kindness*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

*From here in your midst,
where we are, apart,
but gathered in voice and heart with your people everywhere,
we become a living house of love for you.
Our celebration dances freely into the sparkling light of life,
as far as we can reach,
as long as we have breath.*

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

*Gratitude rises from my heart like smoke from a candle and drifts into your ever-open arms, that's where I belong; you are my God, my home, my song and my life.
Let this gratitude rise from us all, forming clouds of thanksgiving above our rooftops, because your love never ceases, never fades, never grows weary or faint.*



The Gospel Matthew 21: 1-11

For these words of Faith,
and Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Dwelling with the Word

Today's reflection from Rev Jennie Gordon is attached to the end of this document.

Hymn: 348 Ride on, Ride on.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry!
O Saviour, meek, pursue your road
with palms & scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty
in lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.





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Ride on, ride on in majesty;
the winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty
in lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain
then take, O God, your power and reign!

2. Henry Hart Milman

Prayers of the People

(Say the bold part in a whisper).

For the beauty of this day wherever we are
and whatever it holds

For your love is steadfast and forever O God

We feel the weight of our humanity as we
become more and more aware of the plight of
others.

We see the queues of people without jobs
and know that each one represents a place
of hardship and pain which impacts others
around them. Families, dependants, in fact all
of us are impacted in some way by the lack
of jobs. Some won't have had their jobs for
very long and are again plummeted into need.
Others will have had jobs for years and now
have the disruption of unfamiliar struggles. All
will feel the weight in their finances but also in
their sense of self and security.

Your love is steadfast and forever O God

Times are tough enough for those with
problems with mental health. Being shut in
and isolated compounds this. We pray for
these people in particular. We pray for the
lonely and others who will be impacted by

too much time alone, and those forced into
unrelenting closeness in families in conflict.

Your love is steadfast and forever O God

Businesses, new and old, close their doors.
Our streets are quiet and strange. Our
churches are quiet and their light appears
dimmed. Our fellowship is different and
strange.

Your love is steadfast and forever O God
Please be with our leaders and help them
guide us in humility and compassion. May
they remember the struggling and voiceless
and light our way through this struggle.

Your love is steadfast and forever O God

We think of those we know in particular who
are ill, struggling mentally or physically, or
despairing, who cannot pay bills, who are frail.
We are indeed thrown back on your promises.
They remind us that many times before
has humanity been thrown into chaos and
disruption, yet you are there, and have been
there and will be there.

**God of Mercy, Justice and Compassion,
Your love is steadfast and forever.
Hallelujah!**

and we pray together what Jesus taught:

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 for ever. Amen.**





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Offering:

■ You might like to place your offering in a safe place and give thanks to God.

Notices:

Because today is Palm Sunday, make sure to ring a couple of people today.

The synod has a number of resources to support you during this time of communities not being able to gather together.

Visit victas.uca.org.au

Blessing

As we live apart from one another in these challenging days
May this time of dwelling with God
Sustain and encourage us all.
From Toora, Foster, Fish Creek, Tarwin Lower,
Inverloch, Wonthaggi, and Cowes.

We have joined in the praise of Palm Sunday,
in prayer, and reflection.
May the God who is Love,
may the Jesus, who brings Salvation on a donkey,
and the Spirit, who binds us together in Love
dwell with you and those you love.
May we live the Gospel we have received,
share the Good News we live
and remain safe, in Christ,
this day and every day. **Amen.**

*** extinguish your candle: take time to watch the smoke spiral upward**

Now, look out the window:

What can you see?

Get a cuppa, and come back to this place to watch as you drink.

Then, ring a friend and tell them about what you noticed.

*Shared with love from the Uniting Church
Toora, Foster, Fish Creek, Tarwin Lower,
Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Cowes, to the wider
church and beyond!*

And if you would like to, in fact we encourage you to mindfully colour in the image on the next page: even if you only have a grey lead pencil, you can use different pressures to shade: and even patterns: try some dots and dashes!!!

1. ©-1974, 1975 Celebration Services Edith McNeill CCLI 241 739

2. Henry Hart Milman 1791-1868 alt.TIS 348 Used with Permission CCLI 241 739

Today's reflection from Rev Jennie Gordon, Presbytery minister @ Corner Inlet, Shearwater Team Leader and Presbytery Resourcing Minister, Gippsland. Prayers are by Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson @ Wonthaggi-Inverloch-Tarwin Lower. Our reflection from the Psalm is a gift from Rev. Jennie Gordon





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Palm Sunday Colouring!!



Worship for You @ Home: Palm Sunday. Uniting Church in Australia, VicTas, Presbytery of Gippsland



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



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Reflection

arrival

Matthew 21: 1-11

arrival at his departure destination

humble, he rides
monarch of the margins

victor for the vanquished

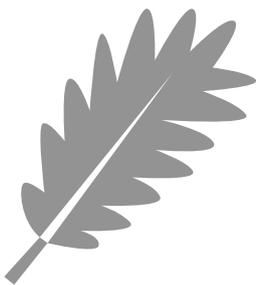
Jerusalem, here I am

as cloaks cascade
and branches baste earth's bare crust
the city shakes
and even heaven trembles, quakes

and here begins the ending of the story
when shouts of 'save us' abdicate
to cries of 'save yourself'
as thorns adorn the crown, not gilded glory

how blessed is the one who comes...

1. From Dad and Daughter, Prayers and Poems



**Do you have a leaf
or a stick with you?
Pick it up
and hold it in your hand.**

This leaf or stick came from a place close to you, from a growing, living tree or bush. It's a small piece of a bigger organism and on its own it may seem a bit insignificant, but as a reminder of the whole plant, it's magnificent!

So are you!

As we are gathered apart, this Palm Sunday, we're reminded that we are all part of the whole, the whole body of Christ. From our lounge or kitchen chairs we are the crowd of witnesses, shouting Hosannas, welcoming Jesus into the city.

Today we hear the story of Jesus' entry in Jerusalem and are reminded that it's a forerunner to the events of Holy Week. The beginning of the climactic last days of Jesus and here, at the end of Lent as we prepare to walk with Jesus to the cross and beyond, we are offered assurance; the ancient prophecies are being fulfilled. We are anchored in the tradition. God is with us.

Do you see the flow of the passage? It begins with an intimate setting; Jesus and the disciples. There is a 'coming near', a sense that the destination is close, the end of the journey in more ways than one. They are at the Mount of Olives, and the events of the coming days will lead to another hill not far away. Jesus speaks with prophetic knowledge about a 'tethered ass and foal', and we are reminded that he is coming into a city that 'kills the prophets', with a full understanding and awareness of what will unfold.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing..
Matthew 23:37

As the scene unfolds the crowds gather, some spreading cloaks on the road and some waving branches, greeting the Son of David as he enters the City of David. Calling out to be heard and saved. And when he enters Jerusalem the whole city is in commotion, asking 'who is this'?





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What's your answer? Who is this Jesus, acclaimed by crowds, who comes in this bewildering way, humble and riding on a donkey, bearing peace and loving-kindness? The answer in today's reading is that "he is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee." What's your answer?

* (pause for thought)

From an intimate setting, to a gathering crowd, to the whole city, there's a movement happening. Tables will be turned and there will be more intimate scenes around a table, and there will be more crowded scenes of shouting, and then it will reverse until there is a forsaken man hanging on a cross with women at his feet and bandits either side. And then.... but not yet!

Today is a day for crowds and with this global pandemic there are no crowds. No waving branches or spreading cloaks up and down the aisle of the church. No communal making crosses from palm fronds to help us through the coming week and burn on Ash Wednesday next year.

In some ways our world is like a city under siege, in lockdown against the spread of the virus. How can we span the distance between this story of wide-open gates and mass gatherings and our current reality?

See the leaf, the twig, and remember that it is part of the whole, and you are also. Each act of kindness that we offer in the name of Jesus is a waving of the palm branch, a celebration of the coming of the Messiah, the monarch of the margins. Making a phone call,

lighting a candle, writing a letter, receiving a care package, praying for those close and far away, replying to an email, talking over the back fence... are the figurative laying down of cloaks and waving of branches, paving the way for Jesus to enter into the lives of those around us. They are signs of hope. Signs that our God, who has dwelt amongst the people from before the beginning of time, continues to be with us; through the coming days of Holy Week, through the darkness and into the light, through this pandemic and into the new world that emerges after our cocooned confinement.

We are anchored in the tradition.
God is with us.

*Gratitude rises from my heart
like smoke from a candle
and drifts into your ever-open arms,
that's where I belong;
you are my God, my home,
my song and my life.
Let this gratitude rise from us all,
forming clouds of thanksgiving
above our rooftops,
because your love never ceases,
never fades, never grows weary or faint.*

1. From Dad and Daughter, Prayers and Poems © 2012, Ron & Jennie Gordon

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Palm Leaf Cross Directions

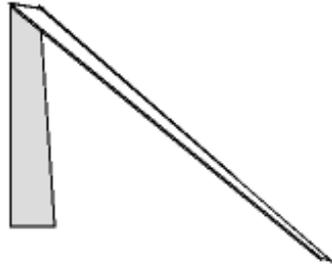
Supplies: One palm leaf strip about 24-26" in length, 1/2" in width, tapering to the end.

STEP: 1

Fold the palm leaf down about 5-6" from the bottom.



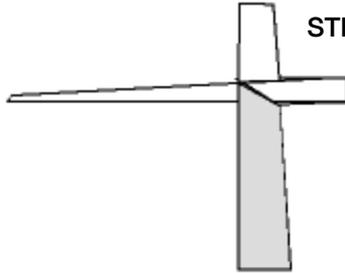
STEP: 2



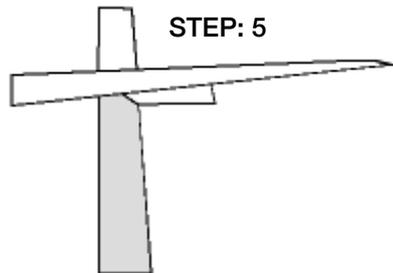
STEP: 3



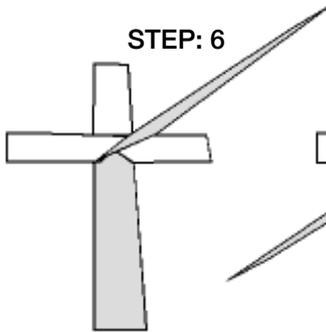
STEP: 4



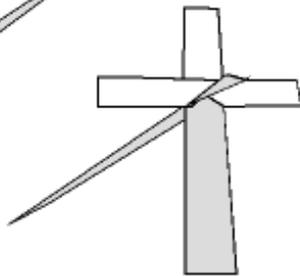
STEP: 5



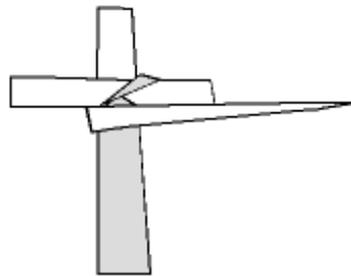
STEP: 6



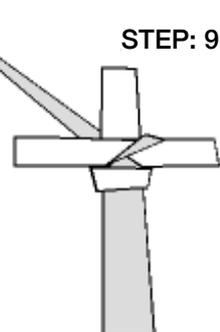
STEP: 7



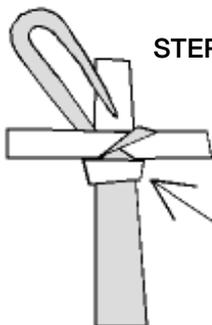
STEP: 8



STEP: 9

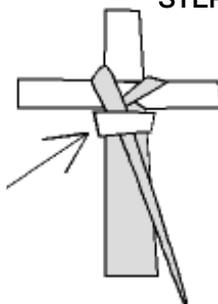


STEP: 10

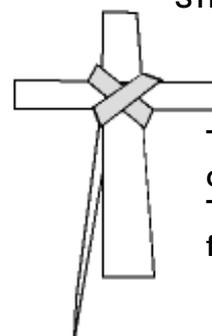


Tuck in the tapered end of the palm leaf and pull it through.

STEP: 11



STEP: 12



Turn the cross over. This is the front view.

