



## “Hosanna to the son of David!”

### ***Introductory prayer***

The world belongs to God,  
the earth and all its people.  
How good it is, how wonderful,  
to live together in unity.  
Love and faith come together,  
justice and peace join hands.  
Open our lips, O God,  
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

### ***Confession***

Holy God, maker of all,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus Christ, servant of the poor,  
have mercy on us.  
Holy Spirit, breath of life,  
have mercy on us.

At the centre of our faith is the belief that God' goodness is at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong. Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty. (*silence*)

For the dullness of our vision, Father forgive.  
For the weakness of our faith, Jesus forgive.  
For the joylessness of our living, Spirit forgive.

Holy Three, have mercy upon us; forgive us our sins,  
help us to seek,  
help us to see,  
help us to serve you.

Listen to the words of Jesus, words that we can trust:

*“Don't be afraid, your sins are forgiven. I love you. Come and follow me”.*

### ***A Prayer for God's help***

Move among us O God; give us life.  
Let your people rejoice in you.  
Make our hearts clean within us.  
Renew us in mind and spirit.  
Give us again the joy of your help.  
With your spirit of freedom, sustain us.

### ***The Collect for the day (Palm Sunday)***

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.**

### ***The Readings for the day***

New Testament: [Philippians 2. 5-11](#)

The Gospel: [Matthew 21. 1-11](#)

*At the end of the readings:*

For the word of God in Scripture,  
for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us,  
Thanks be to God.



*Image from Broad Oak  
Methodist Chapel*

### ***A Short Reflection (Revd Sean Cathie)***

With the crowds welcoming our Lord into Jerusalem, shouting and waving palms, we have a wonderful picture of the ideal way for us to greet the coming of God among us.

What a contrast with the kings and rulers of this world! He rides, not a magnificent horse, but an ass, that animal so docile we let the children ride them at the seaside.

We often compare this crowd with that later one calling for his death. But the important contrast is between our Lord and all the other characters in the story. Caught up in conflicts, all somehow end up at odds. Taking part in a live reading in church makes this real, especially when we, the congregation, have to call out that terrifying cry of hatred, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

The Philippians reading spells out how our Lord follows a very different way. Only later do we realise, as the first disciples did, how easily we imitate the rivalry of the fighters and cowards rather than our Lord's way of peace . . . This humbling discovery is necessary for us to appreciate how different his way is. But that is for later. For today, and this Holy Week, we follow our Lord up to the holy city of Jerusalem and to the unfolding climax of his life . . .

### ***Prayer***

Lord Jesu Christ,  
You humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
And in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
Give us the mind to follow you  
And to live in peace with all,  
To the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### ***Our Affirmation of Faith***

We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## ***Let us pray***

You may like to:

- give thanks for something good that has happened for you
- pray for someone you know who is in trouble of some sort and those who are on your own heart and mind this day
- pray for your friends and family
- pray for those who are sick
- remember someone who has died and those bereaved.

## ***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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ***From St Teresa of Avila***

Let nothing disturb thee.  
Nothing affright thee;  
All things are passing;  
God never changeth.  
Patient endurance attaineth to all things;  
Who God possesseth in nothing is wanting;  
Alone God sufficeth.

## ***Closing prayer***

O God, you have set before us a great hope  
that your kingdom will come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming.  
Make us ready to thank you for the signs of its dawning, and to pray and work for  
the perfect day when your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## ***Blessing***

May the blessing of the God of life be ours,  
the blessing of the loving Christ be ours,  
the blessing of the Holy Spirit be ours,  
to cherish us, to help us, to make us holy.

## ***Dismissal***

Let us go in peace  
to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**