

A Worship for You at Home
Palm Sunday 5th April, 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!

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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.

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 for Rev Jennie Gordon, minister @ Corner Inlet, Shearwater Team Leader and Presbytery Resourcing Minister, Gippsland

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.

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!

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

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.

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 Uniting Church Assembly, has a number of resources to support you during this time of communities not being able to gather together.

<https://assembly.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. Tell them about what you noticed.

Today's liturgy is Rev. Ian Turnnidge @ Cowes
Rev. Jennie Gordon, minister @ Corner Inlet,
Shearwater Team Leader and Presbytery
Resourcing Minister, Gippsland has prepared the
reflection and

Prayers are by Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson @
Wonthaggi-Inverloch-Tarwin Lower

Our reflection from the Psalm is a gift from Rev.
Jennie Gordon



*Shared with love from the Uniting Church
Toora, Fish Creek, Foster, 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 in the next column: even if you only have a grey lead pencil, you can use different pressures to shade: and even patterns: try some dots and dashes!!!

PALM SUNDAY COLOURING!!

