



Palm Sunday, April 10th, 2022 *The Fig Tree Worship Resource*

Gathering & Lighting the Candle

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

This Shaker song is believed to be written by Joseph Brackett (1797–1882). The tune *Simple Gifts* can be found at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_Gifts

Light the candle.
The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Call to worship

We gather to worship you,
God beyond time,
God enfleshed,
God indwelling.

Eager to join the multitude,
we wave, and wail and wait
to catch a glimpse of you
humble and riding on a donkey.

Be with us in our enthusiasm.
Give us voices to shout for justice
and hearts to do your will
for the sake of the world you love, Amen.

Acknowledging



As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and these waters. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Singing - All glory, praise and honour TiS 333



Prayer

Psalm 118:28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

We give you thanks, God of all,
for your constant presence amongst us
for the words of grace that you put in our mouths
for the servant life that you call us into,
and for your abundant love that fills our hearts.

In the quiet we pause and are thankful
for the many ways you bring life
to us, and to those around us...
(time of quiet)

God of quiet spaces and loud parades
we confess that there are times
when we hesitate to speak out against injustice.
Forgive us, humble monarch of life
Hosanna, save us.

We confess that there are times when we
hesitate to offer kindness for fear of the cost,
Forgive us, humble monarch of life
Hosanna, save us.

We confess that there are times
when we hesitate to call on you,
to recognise you in the street,
to join the crowds praising you
Forgive us, humble monarch of life
Hosanna, save us.

Save us from evil,
save us from apathy,
save us from turning away
as we journey with you towards the cross.
Amen.

(time of quiet)

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
you are living stones; you are the house of God.
You are loved, forgiven, healed and made new.
Thanks be to God. Amen.



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Listening

Read: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

For these words of faith and for Jesus the Word:

Thanks be to God.

Reflecting - Rev. Moira Dodsworth

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the
name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and
glory in the highest
heaven!”

Luke uses interesting words for the crowd of disciples to praise God in this part of Jesus journey to Jerusalem. We have been travelling on this journey through Lent, we know the end of the story, in some ways Lent focuses on the end of the story, we prepare ourselves for Jesus’ death and resurrection. We set this forty days apart, different from the rest of the year, a time for getting ready, so Palm Sunday comes almost as a surprise.

We stop thinking of Jesus' death to be reminded of his kingship. This passage, this parade is about the Messiah, the king who comes to save the people. The parade is so carefully constructed to fit the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Jesus has given the instructions about collecting the colt, one that has never been ridden. This is

not a warhorse, ridden by a triumphant king. As the animal is different, so the king will be different. This entry into Jerusalem is not a triumphal one at the end of a war, it is very unlike what the crowds would have seen from the Romans. The cloaks thrown on the ground would not be the purples and rich materials of wealthy families welcoming a victorious army. The crowd, Luke tells us, is disciples and from his accounts, we know that disciples are fisherman, a reformed tax collector, those who follow Jesus - lepers who have been healed, a woman whose child was healed, a family with a member no longer controlled by an evil spirit, a Samaritan, all the people we have met on Jesus’ journey.

This parade is ordinary people welcoming the servant king, the kingdom is the one of a loving community. This “king” comes in the name of the Lord and proclaims peace in heaven, as the angels proclaimed at his birth: “glory in the highest heaven.”

Where do we stand this Palm Sunday? How do we proclaim a king of peace, a king who reclaims the outsiders in our society? Are we willing to be in a crowd of outcasts, those on the edges who call for peace? A peace which is not just an end to war but is a sharing of resources, the living of a life which is gentle on the earth, treating all people as the children of God, no one as an “illegal”, no one as unworthy of the mercy of God.

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the
name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and
glory in the highest
heaven!”

Singing - The King of glory comes TiS 279

The Fig Tree Worship Resource comes to you from the Presbytery of Gippsland, Uniting Church in Australia with blessings and permission to use the content in worship services with acknowledgement.



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Responding:

Prayers for World & Community

Today we pray for the people who take to the streets in protest, in places across the world:

God, bless those who are oppressed,
brutalised and marginalised,
for reasons of race, religion, sexuality or status,
who hold signs reminding those in power
that their lives matter,
who speak up against discrimination,
who rally for the common good.

**Keep their voices strong,
help us to hear them
and take action for the sake of humanity.**

God, bless the young ones and the others,
who continue to call us into critical action
on climate change.

**Keep their voices strong,
help us to hear them
and take action for the planet.**

God, bless the victims of war
taking to the streets of danger,
leaving what is left of home,
not knowing where they are going.

**Keep their hope alive
help us to see them
and take action to bring about peace.**

Today we also pray for the people
who are silenced in different ways:

God, bless those who are silently starving,
and dying of preventable disease,
and the aid agencies
who struggle to meet the need.

Bless those who are hidden behind shame,
prisons and enslavement,
and the ones who see them
but are powerless to intervene.

Bless those who are overlooked or abused
because of differing abilities or expectations,
and the ones who strengthen and support them.

Bless us all,
the ones who will take to the streets today,
the ones who will cheer from the footpaths
and the ones who pray silently
as we join together in shared prayer:

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.

Passing the peace

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

Offering

Along with our gifts of time, money and goods,
we offer you our lives, again, God of many
names. We bring back to you what you have
given to us; hearts full of love, so that our lives
and these gifts may be used to bring justice and
healing to all.

Notices

Where is your closest Palm Sunday Walk for
Justice for Refugees being held?

From the Amnesty International website:
<https://www.amnesty.org.au/events/palm-sunday-wonthaggi/> South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees (SGRAR) joined by local churches, will meet in Wonthaggi, under the mine whistle at Apex Park at 2pm to speak about and walk for freedom and justice for refugees and asylum seekers.



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We ask for the end of arbitrary, indefinite detention, release of all refugees and asylum seekers from on and offshore detention followed by safe resettlement, the granting of permanent protection visas to all refugees in Australia currently on temporary protection visas, a creation of 20,000 extra places for the Afghan refugees currently in danger in Afghanistan, reunification of families, an increase of humanitarian visas from 13,750 to 50,000. We ask for freedom and justice for refugees and asylum seekers. Please come and join us.

Singing - Ride on, ride on in majesty TiS 348

Blessing

Send us out to worship you,
God beyond time,
God enfleshed,
God indwelling.

Eager to join the multitude,
we wave, and wail and wait
to catch a glimpse of you
humble and riding on a donkey.

Be with us in our enthusiasm.
Give us voices to shout for justice
and hearts to do your will
for the sake of the world, Amen.

Reflection: Rev. Moira Dodsworth
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Beneath the Fig Tree *a daily Lenten space:*

For each day of Lent we will offer a bible reading and a comment or question for you to sit with. You could create a space that you go to each day at a particular time, light a candle, journal the images and thoughts that come to you, listen to music, or simply sit in silence. The prayer words might remain with you for the day and open you to the needs of others and the yearnings within.

Monday April 11th - Read: John 13: 8

Do you recall a time when you said 'never' to Jesus, and you were shown to be very wrong? How might we allow Jesus to wash our feet?

Prayer words: never / unless

Tuesday April 12th - Read: John 13: 15

How might we learn from the example of Jesus? What does that mean for us as the church? How do we receive from the Spirit in order to give?

Prayer words: example / done

Wednesday April 13th - Read: John 13: 34

Those 3 words: **love one another**; how do you live them everyday? Not just any kind of love, but the same love that is shown to us in Jesus.

Prayer words: commandment / love

Thursday April 14th, Maundy Thursday

Read: John 13: 35

Can others see that love, see Jesus, in you?

Prayer words: disciples / love

Some churches have a simple evening meal, listen to readings, share communion and maybe even finish by a fire-pit outside, in preparation for tomorrow - Good Friday. On your own or with others, how might you mark this evening?