

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 28 March, 2021
Palm/Passion Sunday**

Hosannas of Substance



Music Come into the streets with me

Welcome and Call to Worship

Paraphrase of Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

**And look, now we stand in that place,
in the city beloved of God**

Jerusalem, proudly is built
to gather the people together.

**She welcomes the children of God
who worship their Maker in unity.**

Here they give thanks to you, Lord
According to God's deep desire;

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
May they prosper whose love is for you.**

For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, 'May God's peace be in you.'

**Out of love for the House of the Lord
I will pray for its well-being for ever.**

Hymn 378 Praise to the holiest (vv1,3,6)

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise, —
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise, —
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Living God,
as we step into Holy Week,
we come to worship trusting
that through focussing on Jesus' journey
you will speak to us on our journey.
For this we give you thanks and praise.

Lord Jesus, you rode into Jerusalem, as you enter the world,
revealing another kind of reality.
A reality where death does not have the last word;
a reality where pride and selfishness are defeated
by love and self-giving.

May we be reminded
that you know and understand suffering
and you offer to meet us, and hear again,
our struggles over this past year.
May this week help us to name, and offer to you our wounds
in anticipation of your healing touch.

You seek to free us all from that we regret,
and mistakes that we have made.
Loving God, as we observe again the sacrifice of Jesus,
help us to know that this act in history
points to your willingness to forgive,
and of your giving people a chance to begin again.

We give thanks for signs of new life around us and within us.
Hear us as we pray together the prayer our Saviour taught saying:

**Our Father in heaven.
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Reflection The tale of the donkey

Scripture Reading John 12:12-26

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

Anthem Hear my Prayer

O Lord, please hear my prayer,
in the morning when I rise.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

O Lord, please hear my prayer,
keep me safe within your arms.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

When my work on earth is done,
And you come to take me home.
Just to know I'm bound for glory.
And to hear you say well done.
Done with sin and sorrow.
Have mercy. Amen.

Music: Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Reflection These are the hands (After Michael Rosen)

These are the hands...
that stack the shelves, that cook the meals
that wheel the gurneys, that farm the fields
that make the beds, that clear the drains
deliver the milk, guard the train.

These are the hands...
that run the bus, that pen the poems
that drive the vans, that run the homes
that run food banks day after day
that gather and pack and then give it away.

These are the hands...
that leave the gifts, harvest the crops
collect the waste, that serve in the shops
that clean the toilets, report the news
that lap the yard and that sell the booze.

These are the hands...
that tend the parks, that bottle the pills
that pick the fruit, that wave the bills
that sweep the streets, that visit the sick,
that teach our children arithmetic.
One and one is two, two and two is four.
We don't want to go back to the way we were before.

These are the hands...
that carry the shopping, that pull the weeds
deliver the babies, plant the seeds
that mix the medicine, bring the post
these are the hands that matter the most.

These are the hands
who do the work nobody sees
who left their countries overseas
to work the world for you and me
these are the hands...

And after the clapping has faded away
remember what we learned today.

Poem The touch of the towel

Hymn 374 From heaven you came, helpless babe

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Prayers of the People

Lord Jesus, you rode into Jerusalem, as you enter the world
as a different kind of king,
a serving, humble and challenging king
calling people not to servitude but into service.

Lord Jesus, you rode into Jerusalem, as you enter the world,
heralding another kind of kingdom.
One where the least are the greatest,
where the meek inherit the earth.

So, Lord, we think today about how you are being served through acts of self-giving love.
We pray for those who journey alongside someone else who is suffering. May they be
strengthened and supported through 'care for the carers'. We pray for all those who are
facing pain, suffering, bereavement or distress. Bring your comfort.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

As the rainbow lights that shone in the night sky over Edinburgh on the anniversary of the
first lockdown, we are mindful of the millions throughout the world who have lost their lives
to the pandemic over the past year and all who grieve for them.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

This week, of all weeks, we remember sacrifices made for others. Sacrifices that stand in
stark opposition to greed and selfishness. We pray for those whose sacramental acts of
service often go unrecognised and undervalued. Help us honour their sacrifice by learning
from mistakes made and lessons learned.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, we offer back to you what is ours to do.

Take it into your hands
so that we can be used to bring even a flicker of love and compassion
that might not otherwise exist
and thus help herald your kingdom.
We pray, as we serve, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn 250 Sent by the Lord am I

Sent by the Lord am I;
my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.
Sent by the Lord am I;
my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is mine to do,
to set it really free.
Oh, help me to obey;
help me to do your will.

Words of Sending

Look at your hands – see the touch and the tenderness;
explore how their lines tell the story of your life.
Hold them open to receive the richness of the living world,
with which we come in contact every day.
Fold them together, in gratitude for those
whose lives touch ours, whose love holds us.
Cup them, open handed, to receive the blessing of God's compassion
and extend it to others.

Blessing

May God, whose arms were spread wide to embrace the whole world,
lead you into this Holy Week
and onward
into the fullness of Christ's love. Amen.

Organ

Fanfare

William Mathias

Worship Leaders: Rev Dr Rosie Magee, Jane Brown
Scripture Reader: Andrena Crawford
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris
The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West
Vocal ensemble: Frances Cooper, Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Tim Cooper,
Drew Crichton, Andrew Carvel
Come into the streets with me: Frances Cooper
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott
Digital Coordinator: Andrew Carvel

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