

Prayers for Palm Sunday

April 5th, 2020

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather to worship. We honour this history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation between all peoples, God and the land.

Lighting the Candle - Jesus said - I am the Light of the World

Call to Worship

Voice 1: Humble and riding on a donkey,

Voice 2: We greet you.

Voice 1: acclaimed by crowds and carolled by children,

Voice 2: We cheer you.

Voice 1: Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

Voice 2: We salute you, christ our lord.

Voice 1: You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity;

you are giving majesty a new face;

you are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing,

Voice 2: With them, with heart and voice, we shout 'hosanna!'

(From "Stages on the Way", 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland. Used with permission)

Opening Prayer

God of the world,

On this Palm Sunday we give you thanks for Jesus:

For the way he set his face to Jerusalem and for all that would entail, we thank you.

For those who helped him on his way, we thank you.

For the way he challenged people's understandings and ours as well, we thank you.

For the dignity he gave that beast of burden and many people he met too, we thank you.

For those he protected from exploitation by others more powerful, we thank you.

For the way he celebrated with the outsiders and the way he showed how best to live, we thank you.

For the great love for us, you have shown in Jesus, we give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2020)

Bible Reading - Matthew 21:1-7 (NRSV)

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.^[a]" ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

Passing the Peace:

Shalom my friends
God's peace my friends
Go with you now
And stay with you
In all you do
Shalom, shalom.

Bible Reading - Matthew 21:8-9

⁸ A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Children's Talk - Dave the Donkey by Lost Sheep

Bible Reading - Matthew 21:10-17

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.” ¹² Then Jesus entered the temple^[c] and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, “It is written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.”

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard^[d] the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry ¹⁶ and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?’”

¹⁷ He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

Message - Chaos: A Thousand Emotions

Communion

Invitation

Come now to the table – scattered as it is in our homes
Remember Jesus sat at many tables, at the tables of his friends
Come as it is in this space, he awaits you now.

Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray

Creating and creative God	We praise you
Dignifier and friend Jesus	We praise you
Guiding and Spirit of truth	We praise you
God you loved as so much, you gave us Jesus	We thank you
Jesus you cared for the unloved and unlovable	We thank you
Spirit you continue to bind us together in love	We thank you
The people you gave dignity	We will remember
The ones that followed even faltering	We will remember
even those betraying you	We will remember
This bread broken so all may have life	We take and eat
We take this wine poured out for the forgiveness of many	We take and drink
For a world without pain or confusion	We hope
For a new heaven and earth – healed and forgiven	We pray

And as we leave the table may we be bread ready to be broken for others; may we be wine poured out for many.
We pray in the name of Jesus – friend of all. Amen.

(Invitation and Prayer of Preparation by Cheryl Williams, 2020)

Words of Institution

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the ^[b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Prayers for Community and World

Prayer Points for this week include:

- Those affected by COVID – 19, front line health workers, those without work, decision makers, those isolated, those feeling anxious
- Pray for a cure to this virus
- Global Interaction: pray for the Yawo people of Malawi & Mozambique. May is mission month, please see www.globalinteraction.org.au/InStep_ShortFilm
- Those affected by conflict, especially in Kachin State, Syria

We bring now our prayers for the world.

Loving God,

On that first Palm Sunday many gathered with many emotions cursing through their bones. We too come with many emotions and join our prayers with all in the world who pray this day.

We pray for those who are:

Confused	Reaching Out	Hurting
Hopeful	Fickle	Compassionate
Alone	Excited	Wary
Singing	Impatient	Encouraging
Watching	Teaching	Plotting
Learning	Waiting	Praying
Mourning	Healing	Dying
Caring	Exploiting	Loving

Hear the prayers of your people, grant them strength, be their solace and keep them safe.

PS. We also pray for a cure.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2020)

Offering

Loving God, at this time in the service we continue to offer our lives for your service – use them to bring love and compassion to this our world. Amen.

Community News & Notices

- **has an urgent need for food, empty jars, bottles and egg cartons.** They need the jars, bottle and egg cartons to decant oil etc as they can no longer use a shared pantry. If you are able to donate any of the following items please speak to Cheryl and we can arrange for them to be collected. They need especially at the moment – tinned tuna, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit and instant noodles.

They also need:

Basmati rice	Red Lentils	Yellow dahl	Red Kidney Beans
Butter Beans	Chickpeas	Cooking oil	Tinned fish – especially tuna
Tumeric	Cumin	Coriander	Tinned tomatoes
Onions & garlic	Black tea bags	Instant coffee	Milk UHT
Biscuits	Fresh - bread, eggs, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables.		

Services for the next week - all via zoom

Maundy Thursday (April 9) - at 8pm

Good Friday (April 10) - 10.30am & 3pm

Easter Day (April 12) - 10.30am

Song - Ride On, Ride On (lyrics – The Iona Community)

Ride on, ride on, the time is right;
The roadside crowds scream with delight;
Palm branches mark the pilgrim way
Where beggars squat and children play.

Ride on, ride on, your critics wait,
Intrigue and rumour circulate;
New lies abound in word and jest,
And truth becomes a suspect guest.

Ride on, ride on, while well aware
That those who shout and wave and stare
Are mortals who, with common breath,
Can crave for life and lust for death.

Ride on, ride on, though blind with tears,
Though dumb to speak and deaf to jeers.
Your path is clear, though few can tell
Their garments pave the road to Hell.

Ride on, ride on, the room is let,
The wine matured, the saw is whet;
And dice your death-throes shall attend
Though faith, not fate, dictates your end.

Ride on, ride on, God's love demands.
Justice and peace lie in your hands.
Evil and angel voices rhyme:
This is the man and this the time.

Used with permission. Words & Music, The Iona Community 1988.

Benediction

Voice 1: Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,
meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

Voice 2: Let us walk his way with joy.

Voice 1: Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,
letting go of our security.

Voice 2: Let us walk his way with joy.

Voice 1: Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices
of those who have nothing to lose.

Voice 2: Let us walk his way with joy.

Voice 1: Jesus points us to a way of self-giving
where power and status are overturned.

Voice 2: Let us walk his way with joy.

Voice 1: Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Voice 2: Let us walk his way with joy.

(Jan Berry, Sheffield, 1990)