

Bangor & Holyhead Methodist Circuit
Sunday Worship Sheet Palm Sunday March 24th 2024

Our worship for this week was written by the Mr Paul Eckersley. You may wish to have your Bible to hand. Please note the hymns are now at the back of the sheet for ease of printing. CCLI licence 556292.

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Hymn 565 (StF) Only by grace can we enter

Prayer of Adoration

Heavenly Father, we worship and adore you. You are the King who has risen from the dead. Let us remember that it is you and you alone that we worship help to focus on you and through your Holy Spirit let us commune with you in this act of worship. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you for all the good gifts around us, we thank you for your creation. Help us to be better stewards of this world. Show how we can save this planet from unwanted disaster and help us to be more thankful of the world that we live in. Amen

Prayer of Forgiveness

You came to save us risen Lord, we are grateful that you did. Yet we sometimes fail to meet up to the way you want us to be, in our word, deeds and thoughts. Forgive us Father and show us how to live a better way. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as on 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

Hymn 263 (StF) Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Reading Mark 11:1-11

Reflection

What or who annoys you? Is there something that gets your blood to boil? For the teachers and Pharisees, Jesus was becoming a very annoying person indeed.

Are there any particular things that annoy you?

- Jesus annoyed the religious leaders because of his claims about himself.

Jesus was announcing who he was when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

He had already claimed equality with God on several occasions, but had avoided being stoned to death for blasphemy, (John 8.59, 10.31).

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey, he fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. In the whole Bible the word foal only appears twice. Once in Zechariah 9.9 and once in Matthew 21.5 where Matthew quotes the fulfilment of this prophecy over 500 years later.

It was as if Jesus was saying, "look at me. I am the Christ/Messiah/the King. I come in peace". Kings rode donkeys during peace time. In so doing Jesus signed his own death warrant by antagonising the authorities.

- Jesus annoyed the religious leaders because He was popular

The crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. The next day he was teaching in the temple and the Bible tells us the whole crowd were amazed at his teaching (Mk 11.18b).

We all like to be popular. The Pharisees saw themselves as set apart from the ordinary people of the day and despised many of them. They excluded them from the religious life, yet didn't like the fact that Jesus was so popular. Perhaps, they were really jealous.

- Jesus annoyed the religious leaders because of his teaching.

The religious leaders tried to trap Jesus on several occasions by asking him awkward questions. After they had questioned Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar (Mk. 12.13-17), he replied with the famous words, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." Then it says that even the religious leaders, like the crowd, were amazed at his teaching. He also told parables that showed he knew what they were planning (Mk.12.1-12)

- Jesus annoyed the religious leaders because of his miracles.

Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead and many people trusted in him because of this. But, the Chief Priests and Pharisees didn't like this and started to plan to kill him. This was because he threatened their position. At a meeting of the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas, who was high priest, told them, " You don't realize that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." (John 11.50) We can sometimes feel threatened when someone threatens our security and Jesus threatened the religious security of the religious leaders when he questioned their behaviour and teaching. He also threatened their political security because they worked closely with the Romans to safeguard their own position.

Jesus started the events of what we know as Holy Week by deliberately riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. He continued to deliberately pursue the road to the cross. The Roman

authorities and religious leaders were not in control. They did the worst that they could do to God, and God did the best he could do for us, when Jesus died and rose again for us. This Palm Sunday let us rejoice in what Jesus has done. Not just in declaring who He is, but also because He carried out God's plan to save people through His life, death and resurrection. If we worship Him and follow Him we too can be part of God's plan.

Hymn 265 (StF) Ride on, ride in in majesty

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, we come to you now with our prayers of intercession.

On this day when we remember your rising from the dead, we remember too, situations around the world. We pray for an everlasting peace in your world. We pray for Ukraine, Palestine and Haiti. We pray for all the nations of the world where elections are being held in the next couple of months. We ask, dear Lord, that you show us all how to be compassionate and helpful, that your peace and mercy may come into all these situations. Heavenly Father hear our prayer.

We pray for those struggling with life at this time, the lonely, the depressed, the ones just coping to survive. Help us to be a church ready and willing to help others and we prayer our continuing endeavours may be a place of refuge and love. Heavenly Father hear our prayer.

We pray for our churches, for all its ministers and stewards. Help us to be more ready to be there for each other. Help us to be one and let us continue to grow in you and you alone. Let your Spirit indwell each and every one of us. Heavenly Father hear our prayer.

We prayer for ourselves, help us to grow in our faith, to be the light in other people's lives. To boldly tell others of the risen Christ

For this we ask in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Hymn 264 (StF) Make way, make way, for Christ the king

The Grace

Hymn 565

Only by grace can we enter,
only by grace can we stand ;
not by our human endeavour,
but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us,
you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us,

and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.
Lord, if you mark our transgressions,
who would stand ?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed
by the blood of the Lamb.
Lord, if you mark our transgressions,
who would stand ?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed
by the blood of the Lamb.
Only by grace can we enter ...

Gerrit Gustafson

Hymn 263

- 1 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest !
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest !
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise ;
be exalted, O Lord, my God !
Hosanna in the highest !
- 2 Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings !
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings !
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise ;
be exalted, O Lord, my God !
Glory to the King of kings !

Carl Tuttle (b. 1953)

Hymn 264

- 1 Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives ;
fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.
*Make way (Make way), make way (make way),
for the King of kings (for the King of kings) ;
make way (make way), make way (make way),
and let his Kingdom in.*
- 2 He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free ;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see.
- 3 And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.
- 4 We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him,
their thrones must fall !

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)