

## **Bangor & Holyhead Methodist Circuit**

### **Sunday Worship Sheet for Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Our worship for this week was written by 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 1(STF) All people that on earth do dwell  
Prayer of Adoration**

Hosanna in the highest! Almighty God, we come to you, to lift your name on high. To put you in your rightful place. It is to you and to you alone that we bring our praise and adoration. For you are a God that deserves our worship, and for that we will be eternally thankful. **Amen**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

As we gather today remembering how you rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, so we look out upon our world and see the buds of Spring and we give you our thanks that in you are found all the signs of new life. We thank you for giving us the things that we need to live life abundantly. We are grateful for our life and for all life, and we offer you our thanks that you are with us at all times. **Amen !**

#### **Prayer of Forgiveness**

You came to save us, risen Lord, and we are grateful that you did. In our times of doubt, forgive us, and grant us your mercy; help us to start afresh, putting our faith in you and not in the things of this world. **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 !

Reading: **Isaiah 50:4-9**

**Hymn 629(STF) God of my faith, I offer you my doubt.**

Reading **Luke 19:28-40 !**

#### **Reflection: Palm Sunday**

As he road towards Jerusalem, Jesus declared who he is: King and Messiah. In Luke's account of Jesus' approach to Jerusalem we observe different reactions to this King.

In riding into Jerusalem on a donkey Jesus is deliberately fulfilling the prophetic words of Zechariah 9:9. This is the first public disclosure by Jesus of who he is. There is a sense that it is not until Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey that he truly nails his colours to the mast.

Every part of Zechariah 9:9 is fulfilled by Jesus. Let's take a look at some of the words, that were written about 550 years before Jesus rode into Jerusalem:

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, daughter of Jerusalem" - the rejoicing and shouting are fulfilled as the crowds welcome Jesus as he rides towards the city.

"See your King comes to you" - Jesus is King, ruler of the universe, not just King of the Jews.

"Righteous and having salvation" - the word righteous means that Jesus is just. Because he is perfect he therefore can present himself as a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world. This is the salvation he offers. Saving us from the effects of sin and from the way that it can take control our lives, and in the way that it can separate us from God.

Jesus was welcomed as Messiah by the crowd who as it were rolled the red carpet out for him, in this case their cloaks, that they spread before him as a sign of submission. However, their expectations of the Messiah were different from the Messiah that Jesus was. The crowd would have expected a victorious earthly King, who would defeat the Romans and restore Israel to the position it had enjoyed under King David.

But Jesus came on a donkey. In the ancient world a ruler would ride a donkey in times of peace. The Prince of Peace came not on a warhorse but on a simple animal of peace. In this way Jesus shows that his kingdom does not involve violence or pulling rank, but it is about peace and humility.

Our security and goals should be found in God, not by trying to please other people. The way we should live as Christians will often be in direct opposition to the way that the world tells us we should live. But we should follow God's ways.

Jesus came to offer life to the Jews of this time, but many chose death. He offered them peace with God, but many preferred to choose violence. This grieved him. Because he cared and wanted the best for his own people. And because he knew this would result in judgment.

His words in verses 43 & 44 warned about events that would happen a generation after his death in AD 70: in that year, after a revolt by certain groups within the Jewish people, Jerusalem was besieged and then stormed by the Romans. The city was razed to the ground and many of its inhabitants killed. Many Jews fled the city and even country amongst them the early Christians, who knew of and acted upon these words of Jesus and escaped the destruction.

This Palm Sunday we should remember that the way of Jesus is not a popular, painless way. Even today, as on the first Palm Sunday, there will be many different reactions to him. The challenge to us is to follow the way of his disciples, by obeying and growing in our love and knowledge of Jesus and in our faithfulness in following him.

Therefore, as those who have a fuller understanding of the events of that first Palm Sunday, we can rejoice today in the kind of exuberant way that makes that first Palm Sunday pale into insignificance. Because we have so much more to celebrate: Jesus has died for us, is risen and ascended, and lives within us by his Spirit. So let us praise God in the joyful knowledge that this brings. Amen.

**Hymn 262(StF) All glory laud and honour Prayers of Intercession Merciful and gracious God, we come to you now with our prayers of intercession**

We bring our concerns for the world, for places that are torn by conflict, such as Ukraine and Gaza; for those places devastated by poverty; for places that have suffered through natural disasters. We ask that your grace will come to these people and places and that you might give them strength and help so that peace and justice may come to these lands.

**Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those struggling at this time; for those whose minds are wondering and confused. We pray for those struggling with finances and for those whose day to day life is filled with worry and doubt. We pray that your comfort and support might come through those who are giving a helping hand to people around them in need.

**Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, for whatever situation we may be in: for those of us struggling with life, give us grace; for those who don't know what the future may hold, give us hope; for those troubled by what is going on around them, give us mercy. Heavenly Father, give us the strength we need to carry on and may we always walk in the ways of your Kingdom.

These and all our prayers, we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. **Amen Hymn**

**301(StF) Hail, thou once despised Jesus.**

**The Grace**

**Hymn 1**

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice :  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell ;  
come ye before him and rejoice.
- 2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed ;  
without our aid he did us make :  
we are his folk, he doth us feed ;  
and for his sheep he doth us take.
- 3 O enter then his gates with praise ;  
approach with joy his courts unto ;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.
- 4 For why, the Lord our God is good ;  
his mercy is for ever sure ;

his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

- 5 To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heaven and earth adore,  
from earth and from the angel host  
be praise and glory evermore.

William Kethe (*d.* 1594)

### Hymn 629

- 1 God of my faith, I offer you my doubt,  
for life at times seems far too dark for me,  
and my belief becomes more insecure,  
when worldly cares produce uncertainty.
- 2 God of my hope, I offer you my fear,  
when I am scared by my anxiety,  
when all I hear is suffering and woe,  
in all my shadows you will walk with me.
- 3 God of my joy, I offer you my grief,  
when I sink down in sadness or despair,  
when in depression I cannot be touched,  
I pray in all my depths to find you there.
- 4 God of my love, I offer you my pain,  
when I'm alone and feel nobody cares,  
in aching age or in rejected youth,  
you bear my cross and dry my human tears.
- 5 God of my life, I offer you my dreams,  
light in the darkness where I hide from view,  
light in my faith, my hope, my joy and love,  
light in my life and all my life in you.

Colin Ferguson (*b.* 1937)

### Hymn 262

- 1 All glory, laud, and honour  
to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring !  
Thou art the King of Israel,  
thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest,  
the King and Blessèd One.
- 2 The company of angels  
are praising thee on high,  
and mortal men and all things  
created make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went ;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present.
- 3 To thee before thy Passion  
they sang their hymns of praise ;  
to thee now high exalted  
our melody we raise.  
Thou didst accept their praises ;  
accept the prayers we bring,

who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King.

- 4 All glory, laud, and honour  
to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring !  
St Theodulph of Orleans (*d.* 821)

### Hymn 301

- 1 Hail, thou once despisèd Jesus,  
hail, thou Galilean King !  
Thou didst suffer to release us,  
thou didst free salvation bring.  
Hail, thou agonizing Saviour,  
bearer of our sin and shame ;  
by thy merits we find favour ;  
life is given through thy name !
- 2 Paschal Lamb by God appointed,  
all our sins on thee were laid ;  
by almighty love anointed,  
thou hast full atonement made :  
all thy people are forgiven  
through the virtue of thy blood ;  
opened is the gate of heaven ;  
we are reconciled to God.
- 3 Jesus, hail ! Enthroned in glory,  
there for ever to abide ;  
all the heavenly host adore thee,  
seated at thy Father's side :  
there for sinners thou art pleading,  
there thou dost our place prepare,  
ever for us interceding,  
till in glory we appear.
- 4 Worship, honour, power, and blessing,  
thou art worthy to receive ;  
loudest praises without ceasing,  
meet it is for us to give.  
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,  
bring your sweetest, noblest lays ;  
help to sing our Saviour's merits,  
help to chant Immanuel's praise !