

## **HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S**

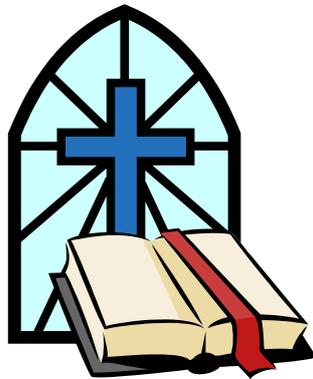


**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Palm Sunday**

**A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship today.**

**If possible, use this service at 10am so we are worshipping together. Try saying the parts in bold aloud.**



### **Introduction**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection.

Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world.

Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again.

Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

## **Opening Response**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

**and also with you.**

**Hosanna to the son of David.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.**

**Behold your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon a donkey.**

**Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice.**

**Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;**

**And the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.**

**You have loved righteousness and hated evil.**

**Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.**

**Hosanna to the son of David.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.**

## **Confession**

Let us begin by reflecting on the week that has just passed.

Thank God for all the blessings you have received.

Consider the things which we have done, or not done, or even our thoughts which we now wish to say sorry to God for:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy, *Father, Son and Spirit*.

**Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord.**

## **Absolution: 1 John 1:8-9**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.

## **The Collect for Today**

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

**True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.**

## **Reading for today**

Matthew Chapter 21 verses 1 to 11 (perhaps read it twice).

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> 'Say to Daughter of Zion,

"See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!'

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Talk**

*As you read through the talk, reflect on what this might mean for us in the coming week and how we might respond to God's word.*

Lord by your spirit – would you open your word to our hearts and our hearts to your word. Amen.

Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week, beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. A few weeks ago, I would not have imagined that I would be writing this to you rather than speaking, but this is an unusual time for us all. As this Holy Week, we are unable to celebrate in the way we are used to, I am struck by the reading in which a yearly festival in Jerusalem was changed forever by Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. Many Jews from across the Roman world went on pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, a big joyful annual event, when Jerusalem would be filled with Jews going to the Temple to celebrate their liberation from Egypt. For Jesus' disciples following him, joining in the joyful exclamations of the crowd this must have seemed a wonderful Passover. However, within days, joy had turned to confusion and despair, which must have seemed to them like the worst Passover they had encountered. Through the unexpected, Jesus rode into Jerusalem, stirring the city which rang with praise for him, as I hope Nuneaton will from each of our homes.

The cries of "Hosanna" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," found in the reading come from Psalm 118: 25-26 "Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord, we bless you", and were common to the Passover festival, yet took on a new life on Palm Sunday. Hosanna is Hebrew for "save now" and is both a plea for help, and within Matthew's gospel a shout of jubilation. The crowds were crying out to be saved from the tyrannical rule of their Roman oppressors, the urgency is in the cry of Hosanna to save now. This word was especially fitting therefore to Jesus's entry, as it is more than just a form of praise; it is a plea. The call of Hosanna was fulfilled on the cross when Jesus died to save us. It is especially important today to remember to call out to Jesus in prayer because he does save. To remember that the joy of the crowds came from their confidence that he would save them. There is dual meaning in Hosanna which reminds us that there is joy to be found in asking Jesus to save us, but we must ask, as we cannot save ourselves.

All the actions of the crowds went to show him as a greatly triumphed person worthy of their praise. Riding in on a donkey was reserved in Old Testament times to great people, as in Judges 10: 3-4, it is the sons of the Judge of Israel who ride donkeys. Donkeys became a humbler creature after the kingdom of Solomon, as donkeys were reserved for heavy burdens rather than important figures. Therefore, by riding in on a donkey, Jesus shows his splendour through a gesture understood by his contemporaries as a show of his majesty, while still appearing humble

and not adopting a Roman approach by using a horse. The placing of palm tree also reflects this idea of a triumphal entry. Verse 11 shows that the people had not grasped fully who he was. They praised him as a prophet sent by the Lord and as the King, son of David, but their understanding is limited by what they think he should be like. The crowds were expecting Jesus, they welcomed Jesus, yet within days this turned to shouts of condemnation, ....their expectations had not fulfilled. They considered Jesus a prophet, yet he did not prophesy doom against Roman as they anticipated. They welcomed him triumphantly as the Messiah, but one who was to save them through violence and revolution. They called out to him as coming in the name of the Lord, yet he came as their Lord. Their expectations of who the Messiah was and what he should do, led to disappointment as they failed to see his real glory.

As we enter this Holy Week in this very different and confusing time, we must see Jesus as more than the people in our Bible reading did. Do not allow our frustrations at what is going on currently to limit Jesus, but see Jesus as King, the one who reigns even when we, like the crowds, fail to understand: Jesus is always Lord.

Palm Sunday was about the crowd's expectation. So I ask, "Who are we expecting?"

Jesus is with us, even when we cannot gather together. We should expect him in our lives, not for what we want from him but for the glory and majesty that he is. As we call out to the Lord to save now, we remember that "Hosanna" brings our plea for him and praise of him together. Amen.

### **Statement of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God

**We believe in God the Father, from every family in heaven and on earth is named**

**We believe in God the Son who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Today we think of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and being given a King's welcome. Yet a few days later the crowd was howling for him to be crucified.

Lord God, we thank you that you sent your Son to show us that whatever praise or criticism we may receive for our work and actions, our focus should solely be on what you require us to do.

Help us Lord that we may know the greatness of Jesus' saving power over sin and we may follow his example of humility.

We pray for all those ministers who preach your word, and in particular we ask that you will strengthen at this very challenging time Bishops Christopher and John in their work in the diocese; Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Galley Common and Hartshill; Nick and Sally, our lay readers; our churchwardens Nick, Sally, Kate and Debbie, and all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory to the world.

### **Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer**

Lord God, we pray that you will bring world leaders together in a spirit of common purpose and unity to tackle and support each other with the spread of the coronavirus across the world and in dealing with other major problems facing the world such as climate change and inequality in the use of resources. We pray for all those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace.

We also pray for all people who are suffering as a result of war, famine, displacement or other troubles. We ask that you will help us to respond in compassion to the needs of others in our giving, prayers and actions.

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace; that people may honour one another and seek the common good.

### **Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we thank you for the joy of our families and friends, and for those people who really listen to and understand us. May we use their example to help us to really listen and care for our families, friends, neighbours and work colleagues, especially at this time when we are living in isolation from one another. We pray also for those in the current situation who are weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, and may be feeling that God is far from them.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve one another in Christ and love as he loves us.

**Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the source of life and health, we ask that you will comfort and heal all those who are ill at this time or are suffering from worry, stress, loneliness or any other difficulties.

We pray in particular for those listed in our notices today for both our churches.

We also bring before you others known to us who need your help at this time.

Give all those we have prayed for courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

**Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for those whose lives have recently been saddened by the death of a relative or friend - especially the families of Rodger Todd, Bill Hunt and Royston Turner.

Be with them and give them faith and strength to look beyond their present loneliness and grief, to Jesus who died and rose again and lives for evermore.

**Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer.**

Finally, Lord God, as your Son Jesus, entered your city of Jerusalem and your temple, so we ask that you will enter into our hearts and minds this day and during the coming week. Help us to welcome you with truth and sincerity and teach us to walk in your way all the days of our life.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, who shone as lights in the world, we now commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unending love.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Prayerful reflections:**

*Spend some time thanking God for what you have and have received.*

*Pray for those on the front line who are still serving so faithfully.*

*Pray for those whose livelihoods have been impacted by current events.*

*Pray for those on your heart.*

*Pray for yourself – be honest with God about your fears and feelings.*

**The Peace**

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for He is our peace.

*Ephesians 2.13,14*

The peace of the Lord be always with you,  
**and also with you.**

*If you have a palm, a cross or even a plant leaf (eg a daffodil leaf) you may like to hold it up, (or you could make a cross out of paper or straws or similar if you wish)- then join in by saying the following prayer :*

**God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; let these palms and symbols be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

### **Closing Prayers**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. Amen**

### **The Blessing**

May the Father, who so loved the world that He gave his only Son, bring us by faith to His eternal life.

**Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep us steadfast as we walk with him the way of His cross.

**Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share His glory, set our minds on life and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord in this coming Holy Week, in any way we can through these difficult and challenging times.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **Notices for the week ahead**

### **For us all**

#### **Coronavirus Guidance**

Following Church of England advice, there are no services of public worship at Holy Trinity or St Peter's Church for the foreseeable future. This sadly includes all baptisms and weddings. Please hold in your prayers all those couples and families who are affected by this.

The situation with funerals is also extremely difficult for those mourning the loss of a loved one.

The Easter morning service on the Hayes is also cancelled. Despite being able to space people out it would constitute public worship which we have been asked to suspend at this time.

The Churches' Premises are closed to everyone- please do not attempt to access them with any keys that you may have.

#### **Lighting of Candles**

Following the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's previous call to light a candle in a front window as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished, we know of a number of church members who did this. This seemed such a good idea that we would like to do something similar in Holy Week.

At 8pm from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, Heather is inviting you to light a candle in your window each night (**ONLY IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO!** If not, perhaps a lamp or torch or another source of light.) There is a prayer resource to use each evening which Heather has forwarded by e mail.

It may be a helpful way to signify this most Holy of Weeks...Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond. If you do this – why not let your neighbours know why (by text or distanced conversations!) and let us mark this most Holy Week with a symbol of light and life and hope.

#### **Food Bank**

Obviously due the measures taken to deal with the coronavirus we are not able to continue with the bringing of items to Church or deliveries to the warehouse.

This is at a time when the Food Bank is going to be under huge pressure especially now the schools are closed.

#### **Can we urge everyone to consider if they can instead give a donation of money?**

Please visit their website- [www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk) and press on the Donate button at the top right of the page.

This is a really valuable way we can collectively as a Church show our love to the vulnerable people in our society. All items that were in church have been delivered by Wendy- many thanks to Wendy for all she has done in organising the food bank and doing the deliveries.

### **Scams - Be careful**

Please be aware there is an increased number of scams doing the rounds trying to take advantage of these difficult times. Before clicking on links, giving out bank details etc... do check they are genuine as there are some very plausible and convincing scammers.

### **Any items to be included on the weekly notice sheet and messages please email Nick Blamire-Brown at [njbb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:njbb@hotmail.co.uk)**

You might like to let Nick of any person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. It would be lovely to do this as we have to celebrate these events in isolation but this is a way we can collectively celebrate with them.

**Please be aware that all documents are now going to be much more in the public domain (emailed out, posted on our church websites and via Facebook in the future.) Please be careful to get permission from any person you wish to mention.**

## **Holy Trinity Church**



### **Holy Trinity Church Magazine**

In view of the coronavirus and that it cannot be printed as the Church Premises are closed, Sue has prepared a magazine for April which will be e-mailed. If you deliver and can get an e-mail address **without visiting the people** you deliver to, we can add that to the circulation list. Also those due to contribute items should continue to send them to Sue.

### **Hartshill Community Centre, Community Library and Café**

Following Government Advice all of these are currently closed.

### **Church Cleaning at Holy Trinity**

As the Church Premises are closed the cleaning rota is suspended. We did ask volunteers to help Hoover the carpet after church services and are grateful for those who came forward. We will establish a rota for that when Church Services resume.

### **Isolated but not alone- Hartshill Community Helping each other**

In line with the Government appeal help is needed for those self-isolating and volunteers are needed.

During this time many elderly or ill people are self-isolating due to the spread of Covid-19 (coronavirus).

If you can offer any time to help out people on your street by picking up groceries, prescriptions, emergency supplies or offering a friendly phone call to ease loneliness, then please phone Olwyn on 07927141037.

Please also remember your local shops are well stocked.

For any more details on how to help or if you need help finding your local volunteer again call Olwyn.

## **St Peter's Church**



### **If you are self-isolating you are not alone**

If you need help during this time, please be encouraged to make contact with local Counsellor Daniel Gissane who is putting together a team of volunteers to support those in need, on 07771 340650.

Age UK's website has some fantastic advice about how to stay safe and well at home. Take a look at: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/staying-safe-and-well-at-home/>

Age UK is also encouraging "neighbourly volunteering" and has some great advice on how to do this during the COVID-19 pandemic. Have a look at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/neighbourly-volunteering/>

### **Messages**

We really do want to encourage our church members (both Churches) to use this section to give messages of encouragement to others or items of reflection so we will continue to do that and hope some of you will join us

#### **Message from Heather**

After planning the Holy Week reflections for 8pm I am now conscious we will be 'competing' with the Queen's message – and as she is the head of the Church of England – feel free to light your candle / do your reflection after she has spoken!

After sending the information out I have been sent links to lots of other resources too -

Our church leaders are also speaking a lot at this time – trying to stay connected with us and as part of that the clergy and church leaders are hearing a lot from our Bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans. Do keep praying for our leaders who are having to make really difficult decisions at this time.

We continue to be committed to emailing out a service to you each week and other resources or information along the way as appropriate. I am so

grateful to the wider team who are enabling this to happen. Thank you all for continuing to 'be church' out in the community.

### **Message from Sharon**

One of the things I've learnt this week is how difficult socially isolating at home can be, particularly for those who are living in with their elderly parent/s with long-term deteriorating health conditions to care for them and those who have babies and young children. Homes can become pressure-pots when you are only allowed to go outside once a day and the weather isn't great. Everyone can get tense and stressed in such conditions. Two great pieces of advice I heard this week from a psychologist were: 1) conflict is a choice – take time out by moving to another part of the house or into the garden when the pressure begins to rise. 2) We will never again have an opportunity to spend time together like this with our loved ones. Look for the quality moments; create together, cook together, dance together, laugh together, garden together, play together, exercise together, sing together and make the very most of this time, for it is indeed precious.

There's loads of creative ideas and helpful advice out there on the tv and internet to help us share things together. Please don't hesitate to reach out to someone you know if you are finding self-isolation tough. A friendly and understanding voice can make such a difference to how we might be feeling. The Church of England has released a brilliant booklet on supporting good mental health, which I commend for a great 13 days of biblical reflection: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health/supporting-good-mental-health>

Several things have moved me to tears in this past week – firstly Ant and Dec's Saturday night takeaway (yes I do watch it!) end of the show dance where a collation of people and family groups' video clips of their dancing to a mutual piece of music made me join in the dance too. Secondly, Gareth Malone is putting together a recorded on-line choir, which we could all join in if you like to sing. And just like Heather last week, being out on my doorstep at 8pm on Thursday clapping for all our keyworkers. These all made me appreciate just how important our relationships with our various communities are, and how much I'm missing them, and even though I'm not really a party girl, I'm so looking forward to the day when we can celebrate together face to face and I can give you a hug (for those of you who will let me!)

## **Message from Nick B-B**

My reflection this week is on the role of humour and encouragement in dealing with this crisis.

I had a telephone conversation with my cousin Derek who lives in Kent last weekend. He is a very active 70+ person who loves to do things out and about. His isolation is really difficult for him and he admitted he is struggling to find motivation to find things to do. It made me realise that there are many people like Derek struggling mentally to cope with the situation they find themselves in.

Yet now every morning I receive from him a number of amusing videos and pictures that he has researched. It is his way of dealing with his mental situation in finding things to laugh at and feel more cheerful. Jan and I have stopped watching the news on television as we find it so depressing. We recognise that the media has a very important role to play in portraying how serious the crisis is that we are in and how people must follow government advice for their and others interest.

Our newspaper the 'i' (which we receive online!) also gives the facts but also leads with some positive and uplifting items which gives Jan and I encouragement. It is about balance - the gloom with the positives.

It has made me realise that as Christians we have a big role to play in giving hope and encouragement to others because of our faith in God and if possible being cheerful, positive and upbeat. However it is also important to listen to someone's struggles and fears, remembering that God is always with us in those struggles.

## **Please pray for the following in the coming week:**

### **Coronavirus Crisis**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support,  
be with those who care for the sick, the anxious  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, as you know the whole world is trying to deal with the impact of the coronavirus. We pray for all countries and communities as they consider what steps they can take to care and support each other. We pray in particular for the elderly, vulnerable and isolated as they face the fear and consequences of catching the virus. We pray also for all leaders who are having to make difficult decisions to deal with the crisis and all those working in the health sector which is under such pressure anyway. Amen

### **Leaders and Clergy**

Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Hartshill and Galley Common; Kate and Debbie our St Peter's churchwardens, Nick and Sally our lay readers and Holy Trinity's churchwardens; Ruth & Rob Kinderman in their youth work; Michael Brandsma in his ministry in Atherstone; and Bill Walton in his curacy.

Pray too for our Archbishops, Bishops and Bishops' Staff team as they lead the nation and diocese.

Pray for the government and local/national/international leaders as they make life changing and potentially life-saving decisions.

### **Those on our hearts at Holy Trinity**

Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Raymond B; Dorothy; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane.

Also for care firms who are under severe pressure to protect both staff and residents.

### **Those on our hearts at St Peter's**

Lucy W, Lucy and Michael B, Mark, Brian V and others known to us.

## **Family and Friends of those recently deceased**

Rodger Todd – a faithful member of both Churches.

Bill Hunt– a faithful member of the Coffee Club.

Royston Turner.

For all those dealing with loss and bereavement caused by the Coronavirus nationally and internationally.



## **Prayer List**

Please notify Nick B-B of the names of anyone for whom you would like prayer and any thanks for prayers answered ([njbb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:njbb@hotmail.co.uk) or 02478395467)

NB. Please ensure that you have the person's permission first.

If you want to be added to the email prayer chain/group or have any prayers you want to put on the prayer chain please email:- [prayers.holytrinity@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.holytrinity@gmail.com)