



THE METHODIST CHURCH – KENDAL

Worship Notes for use at Home



Sunday April 5th 2020 Palm Sunday

Be still..

Sit silently for a few minutes and repeat these verses to your self: ***Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice. I wait for the Lord, My soul waits, and in his word I hope.*** (Ps 130).

Opening Prayer

Gracious and ever welcoming God, I come to offer you my worship and praise. I know that I am not alone in worship, but part of our worshipping community in Kendal and also part of the great company of Christians across your world. Inspire us all with your Holy Spirit and help us all to worship with confidence and joy. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: StF 264 Make way, make way..

Sing/ Read /pray / or listen on YouTube

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!*
For the King of kings! (*For the King of Kings*)
Make way! *Make way!*
And let his kingdom in!

He comes the broken hearts to heal,
The prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
The blind shall see.

Make way! *Make way!*

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
Who weep and sigh;
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify.

Make way! *Make way!*

We call you now to worship him
As Lord of all.
To have no other gods but him:
Their thrones must fall!

Make way! *Make way!*

Let us pray together

Lord God, on this Palm Sunday we worship and praise you for the coming of Jesus. We remember his entry into Jerusalem.. for his courage and commitment –

We praise your holy name.

We recall the events of the week ahead.. for his gentleness and humility, for the strength and wonder of his love -

We praise your holy name.

We remember his agony in a garden and the trauma of a cross to come. We are humbled by the immensity and great cost of your Love-

We praise your holy name.

Lord God, holy Father, on this day of celebration we open the doors of our hearts and offer our adoration and praise. With all those of the past and present we worship and praise you for Jesus. We acknowledge you as our God, Jesus as our King and we welcome your Spirit among us. Come now and fill our hearts with your presence and speak the word we need to hear..

(Silence)

In our present global situation, grant us a deep calm. Still any turmoil within us, fill us with your presence and love. . forgive us for the times we have refused to trust you, for the times when we have not listened to you, and the times when we have been unwilling to follow Jesus on the way. Work in us by the power of your Holy Spirit and make us the people you want us to be..

(Silence)

So Father, we receive your mercy and forgiveness with gratitude and joy. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings: Philippians 2. 5-11
Matthew 21. 1-11

Reflection

That day there were two very different processions going into Jerusalem, from different sides of the city, although probably not at the same time.

Pontius Pilate, governor of the region was there with his whole army, processing in all their finery through the streets. A warning in case anyone needed it that there would be no uprising this Passover.

Then there was the small procession entering on other side of the city. Made up of Jesus and his disciples, with Jesus seated upon a donkey, fulfilling the words found in the prophet Zechariah (9:9) "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

These two processions gave very different messages to those that witnessed them that day. Pilate, with his hundreds of centurions and foot soldiers and all the pomp and ceremony that went with such a parade, was making sure that everyone could see the power and might of the Roman Empire. And then be in no doubt of what end would come to anyone who dared rise up in rebellion in an attempt to get rid of the Romans. Jesus, riding on a young donkey, entering humbly, embodying the peace that God brings to His people. It wasn't quite the way that people expected the Messiah, their long awaited King to come!

Many who cheered that day were still hoping for a King that would unseat the Romans by raising up an army of his own to give Israel back to its people. But God had promised them a king who would be different from any king they had known. In their desire to rout the Romans it appeared that the people had forgotten this, because in less than a week they turned on him, along with the rulers.

If you had been in Jerusalem that day, and had seen both processions passing by, which would you have chosen to follow?

In some ways that is the choice we make each day. To choose power and might over love. To choose "the way things are done" over "the way God intends them to be."

A time of prayer

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and the fearful, and lift up all those who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you taught us to love our neighbour and to care for those in need, as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety give us the strength we

need to share in your ministry, to be a strength to the fearful and to assure the isolated of your goodness and love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of compassion, embrace those who are ill with the coronavirus and those suffering any kind of disease. Be close to the dying and hold those who are bereaved. Be hope in their darkness and let your love radiate peace into the hearts.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Empowering Spirit, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all those caring for the sick, wisdom to those searching for a cure, and all those responding in any way to the country's need.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And rest your hand upon each of us, our loved ones, friends and neighbours and shelter us in your loving presence.

In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen ! **The Lord's Prayer**

Hymn StF 265 Ride on, ride on..

Ride on, ride on in majesty
as all the crowds 'Hosanna!' cry:
through waving branches slowly ride,
O Saviour, to be crucified.

Ride on, ride on in majesty,
in lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, your triumph now begin
with captured death, and conquered sin!

Ride on, ride on in majesty
the angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty,
the last and fiercest foe defy:
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty,
in lowly pomp ride on to die:
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your power and reign.

Sing/ Read /pray / or listen on YouTube

A prayer of blessing

May the God of Life be with you, may the God of Love keep you in his grace, may the God of Light fill you with his radiance, and may the holy Three, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit encircle you now with peace, and remain with you always.

Amen !