

Blessing (based on 2 Timothy 1.7)

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

Would you like to receive Parousia each week?

If you haven't done so already, please **let our church office know!**

NEW: A SHORT SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013**

to listen to a weekly sermon and prayers. Do give it a try!

Oxford Diocese: Live Streams

Join Christians from around the diocese for services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Go to <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

Palm Crosses

If your daily exercise leads you past St Mary's Church, please pick up a Palm Cross from the west door.

Talk to Ian, Nnamdi and Christoph

Our ministers have each arranged an hour each week, when they are next to their phone and would love to chat and pray with you:

Nnamdi: Mon, 5-6pm, 07951 485370

Christoph: Wed, 11am-12pm, 01895 834733

Ian: Fri, 3-4pm, 07866 679025

(Of course we'd love to talk to you at other times if we are available!)

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

5th April 2020

Palm Sunday

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! All Church of England buildings remain closed to help combat Coronavirus disease. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask for a paper version to be sent to you (see back page). The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way.

Christoph Lindner, Rector

Putting Jesus Centre Stage at a Difficult Time

Two disciples were sent to get the donkey for the Palm Sunday procession into Jerusalem. Jesus needed a donkey to embark upon the most important journey in history; one that led into the city to the acclaim of the crowds. The same crowds just a few days later were shouting, "Away with him; crucify him." That journey led directly to Calvary; to a brutal death upon the cross but also to an empty tomb and a glorious triumph over sin and death and salvation for the world.

The two disciples are assumed to be James and John. Just a few days earlier they were making a case to be at the right and left of Jesus in His coming Kingdom; and now they are collecting a donkey. They may have felt that this was not in their job description; it lacked prestige and kudos. A lowly task! Yet it was a vital contribution to unveiling Jesus as the humble King and ultimately the Lord of life and love. That is our vital task as disciples of Jesus - to reveal Jesus to the world by our words and actions.

This is a tough time that we are living through. Some people are feeling the pressure and struggling with anxiety and loneliness. This is an opportunity for the followers of Jesus to put him centre stage by showing his love to others. You may feel there isn't much you can do; but actually, those little things really do matter – a phone call or text message or doing a shop and dropping it off to those on 'lock down,' along with prayer and words of encouragement.

We may be well informed about the faith and be able to quote scripture but, as my friend Roger puts it, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." On this very different Palm Sunday let's put Jesus centre stage by showing his love in action.

Ian Jennings

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (From Psalm 118)

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *his steadfast love endures forever!*
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *his steadfast love endures forever!*

Hymn

*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 Blessed One

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present

Thou didst accept their praises
Accept the prayers we bring
Who in all good delightest
Thou good and gracious King

Confession and Absolution

*God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ
died for us. Let us then show our love for
him by confessing our sins in penitence
and faith.*

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided
your call. Our love for you is like a

morning cloud, like the dew that goes
away early. Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement; bind up our
wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

May almighty God, who sent his Son
into the world to save sinners, bring us
his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Bible Reading:

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Matt. 21.1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem
and had reached Bethphage, at the
Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two
disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just
say this, "The Lord needs them." And he
will send them immediately.' This took
place to fulfil what had been spoken
through the prophet, saying,
'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.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had
directed them; they brought the
donkey and the colt, and put their
cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A
very large crowd spread their cloaks on
the road, and others cut branches from
the trees and spread them on the road.
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!
When he entered Jerusalem, the whole
city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'
The crowds were saying, 'This is the
prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'
This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

(or read page 1)

Prayer

*We pray for all aspects of the current
crisis – for those who are suffering and
grieving, for health care staff, scientists
and leaders, for those working in critical
jobs, for those who are anxious.*

Unshakeable God, you are our ever-
present help in times of trouble. Amidst
all the isolation, grief and fear caused by
this crisis, renew in us your peace,
restore to us your perspective, and
reveal to us your presence and love.

The Collect for this Sunday:

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.

For those who make laws, interpret
them, and administer them, that our
common life may be ordered in justice
and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and
honesty to work openly for justice and
peace,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. For those in the
darkness and agony of isolation, that

they may find support and
encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with
hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that
God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up
the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

Ride on, ride on in majesty
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry
Thy humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scattered garments
strowed.

Ride on ride on in majesty
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh
The Father on His sapphire throne
Expects His own anointed Son

Ride on ride on in majesty
In lowly pomp ride on to die
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain
Then take O God Thy power and reign

Final Prayer

We believe that by his dying Christ
destroyed death for ever.

We have been crucified with Christ and
live by faith in the Son of God, who loved
us and gave himself for us.

May he send us out to glory in his cross,
and live no longer for yourselves but for
him, who died and was raised to life for
us. **Amen.**