




## Live your faith 5-11 April 2020

Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week Palm Sunday



 This week's Bible readings Isaiah 50.4-9a · Philippians 2.5-11 · Matthew 21.1-11

## Turning point

### Notes on the Bible readings

● Every year at this time, Jerusalem was filled with pilgrims arriving for the Passover. It would have been a chaotic time, more like a demonstration or a march than a pilgrimage walk. The inevitable strains on law and order would have drawn in extra soldiers to keep the peace, which only heightened the pilgrims' hopes for freedom.

● When Jesus and his followers went on this pilgrimage, this was a clear moment when Jesus' disciples may have anticipated him acting differently. Would he turn the stones of popular expectation into the bread of political freedom? Was he willing to risk everything to show the crowds who he was? Instead he entered the city as a peacemaker, on a donkey, hungry only for righteousness and mercy.

● A man and his followers coming into the city on a donkey would have been a tiny part of this chaos. Would he have even been noticed? What would the Romans and bystanders have thought of this? As some were shouting 'Hosanna to the Son of David', would they have been heard above the noise of the crowds?

● But Jesus was making a peaceful statement about the kind of king, prophet and leader he was. The reading from Isaiah foreshadows Jesus' suffering by reminding us that a prophet's vocation is costly. Would we, as a community of faith, rejoice and celebrate Jesus coming to us as this kind of king?

For reflection and comment linking this week's Bible reading to the news, current issues and events, go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) and click on **PostScript**.



### Questions for reflection

- ▶ When have you been in a large crowd at something special?
- ▶ When might you feel as if you are going in the opposite direction to the 'crowd'?
- ▶ What evidence is there that your church community is 'on the move'?



### A prayer of approach

*Lord God, let us approach with shouts of praise:  
hosanna in the highest!  
Let us draw close to you  
on this day that caused disturbance and disruption.  
Let us approach the throne  
of the one who came as a humble servant,  
who came to set us free, to change things for ever.  
Hosanna to the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.*

### A prayer for others

*Lord Jesus,  
we pray for all who give of themselves sacrificially,  
for those whose lives are dedicated to serving others:  
parents, carers, foster carers, doctors, nurses...  
those caring for children or elderly relatives.*

*We pray for those serving in war-torn countries  
around the world:  
medics, those who work in missions, the media,  
NGOs and charities...  
who bring food, shelter and healing to those in need,  
sometimes putting their lives on the line.*

*We pray for those in our communities who need our  
unconditional love:  
those hurting from broken relationships, abuse, bullying,  
domestic violence...  
children and adults whose lives are bereft of love and hope.  
Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*Jesus, I journey with you today as you journey with me.  
Let me go where you go. Amen.*

### Live your faith

Join a local walk of witness during Holy Week.



Behold your King comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass. 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.

Dear Friends,

It seems as though life is changing every few hours at the moment, let alone every few days, and this is a testing time for all of us, especially those who are isolated and on their own, or who have loved ones who are ill and in need. It is against all that we are and know to remain detached from them, and the need to reach out to hold someone's hand or give a hug is a powerful one.

Even though we are separated from each other at this time, we can never be separated from God. St Paul says, *"I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Nothing can separate us from him, and we should also remember the promise Jesus made to us, *"I am with you always..."*

This week though, has been especially difficult as we have faced the death of our beloved brother in Christ and friend Brian Tansell. To say that Brian was a pillar of our church community is probably a gross understatement, and his loss, felt by everyone, will be great. But particularly we must remember Shirley, Karen, Chris and all the family who face this loss in a time when the grieving process and laying a loved one to rest is complicated and restricted by the situation we find ourselves in today.

The restrictions on funerals will be difficult for the family and his friends, but I will circulate a simple order of service to use on the day of the funeral so we can all be with the family in spirit. A greater celebration of his life will take place when, please God, this is all over.

I hope to send this letter out to you on a weekly basis as long as this lockdown lasts, and there will be resources coming out for Holy Week and Easter. In the meantime, please do continue to join us for worship online if you are able. If you would like to join us and have not already received any emails, please send a request to [revdrobfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:revdrobfarmer@gmail.com)

Please be assured of my continuing prayers for you all in this troubling time. Stay safe and well.

God Bless, Rob

***Please pray for those in need...***Sally Bozward, Katie-Louise Sweetlove, Pam Pincott, Sue Gilchrist, Bryn Roberts, Evelyn Clarke, Shane Williams, Pat Williams, Heather Elsdon, Dorothy Goodwin.  
***Please remember those who have died and their families, especially...***Brian Tansell

Daily Readings for week commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> April. Holy Week.		
<b>Monday</b>	Lamentations 1: 1-12a	Luke 22: 1-23
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lamentations 3: 1-18	Luke 22: [24-38] 39-53
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jeremiah 11: 18-20	Luke 22: 54-end
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
<b>Good Friday</b>	Hebrews 10: 16-25	John 18:1-end of 19
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	Exodus 14: 10-end; 15: 20-21	Matthew 28: 1-10