

St Barnabas Thatcham – The Podcast

Palm Sunday

Service Companion

Opening Prayer

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.

All Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Reading



Palm Sunday by John August Swanson

Matthew 21:1-11

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.^[a] ⁴ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ '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.'

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!'

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'

¹¹ The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Prayers

This morning we celebrate with the crowds, pouring into Jerusalem. Jesus, you rode on a donkey and coats were laid at your feet. The crowds waved palm branches and shouted, 'Hosannah'.

Holy God, as we are restricted in what we can do in these extraordinary times, we can't join a crowd to cheer and shout hosanna and so we worship in households rather than in church buildings,

But Lord, help us to remember that the church is not closed –
for church is people not buildings.

So, Lord, we pray for all with whom we normally worship Sunday by Sunday...especially at this time for John and Barbara.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear Our Prayer

Holy God, we pray for those in authority as they grapple with the unexpected. Guide those who are giving the world's leaders knowledge and expertise in these times.

Give wisdom and courage to all in leadership, and when this is all over may humankind emerge strengthened.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear Our Prayer

Holy God, as we hear and see the news and exchange thoughts on social media, help us to remember all those less fortunate than ourselves, among them: those who are lonely, those who are angry, those who are distressed, those who are at their wits end, those who are struggling to get home, those who cannot get the help they need.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear Our Prayer

Holy God, we remember all those who are working to keep things going: those working in the NHS and those around it helping to keep things working, those keeping our streets clean and collecting our rubbish, those harvesting, delivering and selling the food in our shops, those keeping us secure and our utilities functioning, those looking after the children of key workers, especially those at Thatcham Park School, those helping to care for the elderly and vulnerable, clergy of all religions seeking to minister in difficult times.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear Our Prayer

Holy God, we remember those who are ill at this time, those who have had accidents and we think of Dave's neighbour knocked off his bike on the A4 on his way to work and has serious injuries, those who are having or maybe missing important treatment, keep them safe Lord, praying also for families who may not be able to visit loved ones in hospital.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear Our Prayer

Holy God, we remember those who have died,
whether from Covid-19 or from other causes.
We pray for their families and friends
especially as they arrange funerals so different from what they expected.
We pray that they and we may come at the last to find peace in your presence.

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

Standing at the foot of the cross, 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 for ever. Amen.**

*(Prayers based on those written by Dudley Coates who is a Local Preacher in
the Yeovil and Blackmore Vale Methodist Circuit and a former Vice President of
the Methodist Conference. (From Roots for churches))*

Blessing

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

Amen.

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you 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 your minds on life and peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.