

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

5 April 2020—Palm Sunday

him and God declared him as his beloved Son. His enthronement can be seen in several ways, including the mocking, robing and crowning with thorns awaiting his lifting up on to the cross to die. The contrast couldn't be greater. And yet the impact more powerful and more significant. He is finally enthroned in heaven after his ascension. Yet he has been King all along.

Who is this? So we are left with this question: who is this? The declaration at his coronation makes it clear that from now on Solomon is King. And yet the crowds that have been stirred up at the entry of Jesus into his city are still uncertain. 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee', they reply. He was and remains much more than that, as the following days make clear. We are reminded of the question that Jesus asked his disciples up north in Caesarea Philippi, 'Who do you say that I am?' Their reply? 'You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.'

TIME OF PRAYER

Who do you say Jesus is? Is he Lord and King of your life? Ask him to come afresh into your living experience right now and open your eyes to fully see who he is in the week ahead.

SUGGESTED SONG

Hosanna—I see the King of Glory
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ht5QvAMDMzE>

BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

MORE PALM SUNDAY HYMNS

Try here for some traditional Palm Sunday hymns: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1rXi9nXUkQ>

<https://rydebaptist.xyz>

Just one final reminder to look at our Sunday Supplement website if you haven't already done so. It is being updated all the time. It doesn't just contain information for Sundays but there are other useful pages with leaflets and links that you will most certainly find helpful. If there are ways that the website can be enhanced or improved, as we have said before, just let us know.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Last Monday's prayer meeting using Zoom conference software went very well indeed. For Holy Week we are planning several more occasions when we can meet in this way. Look out for the login invitation emails during the week. If you don't have access to the internet it is possible to phone in and take part, so let us know if you need the number.

Monday Prayer Meeting—7pm

Maundy Thursday Lord's Supper—7pm

Good Friday Coffee Morning—11am

Easter Morning Breakfast—9am

Dear Friends,

Welcome to a very different Palm Sunday Service. Instead of meeting in one place and re-enacting the crowds crying 'Hosanna' as Jesus enters Jerusalem nearly two thousand years ago, today we remain in our homes. Yet by joining together at the same time this morning in this simple act of worship we can truly be part of that great company on earth and in heaven who rejoice in the coming of Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of the Living God. Don't forget that on your computer or device you can click on the links to go straight to the songs and readings, and also that on the website <https://rydebaptist.xyz> you will find all sorts of other interesting and useful information and resources.

CALL TO WORSHIP

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever. ² Let Israel say: 'His love endures for ever.' ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. ²¹ I will give thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. (Ps 118)

You may still have last year's palm cross somewhere at hand that you can fetch; you may be able to make a cross using two narrow strips of paper; or you might like to draw a cross somewhere on this sheet. Do that now as a sign of commitment, entering into the Lord's presence in worship.

It is his love that endures for ever; it is to him that we bring our thanks and praise; he is the Living Gate through whom we enter into the presence of God; he is our strength, our rock and our salvation.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that through you we can come into the presence of Father God in worship this morning, and that through your Spirit we are bound together as one body, even though we are meeting in different places. Accept our worship as an offering of love and unity, for we pray this in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS

[Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#)

[1 Kings 1:28-35](#)

[Matthew 21:1-11](#)

TO PONDER

When you read through Psalm 118, and it is good to read it out loud, I wonder what pictures and images enter your mind. Do you think of yourself as part of a large crowd, walking towards the gateway of a walled city? You may have been in such a crowd, wondering how you are going to fit through, a bit like grains of sand waiting to enter through the small gap at the heart of an egg timer. And yet everyone can get through.

The gates of the righteous are opened that we may go through today. Jerusalem is a walled city with many gates, and the gates mentioned here are on the south side, through which pilgrims and worshippers would enter having come down the mount of Olives into the lower part of David's City at the Gihon Spring, before embarking on the sacred journey up towards the Temple which was built on the highest plateau. This was a well-trodden route for all who came regularly to Jerusalem for the festivals. Our well-trodden paths feel very different at this time. We recall them to our minds, asking that God will clean them and make them holy, ready for when we set foot on them once more.

SUGGESTED SONGS

All Glory, Laud and Honour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHLZJBq-cE8&list=PLDcNxsEvjaupvp50-S4b2lXJSAw1VNZPT&index=2&t=0s>

Hosanna—Praise is rising <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoz5wpycqvw&list=PLDcNxsEvjaupvp50-S4b2lXJSAw1VNZPT&index=3&t=0s>

TIME OF PRAYER

Imagine the scene again as Jesus enters Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. Who are you in the crowd? Are you a disciple of Jesus, or someone shouting 'hosanna', or an onlooker from the sidelines, or one of the leaders looking for ways to catch Jesus out? Ask God to draw you in to the centre of the action, and then remember why Jesus is coming to Jerusalem in the first place.

SUGGESTED SONG

Facing A Task Unfinished <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFHdPCNliwM>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction. Have you ever been invited to a coronation? Queen Elizabeth II's reign has now been so long that few of us were around when it happened, and even fewer can remember it. However, it was the first to be televised and you can see lots of videos of it online if you want to. The pomp, the ceremonies and the processions make for a great spectacle. Months of preparation, and very little expense spared—even on an immediate post-war budget. Preparations are already in place for the next coronation even though we hope they won't be needed for some time to come.

Bible. You may already have noticed the links between our readings this morning concerning the hasty anointing and enthroning of King Solomon and the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. You may not have noticed the parallels before. If not, go back and re-read the passages and see what you can find. Here are just a few comparisons and contrasts for now.

Coming to Jerusalem. Both accounts are about entering roughly the same geographical area along roughly the same route. Of course some things changed over time—Solomon had not built the first Temple yet; and by the time of Jesus, Herod had built the second Temple (although it hadn't been finished). David's City was slightly further down the hill, and by Jesus' day Jerusalem had grown to surround the Temple on at least two sides. Because of the valley in between, the road from the Mount of Olives would have remained the same, crossing lower down towards Gihon before then making the ascent, first to the palace, and then later on further up the hill to the Temple.

Son of David. Solomon is quite literally the Son of David. There was a potential threat to David's throne, so before it could happen he gets Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah to take his son Solomon—just as he has promised Bathsheba—and get him quickly anointed at Gihon and then enthroned in the royal palace, making it clear that he is now the king!

From his birth onwards Scripture makes it clear that Jesus is born in the line of David as foretold by the prophets, and is proclaimed the Son of David, so his arriving in Jerusalem in this way should be no surprise at all.

Donkey or Mule. And this is where the parallels get even more fascinating. Both Solomon and Jesus enter on humble working animals rather than on horses more fitting for a king. Of course the subterfuge probably meant it was wise for a certain anonymity up until the point of Solomon's anointing, although the trumpets would have blown his cover as the procession shouts 'Long live King Solomon!' The humble procession for Jesus likewise finds the crowds shouting out, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' And all this fulfilling Zechariah's foretelling: 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey.'

Anointing and Enthroning. We can compare and contrast further here. Solomon's enthroning follows fast after his anointing. We see here the pattern followed in modern coronations; you will remember that 'Zadok the Priest' was sung for the Queen back in June 1953. Arguably, certainly as far as his earthly life is concerned, Jesus' anointing took place at his baptism by John, a few miles down the road at Bethany beyond the Jordan, when the Spirit descended on