

Whitehorse Uniting Church
Written Worship
Sunday 2nd April 2023
Palm Sunday



Welcome

May the worship be a blessing to you.

Introit 724 Hosana in the Highest and Procession of Palms

Carl Tuttle 1985. MS. Curious 2020

<https://youtu.be/00nYPgwrq0I>

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord.

For he is good. His steadfast love endures forever.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Palm Sunday Prayers

Loving God you are a comfort and source of joy for us.
 We desire to celebrate the blessings you offer us and your love for us.
 You lift up our spirits, and we long to be in your presence.

Lord, we praise you and give thanks to you, we celebrate your love for us.

Jesus our Lord, thousands have followed you throughout the centuries,
 because you are a source of joy and love.
 We follow you Lord, shouting Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
 You came to bring joy and you delight in us.
 Your presence fills us with hope, and we know you love us.
 Your kindness and care for us inspires us to do the same.
 Your selfless ways inspire us to think of others' welfare
 to find ways to be a blessing for others and source of joy.

Jesus our Lord, we praise you and give thanks to you, we celebrate your love for us.

Holy Spirit, you help us become a joyful people,
a source of joy for others
your presence within us helps us rise above our troubles and find deep peace.

Come upon us today, Holy Spirit,
bringing hope and peace and joy and love.
Help us bear fruit for the kingdom of God.
Help us become a source of joy and gladness for others.

Holy Spirit, we praise you and give thanks to you, we celebrate your love for us.

Confession

Lord if we have failed to love and have done another person harm,
forgive us and transform our hearts, heal us and help us rise above our troubles.

Lord in the silence we come before you,
with all that troubles our hearts, asking for a new beginning and a fresh start.

Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
"Your sins are forgiven"
THANKS BE TO GOD

Hymn 333 All glory Praise and Honour

Theodulph of Orleans tr John Neale 1818-66

Music Melchor Teschner

<https://youtu.be/eBfJyjDolwA>

Readings – Margaret Cosstick

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a] ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.^[b] We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.^[c]

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. ²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11

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

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."

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



Young at Heart - Story - No matter what.

Discussion - Jesus loves us no matter what. You can talk with God anytime as a friend, companion, and buddy and express how you feel whether angry or at peace.

You will always be accepted and loved by God and find peace, joy, hope, and love.

Hymn 229 Jesus loves me this I know.

Anna Bartlett Warner 1820-1915

Music William Batchelder Bradbury

Wesley's Wuppets 2022

<https://youtu.be/GzIcnHnJX7A>

Sermon - Abundant generosity and joy.

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



I remember being at a World Vision event for refugees from Myanmar. I heard stories about how so many people had suffered and experienced trauma. When a young woman in traditional dress stood up and sang *Amazing Grace*, I saw how her face was filled with light and joy, and afterwards, being in her presence helped me feel joy.

Perhaps she made the decision to rise above the pain. Perhaps she is joyful because of the Holy Spirit, or she is grateful for her blessings in life. I don't know. It was good to be in her presence. Her Joy was infectious. I'm sure you know people like her.

Jesus walked over one hundred kilometres from Galilee to Jerusalem and thousands of people followed him, and they were joyful.

He'd come from an area ruled by a Jewish king to a province ruled by the Romans where the religious authorities were hanging onto power over the people with a thin thread. These authorities didn't want this troublemaker stirring up things. They wanted to maintain what little control they had and were afraid and plotted to kill him.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem the entire city was shaken to the core. What could they do?

Joy and sorrow, what a contrast between Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

The people were shouting *Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest*. But sadly, within a week their voices would be silenced by other voices shouting: *Crucify him!*

I wonder why Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem after walking one hundred kilometres or more? Some say the owners of the donkey and its colt, had abundant generosity. Others say it was all arranged and the disciples needed only to say: *The Lord needs a donkey*.

Jesus rode side-saddle and sat on the disciples' priceless robes while the crowds threw down their priceless robes on the ground to be trampled and destroyed. They did this to honour him.

The crowds welcomed him as their long-awaited messiah and king. They shouted out "*Hosanna in the highest*" and the cobblestone streets, stone walls and buildings echoed the sound of their shouting. No wonder the city was in turmoil. It was like an earthquake. The people waved palm leaves for Jesus as they did for festivals. This was a Passover festival, and thousands were coming as pilgrims to Jerusalem. It was a clash of beliefs.

The significance of riding a donkey and coming as a humble king was not lost on the crowds. It reminded them of Solomon, the humble great king who rode to his anointing on a mule. The people had watched emperors and chief priests riding on great stallions where they ruled over them with fear and coercion. Jesus came in peace and gentleness, with humility and peace.

Jesus came in the midst of chaos, fear, and jealousy, with a calm and loving presence.

The religious authorities wanted to silence him, so he wouldn't threaten what little power they had. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was a catalyst that set in motion a series of events that led to Good Friday. Jesus came meekly, humbly, and victorious and they knew it. He was big trouble for the religious authorities.

Palm Sunday and Good Friday remind us of what life is like, where there are times of joy and times of sorrow.

We tend to hold fast to memories of precious joy, which sustain us during tough times. We find our sustenance in joy and hope, which light the way when we journey through darkness and trouble.

We know suffering and sadness and we hope Joy comes in the morning.

Today there are peace walks. It reminds us Jesus came to bring us peace. His joyful entry into Jerusalem invites us to reflect on our lives.

We remember the times we have shown selfless love to others, or they have shown selfless love towards us. The times we have brought joy into other people's lives, or they have brought joy into ours. The times we have put self aside and thought of others or experienced this ourselves. The times others have been kind and loving towards us or we have done the same for them. This is what our faith is about.

Perhaps today's gospel invites us to become a joy bearer. To open up our hearts to God and others. To become a joyful person, a joyful presence for others, a source of joy for others, like Jesus.

Don't you just love being in the presence of a joyful person? Joy is infectious.

I wonder whether gratefulness and prayer help us find joy and embody it. It's life-giving to be with someone who is joyful. They are a blessing. They lift our spirits, and we want to spend time with them.

Give thanks for the people in your life who are a blessing and source of joy and selfless giving.

People want to follow Jesus and be with him. He loves us. He is like a magnet, a source of happiness and joy. We need joy. We need to be joyful and laugh more, so we can feel better about ourselves and life.

Ponder for a moment about children. They are resilient and can put aside their worries and live in the moment where they are spontaneous and joyful. We want to spend time with them. They are a source of joy and help us play and be joyful. Perhaps today's gospel invites us to be a source of joy for others, so we may find the source of our joy and sustenance for all times.

Hymn 717 – Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Henry Smith 1952-

<https://youtu.be/O32x3Fkwjbl>

Offering

Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom all for transformation through your grace and love, made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen.

Prayers of the People – Tim Joyce

A prayer from Mother Teresa (of Macedonia) - May we love you

Set our hearts on fire with love for you, O Christ, our God, that in its flame we may love you with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength, and love our neighbours as ourselves, so that by keeping your commandments we may glorify you, the giver of all good gifts.

(Mother Teresa, Macedonia, TPP p.227)

Almighty God we pray for your church

guide and govern it by your Spirit,

that we may be led in the way of truth and hold the faith

in unity of spirit and in the bond of peace.

We pray for our Whitehorse congregation that we will continue to grow together.

Give us patience and tolerance. Excite us and challenge us.

Help us, Lord, to pursue what makes for peace that we might build one another up and serve you as best we can.

We pray also Lord for other churches and agencies; St Philip's Catholic, Blackburn North; and for the Uniting congregation at Eltham/Montmorency that they too may serve you and their community with faith, compassion and courage. We pray that you will bless their witness and their ministry.

We pray for the Lort Smith Animal Hospital Chaplaincy – for the special work undertaken there that focuses on the human-animal bond and support of the sick and vulnerable. Bless their work and the work of the chaplaincy.

Merciful Lord, we pray for the world. Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:

- a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
- a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
- a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
- a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the courage and the tools to build that world.

We pray this morning for the countries of the Balkans –

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia. We give thanks for:

- the rich legacies that this area has long embodied
- those who kept both the people and their faith alive during years of repression
- those pursuing peace and reconciliation between the different ethnic and religious groups
- the resurgence of the ecumenical witness of churches in recent years.

We pray for:

- a continual healing of historic memories and pains that have been mutually inflicted
- those who continue to experience marginalization and injustice, especially the Roma
- religion to be a means of healing rather than of further separation and exploitation
- the nurturing and sustaining of pluralistic societies in the Balkans.

Lord - We also pray this morning for the poor, neglected and marginalised in our own community. For indigenous people. For asylum seekers. For those suffering hardship. That governments, churches, organisations and individuals will respond with compassion, with generosity, with an open and conciliatory heart.

Merciful Lord, we pray for those in special need at this time

For the sick
the lonely
the grieving

We entrust these people to your care. Risen Christ, stand with us. Grant us peace that we might serve you in the world through Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Lord, who taught us to pray

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be Your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and for ever, Amen.

Communion (responsive version)

The Spirit of the Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord

It is right to give our thanks and Praise

Archangels sound the trumpets

Angels teach us their song

Saints pull us into your presence

And this is our song:

Holy, Holy, Holy God

Our life, our mercy, our might

Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory

Save us, we pray, you beyond all

Blest is the one who comes in your name

Save us we pray, you beyond all

Holy God, we remember your son,

His life with the humble

His death among the wretched

His resurrection for us all

Your wisdom, our guide

Your justice, our strength

your grace, our path to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy: **Mercy!**
 And so we cry, Glory: **Glory!**
 And so we cry, Blessing! **Blessing!**

Holy God we beg for your spirit,
 Enliven this bread Awaken this body
 Pour us out for each other
 Transfigure our minds
 Ignite your church
 Nourish the life of the earth
 Make us though broken, whole
 Make us, despite death, alive

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**
 And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**
 And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Praise now,
 Praise tomorrow
 Praise forever

And so we cry, Amen **Amen!**

Life-giver, pain-bearer, love maker.
 Source of all life that is and shall be
 Father and mother of us all
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by all peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done
By all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth!
 With the bread we need for today, **Feed us**
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, **Forgive us**

In times of temptation and test, **Strengthen us**
 From trials too great to endure, **Spare us**
 From the grip of all that is evil, **Free us**
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever, **Amen**

Christ is the bread of joy
Who shares food with sinners
 Christ is the cup of life
Who revives the faint-hearted
 Let us receive what we are
 Let us become what we receive
THE BODY OF CHRIST

Invitation

This is the table of the Lord
 It is an open table where all are welcome
 These are the Gifts of God for all the People of God
May we who Share these gifts
Be found in Christ and Christ in us

We have the bread and wine together

The body of Christ keep us in eternal life **Amen**

The blood of Christ keep us in eternal life **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Blessed be God who calls us together

Praise to God who makes us one people

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom

Blessed be God whose word is proclaimed

Praise to God who is revealed as lover

Blessed be God who alone has called us

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise

Amen. Accept our thanks for all that we are.

Our hands were empty and you filled them.

Hymn 714 - Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Taizé

Sung during Communion

Jacques Berthier 1923-94

Corpus Christi Catholic Hymn Sunday 7pm Choir 2022

<https://youtu.be/l1szB qtDpw>

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you

Blessing

The Lord Bless us

With peace in our hearts

The Lord gives us truth on our lips,
and grace and generosity in our actions

May the Lord open our hearts,
to the meaning of Easter.

May the Lord grow our gratefulness and joy,
so, we may bear fruit for the kingdom.

Hymn 348 Ride on Ride on in Majesty

Henry Hart Milman 1791-1868

Music adapted by William Henry Havergal

Chet Valley Churches 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUYCxw0quuQ>

Pastoral care tips – Rev Tina



"The Seed"

Lord plant a seed of joy in our hearts and
help us embrace your peace.
Lord, love us into your kingdom and
give us healing and deep peace.
Lord, help us be a joyful presence,
and blessing for others. Amen.

The Art and Faith Series is from Loyola Press. (Catholic Resources)

It takes you on a profound journey through reflection on the arts
and promises to deepen our faith in Christ.

Commentary is by Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, assistant professor of liturgy, catechesis, and evangelization at Loyola University New Orleans. She holds a bachelor's degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame, a master's degree in liturgy from St. John's University in Collegeville, a master's degree in religion and the arts from Yale Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in theology and education from Boston College. Her unique background in faith and art brings to life a new way of observing Lent and understanding the season on a more personal level.

Here are the resources for all of Easter.

Palm Sunday

<https://youtu.be/jKTnmhv3mQI>

Maundy Thursday

<https://youtu.be/0Geffl3ZSjE>

Good Friday

<https://youtu.be/ttj3XATZS4>

Holy Saturday

<https://youtu.be/DgICTp-CRE>

Easter Sunday

<https://youtu.be/3A8rtK7DMIs>

The link to all the series

https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/arts-and-faith-for-lent/?utm_source=ignsp&utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=lent2023