



The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Edition 1: Sunday 5th April 2020 : Palm Sunday

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of the Aldershot and North Camp Anchor. We aim to produce this simple devotional news-sheet each week until we are able to physically meet together again for worship. This letter will be emailed to our members for whom we have email addresses and posted to those who do not have access to emails. We hope that this mixture of devotional material and news will be helpful in keeping us linked together in these difficult and challenging days.

In trying to think of a name for this weekly mailing, we started to look at words starting with A, N and C (representing 'Aldershot' and 'North Camp'). It seems to me that the name Anchor was a good suggestion as the image of the anchor is a powerful one in stormy times.

In the letter to the Hebrews chapter 6 v 19, the writer uses this image when he writes, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (NIV). It's an image that is taken up by the Boy's Brigade with their badge of an anchor on which are written the words 'Sure and Steadfast' representing the wording of that verse in the Authorized Version. That same wording is found in the chorus to the hymn 'Will your anchor hold' which contains these words-

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

The image at the top of this letter shows an ancient Christian representation of this profound truth as it brings together in the one image both the anchor and the cross.

In these stormy days of uncertainty and anxiety we can be held steadfast and sure in the Saviour's love as we turn to Jesus in our prayers.

Yours in His service

Chris Blake

Palm Sunday Reflections

Readings and prayers for you to use on Sunday or at some other time in the week. The prayers are in the plural 'we' form as a reminder that although we may be alone at this time – our prayers are joined with the prayers of others.

Introduction

Rejoice greatly, O
Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of
Jerusalem!



See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9 v 9)

Hymn

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna' cry;
Your humble beast pursues its road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your power and reign. (StF 265)

Prayer

Lord God of mystery which we cannot fathom, we honour your name. You are always the same in love and purpose.
Heavenly King worthy of all honour and praise, yet humble and riding on a donkey we want to follow you today.
Lord Jesus who entered Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, enter into our hearts again as we worship you now.
We pray for your forgiveness for those times when we have not been willing to follow you where you lead. Help us this day to hear your words to us 'Your sins are forgiven'.

Amen.

Bible Reading

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: 'Say to Daughter Zion, "See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.' (Matthew 21 v 1-11)

Reflection

There is much that we could reflect on in Matthew's account of the first Palm Sunday. Perhaps today I could encourage you to think about the response of the disciples to Jesus's strange request to go into the city and to find a donkey. This was an unusual task which they might well have struggled to understand, and yet Matthew tells us "The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them".

We live in strange days when we wonder how we can be faithful disciples and yet there are many ways in which we can still show our care for others. As we keep in contact by telephone or in other electronic ways, we can show others not only our care and love but also the care and love of Jesus.

Let us use these days to spend time in prayer and service and to offer ourselves, like those first disciples, to do what Jesus instructs us to do. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray today -

- for those who are isolated from their loved ones
- for those who are in the 'front line' in our health service
- for our own circle of family and friends
- for those whose needs are particularly known to us

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer. Amen.

Hymn

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Lord we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise
Be exalted, O Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!
Lord we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise
Be exalted, O Lord my God!
Glory to the King of kings! (StF 263)



Blessing

May the love of Christ shine in our eyes. May the compassion of Christ work through our hands. May the word of Christ be on our lips and may the life of Christ flow from our hearts. Amen.

Worship Information

On Sunday there are opportunities to share in Morning Worship on BBC1. As I write, the time of the service is being shown as 10.45 a.m. but please do check as last week the time changed at the last minute. There are also opportunities to share in worship services broadcast on local radio at 8.00 a.m. or on Radio 4 at 8.10 a.m.

For those with access to the internet there is a live service led by Rev Billy Slatter at Fleet. This can be found on the 'Fleet Methodist Services' Facebook page. Other Methodist services can be found through the Methodist Church Website.

Competition (Sorry – no prizes!)

When thinking up the name 'Anchor' we saw the first three letters as standing for 'Aldershot and North Camp'. Any suggestion for what the final three letters could appropriately stand for? We have some suggestions, but your ideas might be better! Let me know your suggestions by contacting me as shown below.

Feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we might use the 'Anchor' mailing in the weeks ahead, then please let me know by email (chris.blake@methodist.org.uk) or by telephone (01252 548215). Thanks Rev. Chris Blake