



The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 46: Sunday 28th March 2021



Holy Week

Dear Friends,

This week's edition of 'The Anchor' is different from the usual pattern in that it includes worship resources for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day.

The reason for this is that I am due to have eye surgery next week to correct a form of retinal detachment. This will involve day surgery under general anaesthetic, and it will mean that I will need to be away from work for about four weeks so that the eye can recover.

During that time, pastoral care and support will be provided at Aldershot by Rev Philip Simpkins and at North Camp by Rev Gina Hoff. I will add their contact details at the end of this column, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all my Circuit colleagues for their help and support.

Joy and I value your prayers at this time. We will continue to pray for you that even in these days of continuing challenge you will be able to celebrate the Good News that Jesus is Alive!

Yours in His service

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Bible Readings: © Biblica 2011. Some prayers taken from "2000 prayers for public worship" by Nick Fawcett. CCLI No 000295.

Palm Sunday



Hymn (StF 262)

All glory, laud, and honour,
To thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring
Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's royal Son
Who in the Lord's name comest
The King and Blessed One

Bible Reading (Mark 1 v 7-9)

When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Reflection: By entering into Jerusalem on what we know as Palm Sunday, Jesus set in motion the series of events that were to lead to his arrest, trial and death. Those who took action against Jesus saw him as a threat to their political or religious positions of power. However, for Jesus, his focus was elsewhere. He entered the city not on a magnificent war horse but in humility riding on a donkey. He came not to start a political or military rebellion but to show that real power was to be found in self-sacrificial love. That love would soon be seen on a cross. That love is offered to us still today.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, remind us through the events of Palm Sunday, that you are King, but not of this world; that you rule but not through force; that you invite our respect, but do not demand it; that you are the Lord of lords, but servant of all. Give us a deeper understanding of your Kingdom and a firmer grasp of your purposes. Teach us the way of humility and the path of love, so that we may honour you now in worship and each day in service, to your glory. Amen.

Good Friday



Hymn (StF 287)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

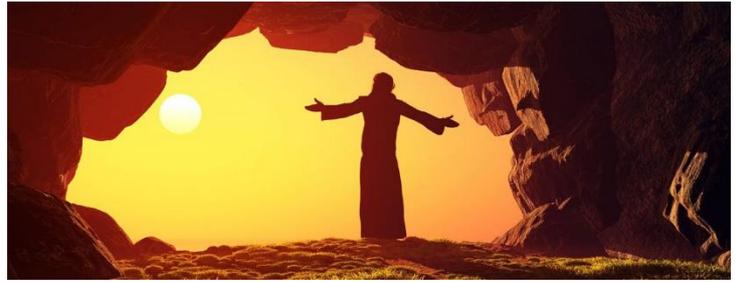
Bible Reading (Mark 15 v 16-20)

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Reflection: The soldiers mock Jesus as they prepare to put him to death. The crown of thorns, the purple robe and the cry, "Hail, King of the Jews" are intended to insult Jesus and yet, through their actions and their words, the true nature of the Kingship of Jesus is revealed. In John's Gospel, Pilate orders a sign to be made saying 'Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews!' Some protest to Pilate that the sign should read that 'He *claimed* to be the King of the Jews' but Pilate replies "What I have written I have written". Even Pilate recognised something of kingship in Jesus. On Good Friday we come to worship the King whose throne is the cross.

Prayer: Help us Lord as we reflect on the events of Good Friday, to recognise the awfulness of your death and the awesomeness of your sacrifice; to remember how nails pierced your hands and feet, crushing flesh and bone, the pain too dreadful to contemplate. For the immense love that could endure all this, willingly for our sake, we offer you our praise and our lives. Amen.

Easter Day



Hymn (StF 313 v2)

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness,
hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

Bible Reading: Mark 16 v 1-7

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Reflection: He has risen! The truth of those three words, spoken to the women at the tomb on the first Easter morning, changed their lives and changed the world. As we celebrate Easter Day, we are invited to allow those three words to transform our lives and to follow the risen Jesus day by day.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, may the truth of your glorious resurrection continue to warm our hearts and change our lives so that we can look to the future with hope and with confidence knowing that you are with us in your risen power. Amen.