

Whare karakia

Home prayers

5 April 2020
Matthew 21:1-11
Palm Sunday
Lent 6: Control...again!

We realize life is a bit different for all of us right now but nonetheless we worship a God who stays the same through every age and season, and is our constant guide. So, like the first disciples we are imagining church in a new way and invite you to 'worship through' the following liturgy on your own or with your family this Sunday 5 April at 10am, from your home. Get yourself a cup of tea and join the community in spirit as we worship from our homes, but with one voice and with one heart!

Let it Go

Lent 6: Control...again

Today is Palm Sunday and our six weeks of lent draw to a close – who would have thought that when we chose the theme – “Let It Go” our global world and our private worlds would require such a let go....do a quick rethink in your minds of the last six weeks..Let it Go.... Control, Expectations, Assumptions, Fear, Normality and now we jump back to Control again. Let's start positively...as we have let go during Lent what are the things you have taken up (or been forced to take up) for which you are thankful.

Get someone in your bubble to be the reader and then everyone respond with the text in bold. If you are by yourself, read both but be sure to do the responses loudly!

Opening Prayer

Reader

On Palm Sunday we meet together to celebrate, as the people celebrated as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

Hosanna God! Save us! (wave your Palms!)

Reader

We rejoice, as the people rejoiced. And more than ever we need to cry out the words that the people were crying out that day...

Hosanna God! Save us! (wave your Palms!)

Reader

As we look around us and see what's happening our hearts cry...

Hosanna God! Save us! (wave your Palms!)

Confession

Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.

Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where your thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.

Absolution

God forgives us; be at peace.

Song

Majesty, worship his majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from his throne
Unto his own his anthem raise

So exalt lift up on high the name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the king
Majesty, worship his majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings.

Bible Story

Matthew 21: 1-11



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

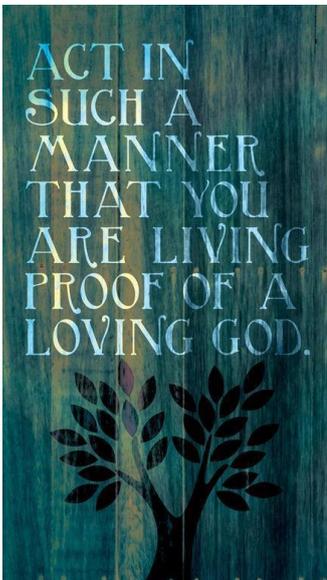
Northwest Anglican

Reflection: From Learne

When I spoke almost six weeks ago of letting go of control I don't think any of us expected that it would be this far reaching. For the people of Israel in Jerusalem they did not expect what they got either. This figure to whom they were crying out was a prophet, riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, a symbol of a king coming in humility, not mighty and riding on a warhorse. This one came in peace and love and continued to turn the world upside down with the radical reversal of attitudes and behaviours of the kingdom of God. They had to let go of controlling who or what he should be. A week later their assumptions were blown away again as Jesus was proved to be Lord of Lords, King of Kings, and Prince of Peace following his death and resurrection.

This, my friends, is the good news of hope we have to offer. Lately I have heard stories of people with no apparent faith in Jesus Christ using our service sheets or watching some of the live streamed services available from other congregations. People are fearful and concerned and looking for love and support. When we consider Palm Sunday this year and as we go into Holy Week let's open our eyes to the world around us. I encourage us to think about the people who are near to us – our household; our neighbours; our whanau from whom we are separated. Yes it is tough for all of us but what can we continue to bring as Christians to this new world we are living in?

Intercessions



Prayer for a Pandemic (edited) By Cameron Wiggins Belin

May we who are merely inconvenienced

Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors

Remember those most vulnerable

May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who by having to be at home lose their income .

May we who have the capacity to care for our children as schools closed

Remember those for whom this adds to the financial and emotional strain on households

May we who have to cancel our trips

Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we settle in for a quarantine at home

Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country

Let us choose love during this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other.

Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour.

Amen.

Questions to ponder

- How might you mark each day of Holy Week while in lockdown?
- What about this lockdown season might be helpful in our connection to God?

Response Activity

- Write a prayer expressing your praise to the almighty God....if you find it hard to start..write it like a letter..."Dear God, I praise you....."

Closing Prayer

Lord God, help us as we journey through Holy week to Easter to live out your love for others. Help us to do as Jesus did for us, showing love and compassion always.

All glory be to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen.

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:
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