

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 28th March 2021, Palm Sunday

Old Testament: Isaiah 50: 4-9

Psalm: Psalm 31: 9-18.

New Testament: Philippians 2: 5-11

Gospel: Mark 11.: 1-11

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. David Campbell

It is quite possible, that apart from the story of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, that the accounts of his arrival into Jerusalem at the beginning of what turned out to be the last week of his life is one of the most visually stunning of all the stories contained in the entire record of the Christian Bible. Many will be all too familiar with the images that story provokes – the vast throngs of people gathered for the Jewish feast commemorating the night of liberation from their Egyptian slavery all those generations before. The shadowy figure of the Galilean itinerant preacher entering the great city of God seated on a donkey. The adulation of the crowds who marked the coming of a king in the tradition of that great passage in chapter 9 of the book of the Prophet Zechariah by spreading their cloaks and branches from palm trees on the ground before him. The subsequent events that seemed to take place in the House of God – in the precincts of the Temple itself – which have come down to us as the account of the cleansing of the Temple or the driving out of the money changers. All of these stories are brightly visual, and yet, for me, they are not as powerful, nor as endearing or as certain even as the simple image I have in my mind of that day – an image of a lowly yet wonder-working and prophetic son of an artisan from the back water of the Roman Empire, arriving into a city to announce in symbol and story that a new age of compassion and love was to be inaugurated. An age that he himself had begun and which, through the work of his followers, continues to this day.

Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the
human race sent your Son our Saviour
Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility, and also
be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Lent Worship BBC 1 at 11 am., Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm.