

Online Worship - 5 April 2020 Palm Sunday

The Gathering – first video

Organ – Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens - Fanfare - Steven McIntyre

Welcome - [OLIVER]

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to this celebration of Holy Communion.

My name is Oliver Brewer-Lennon. I'm the Vice Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. This service marks the beginning of my very first Holy Week as a priest in this Cathedral. I've seen videos online of what Palm Sunday celebrations have looked like in the past—bagpipes, fanfares, bunches of people. But today our gathering is a little more spread out, with a procession perhaps not as visible as in years past.

But it isn't any less significant. The same variety of faces, the same desire to watch and partake, and the same spirit of the faithful God brings us here today. It's just expressed *differently*.

This Cathedral has a reputation for being a place where difference is valued—where who we are and where we find ourselves is the place from which we start. And that is as true today as any other.

Let us welcome the triumphal Lord who is moving among us even now and watch as he draws near.

Confession and Absolution

[KELVIN] God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

[Silence]

[KELVIN] God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[OLIVER] God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from our sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Kyrie – *Missa orbis factor*

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Collect - [OLIVER]

O God of eternal glory, you anointed Jesus your servant to bear our sins, to encourage the weary, to raise up and restore the fallen. Keep before our eyes the splendour of the paschal mystery of Christ, and, by our sharing in the passion and resurrection, seal our lives with the victorious sign of his obedience and exaltation.

We ask this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

The Ministry of the Word – second video

Gospel – Mark 11:1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.” ’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [SISTER HELENA]

Palm Sunday. The Gospel doesn't mention palms—just leafy branches, and cloaks laid on the road by people gathering as Jesus leaves Bethany around the Mount of Olives, makes a left turn at Bethpage, and goes down across the valley into Jerusalem. He is known thereabouts perhaps more as miracle-worker than as preacher, and a crowd grows as he passes, giving him a rock-star's welcome—or a king's—the poor folk's red-carpet.

He enters by the Golden Gate, straight into the outer grounds of the Temple, the gate legend says will be used by the Messiah when he comes, the gate blocked up by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and never reopened in almost six centuries since. It is the most direct way into the city, but it is provocative, causing the authorities to put extra surveillance on the prophet with such *chutzpah*. They are nervous about the cheering crowd, afraid of riot or revolution. But Jesus just looks around and goes back to Bethany.

This morning we can still trace Jesus' journey together. Our physical 'Golden Gates' are locked, but that does not make Jesus any less the Messiah. And remember where he goes that evening after he looks around the city—back to the household in Bethany, to his loving friends, Mary and Martha and Lazarus. Wherever we are, we can still welcome Jesus.

We can lay before him a rich carpet of the concern we have for each other, the acts of kindness, the thoughtfulness that makes do and shares with others, the obedience to the strictures that are in place to save lives. The cloaks and palms were gathered up again as the crowd's mood shifted. The loving care we have for Christ in each other today can endure and help us re-examine what really matters. Our physical interactions are temporarily limited, but there is no lockdown on love and prayer, creativity and imagination. Unblock your own Golden Gate for Jesus to enter, welcome him into your own Bethany.

Our world will never be the same again. As we follow our Lord and King on his journey today, let us also pray and imagine the world we can build beyond this chaos. Imagine and work for a compassionate and merciful resurrection from the death caused by our heedlessness and self-centeredness. Make people come before profit, and the earth, so scarred by our greed, rejoice with us as we share generously the gifts we have been offered by this challenge.

Now is the perfect moment to ask the age-old question: If not me; who? If not now; when?

Intercessions – Taylor Driggers

Lord God, we come to you this Palm Sunday as people whose hosannas have already turned to worry and uncertainty. As we turn to follow you on your road to Calvary and your blessed Passion, help us to keep your love alive in our hearts.

We bring before you our world and its leaders as they contend with the ongoing threat of COVID-19. Where there is sickness, bring healing; where there is injustice, may your mercy be shown to the vulnerable. Jesus, healer of the sick and friend to fishermen, be with all healthcare workers, service staff, and retail employees during this trying time, and soften the hearts of those who would place profit over people's wellbeing.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We offer our prayers for your church throughout the world. Though we are scattered and cannot break bread together, may we find new ways to honour your commandment to love one another.

We pray this week for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. In our own diocese we offer prayers for Mark Strange, our Interim Bishop, and for Kevin Pearson, our Bishop-Elect. We pray for the ministry of Mary Jepp at Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock, as well as for the congregation of St Kieran's, Campbelltown.

And we pray for our own cathedral of St Mary, asking this week that you would bless the work of our vestry compliance group.

Grant that all your church may observe this Holy Week with faithfulness and humility under these strange circumstances.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, you gave your servant Isaiah the tongue of a teacher that he may know how to sustain the weary with a word. We pray for all in

this city affected by mental health conditions, and for their carers and service providers. In a time when many of us are experiencing anxiety, fear, and loneliness, may we offer comfort to one another.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We bring before you now in the silence of our hearts the people and situations near to us in need of our prayers. May we be gentle with ourselves and with each other in the week ahead, that we may scatter palm branches on the road to ease our neighbours' journey through this troubled time.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And finally, we bring before you those who have died, that they may be gathered into your loving embrace and their loved ones may know your peace in the midst of their grief. We pray for the repose of Gordon Smith, and on their year's mind we remember David Brown, Agnes Fern, and Alexander Frew Wallace.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Communion – third video

When we gather together like this for worship, we bring things to be changed. We bring ourselves; we bring bread and wine; and we bring gifts—time, talent and money—that through our prayer, they may be transformed and then transform the world.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to this Cathedral as an offering, use the link on the Online Worship page.

Let us present our gifts to the Lord.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own we give you.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you,
maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven
and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us
to live as sons and daughters
in our Father's house.

We who by Christ's power
follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you
most loving Father,
for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
Lifted on the Cross,
his suffering and forgiveness
spanned the gulf our sins had made.
Through that dark struggle
death was swallowed up in victory,
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
your Chosen One, himself the First-Born,
freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,

and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat.

This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup,

he offered you thanks,

and gave it to them saying:

“Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;

it is poured out for you, and for all,

that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son's command.

We recall his blessed passion and death,

his glorious resurrection and ascension;

and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts

and with them ourselves,

a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,

and send your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon this bread and this wine,

that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,

they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,

and we may be kindled with the fire of your love

and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body

to live and work to your praise and glory;

may we grow together in unity and love

until at last, in your new creation,

we enter into our heritage

in the company of the Virgin Mary,

the apostles, and prophets,

and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us,
so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Communion

Today we cannot each receive the bread and wine in person but God is present in this world.

As we gaze in our adoration we feed on God in our hearts and minds that we may in turn feed the world.

Music at Communion – Setting by Fr Samuel F. Weber, OSB

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches, and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

Blessing – [OLIVER]

Before I share God's blessing, I would like to say thanks to all who have made this worship happen, whether your face has appeared on these screens or not.

If this is new for you, maybe you'd want to say hello or share something of your experience. If that's you, fill out a Welcome Card on our website under the dropdown menu 'Contact' at the top of the homepage.

Wherever you are, you are welcome here. And, you're welcome anytime. Visit us online at www.thecathedral.org.uk. There, you'll find more information about the Cathedral and this community, and there you can also continue your journey with the Church around the world through this Holy Week.

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Organ Voluntary (Steven McIntyre) - Improvisation

Young church materials are available on the online worship page - www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship