



## The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Palm Sunday

Prepared by Mrs Dee Moden Local Preachers' Secretary



### CALL TO WORSHIP:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in highest heaven. These were the joyful cries of the crowd that had gathered outside Jerusalem to welcome Jesus into the Holy City. So here at the beginning of Holy week, while we share that excitement, we also prepare ourselves for the events of the week ahead.

**HYMN: 264 Make way, make way.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNDCyAB1Mvs><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNDCyAB1Mvs>

Make way, make way for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives,  
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him  
into your lives.

Make way, (make way),  
Make way, (make way),  
for the King of kings, (for the King of kings).  
Make way, (make way),  
Make way, (make way),  
and let His kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal  
the prisoners to free,  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.

Make way, (make way),

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh;  
With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify.

Make way, (make way),

We call you now to worship Him  
as Lord of all;  
To have no gods before Him  
their thrones must fall!

Make way, (make way),

### PRAYERS:

Lord Jesus Christ, you entered Jerusalem on a wave of enthusiasm, greeted by your joyful people, shouts of praise, exultation and protestations of loyalty on every side. Yet you knew the bubble would soon burst, that the welcome wasn't all genuine, and things would change. Loving Lord, we come today to worship you with equal gladness but conscious that our commitment isn't as strong as it should be, and we fail you in many ways. Help us to learn from that first Palm Sunday, so that our Hosannas may ring out as loudly tomorrow as they do today.

Lord Jesus Christ, Servant of all, Friend of all, Saviour of all, Ruler of all, as we come together today, give us new insight as we listen to your word, touch our hearts as we sing your praises, and help us to feel your presence as we walk in your footsteps through the coming week. We ask that you will receive our worship as we come celebrating you as our King our Lord, our Saviour and our Redeemer. In and through your precious name we pray. Amen

### PSALM 118 1-2, 19-29

### REFLECTION

I always compare hymns with the Psalms, because they are both outpourings of different feelings and emotions, in reference to scripture, or for celebrations of events etc. Psalm 118 starts by extolling God for all his goodness telling the people how steadfast is his love, v 1-2. Then after verse 19 it changes from speaking about God, to speaking to him, greeting him with praise and thanksgiving. This is a Psalm of victorious celebrations, even speaking of waving Palm branches in the air, as the processions leads up into the Temple through the gateway up to the Altar. This was a special customary way of expressing honour, praise and adoration. In our following reading we fast forward to another, but very different account, of a victorious celebration.

### MATTHEW 21: 1-11

**HYMN: 262 All glory laud and honour** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBfJyjDolwA>

All glory, laud, and honour  
to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
the King and Blessed One.

The company of angels  
is praising you on high;  
and we with all creation  
in chorus make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.

To you before your passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.  
As you received their praises,  
accept the prayers we bring,  
for you delight in goodness,  
O good and gracious King!

## REFLECTION

As we have just read, and sung in our hymns about this great jubilation, let us now pause for a while, maybe play some rousing music and imagine ourselves there in the streets of Jerusalem, waving branches singing, shouting hosanna, being part of that crowd, feeling the excitement of this joyous occasion.

This man Jesus, had burst on the scene 3 years ago speaking of God's kingdom being near, showing people a different way of living, healing the sick, and those with troubled minds, showing mercy, showing God's love. Here today he was riding on a colt through the streets of Jerusalem! Just like it had been foretold! Nothing like this had ever happened before, it was electrifying – it was amazing – such a sight to behold.

Yes, what a day it was, the disciples must have been elated, this is what they wanted. They had got to know Jesus in these past 3 years, been with him throughout this journey, the ups and downs, they had learned so much, and now this amazing recognition. But they knew there were undercurrents lurking in the background, and Jesus himself had been saying strange things they really didn't understand. Yes, what a day, but were they really prepared for the week ahead?

The question for us today is:

- Are we prepared for what is to come?
- Are we prepared to stand our ground in face of adversity?
- Are we prepared to travel in Christ's footsteps and stand up for what is right?

We of course, unlike the disciples, know the outcome, but we must not miss or minimise the enormity of it, jumping to Easter Sunday before we have lived through Good Friday, realising the truly amazing sacrifice given for us all. We continue with these thoughts as we sing the next hymn.

## HYMN 265 Ride on ride on in majesty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUYCxw0quuQ>

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;  
O Savior meek, pursue Your road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.  
The Father on His sapphire throne  
awaits His own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die,  
bow Your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O Christ, Your power and reign.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The host of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching Sacrifice.

## PRAYERS INTERCESSION

Loving God, as we pray for our world let us not lose sight of the fact that you are in the world, and you are in the midst of all things. You share our joys our sorrows and our despair. So, we lift before you our broken world. Lord Jesus, as we relive the story of your Passion and move once again into this coming week of unbelievable pain and sacrifice, move our hearts within us to weep over all places of conflict.

We think of the terrible scenes we see on our screens every day .....

We mourn those who die unnoticed, and we despair of the hatred, damage, and destruction caused. We bring to you people of all ages living in fear and trepidation and we pray for peace.

Lord in your mercy ..... Hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for the leaders of the Nations whose decisions affect so many, may they rule with integrity justice and mindfulness, thinking of people before power and their own importance! May they bring hope out of despair – peace instead of war – love instead of hate, so we can all live in harmony respecting our differences. Lord your presence is needed more than ever in the world. Stir our wills to stand firm when we meet injustice, and to work for reconciliation both at home, in our communities, and in the world.

Lord in your mercy ..... Hear our prayer

Healing Lord, we think about the people known to us, in our church – community – family – or friends, in various situations who need our special prayers today and in a moment of quiet we bring their names to you.....

Lord in your mercy ..... Hear our prayer

Loving Lord, as we rejoice in this day in the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, may we too be willing to walk the way of the cross. By our lives, may we be witness to you as our Lord and King, declaring your love to the world. Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

**HYMN: 276**    **Lift high the cross**    <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ephp3TVkPVY>

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Follow the path on which our Captain trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.

[Refrain]

Each new-born soldier of the crucified  
Bears on their brow the seal of him who died

[Refrain]

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.

[Refrain]

### Closing Prayer:

As the crowds gathered to welcome and celebrate the coming kingdom of freedom, peace and justice, so we lay ourselves before our donkey-riding King, Jesus Christ. Let his vision be our vision, his kingdom be our kingdom, his call be our call, his journey be our journey, and his life, death and resurrection be our salvation.

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Amen.**

From farthest regions let them homage bring,  
And on his cross adore their Saviour King:

[Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally.

[Refrain]

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease  
Beneath the shadows of its healing peace:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.*