

SERMON NOTES Sunday 5th April

sunnysidechurch

Palm Sunday

Bible passages Psalm 118.19-end; Matthew 21.1-11

Introduction

- Holy Week asks us who is Jesus and what does it mean?
- Palm Sunday: familiar story but full of symbolism chosen by Jesus to help answer question 'Who is this?'

Symbols

1. Donkey: prophecies that Messiah arrive on a donkey
2. Palms: victory and Jewish nationalism
3. Psalm 118: praise and plea that God saves
4. Timing: Passover celebrating God leading his people up out of slavery in Egypt

Who is this?

- Jesus making clear that he is the Messiah, the Saviour they have been waiting for
- Jesus' actions caused a stir because he does not look and behave as people expected
- Jesus is in control of situation: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (Matthew 28.18)

Conclusion

- Who is Jesus for you and what does it mean for you this week?
- Confidence in who Jesus is will reduce our fear and give us hope

Some questions for discussion

1. How would you answer the questions who is Jesus and what does it mean?
2. Read Matthew 21.1-11. What strikes you about this story?
3. Reflect on the symbols Jesus chose. How do they deepen your answer to the questions who is Jesus and what does it mean?
4. Why did Jesus cause such a stir? In what ways does he continue to cause a stir?
5. Jesus said: 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'. How might this affect how you see life day to day?
6. Looking ahead to Holy Week; how are you going to journey with Jesus? Which part(s) of the journey might you find encouraging? Which part(s) might you find challenging?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Psalm 118.28

Why not spend some time praising God for who he is and asking him to show you more of what it means this week?

Revd Rebecca Fardell