

**St John's, Bourne End
worshipping together while we are apart**

Sunday 5th April 2020: Palm Sunday

I suggest that if there is more than one of you, you choose someone to read the words in normal print and all join in with the words in bold or if you are alone, you silently read the words in normal print and say the words in bold out loud. Try not to rush through the words but allow some time for God to speak to you and you to hear him.

I have also sent instructions for making a palm cross. Why not have a go?

Remember, although we may be physically apart, we are together in spirit as we worship God together for we are all part of God's family at St John's.

Rebecca

Gathering

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
his love endures for ever.

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

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
his love endures for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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

Pause to allow us to experience God's presence with us

Confession

The words for our confession today are based on King David's great penitential psalm after he has sinned with Bathsheba, Psalm 51.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Take a moment to bring to mind those things you wish to confess to our heavenly Father this morning?

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Against you, you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Listen to what the Bible says:
'Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.'

**True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.**

Collect

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Talk

Praise

Pause to reflect

Now say these verses from Psalm 62

**Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken.
My salvation and my honour depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.**

Psalm 62.5-8

Pause for thought

Today, as we begin our journey through Holy Week we are turning our thoughts from *Who God says we are and what it means* to the question of who Jesus is and what it means. The people in Jerusalem ask: 'Who is this?' How would you answer them?

Psalm 118. 19-end

Mathew 21.1-11

Readings

Jesus said: 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'.
How might this affect how you see life in the days ahead?

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5.7

Let's spend some time praying. You might like to include some or all of these things in your prayers:

- Our leaders, scientists, health workers and all working to help us navigate the coronavirus crisis
- Our neighbours and community as they face the effects of the crisis
- For all who mourn
- Our church family: may we grow nearer to God and to one another as we journey with Jesus through Holy Week
- Our family and ourselves

We bring all our prayers together by praying the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing prayer

Why not picture the people from St John's who you would normally see on a Sunday and pray this blessing for all of your church family?

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

**And may the LORD bless us and keep us;
the LORD make his face shine on us and be gracious to us;
the LORD turn his face towards us and give us peace. Amen.**

Based on Numbers 6.24-26

Coffee

Now, why not make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and then ring someone from St John's for a chat?