



Palm Sunday - Sunday 28th March 2021

Sunday worship on is on  YouTube

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type.....

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate and select **Church on YouTube**

You can also find us by searching on YouTube and on the Ramsgate Facebook page.

But we want to still “meet together” and share our thoughts and prayers and testimonies. It will give a chance to share how God has spoken to us during the meeting – and allow us to encourage each other.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>

Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167

And you can **ring into Zoom by phone!** If you ring 02034815240, followed by 8651865167# then you will hear the meeting! Calls charged at the normal UK rate.

If you have no internet we are providing each week’s service on a DVD which we will deliver to you. Please let us know if you **do not want** a DVD each week. Also tell us if you **need help** watching the DVDs we are sending



What's happening next week at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

DON'T FORGET CLOCKS GO FORWARD AT 2am DON'T BE LATE FOR ZOOM!

Sunday 28 th 10am	Church at Home on YouTube – PALM SUNDAY
Sunday 28 th 11.15 am	ZOOM fellowship
Sunday 28 th 12 noon	ZOOM Youth Group
Sunday 28 th 4.30 pm	ZOOM Children's Church Kids Club (up to 11 years)
Monday to Thursday (6.30am-9am)	Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)
Tuesday 30 th (10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank (No Food Bank on Good Friday)



We will devote **each evening** of Holy Week (Monday to Thursday) with a short ZOOM reflection each evening at 7pm for 30 minutes.

On **Thursday** we will consider that last Passover meal also at 7pm by ZOOM

On **Good Friday** we will have a YouTube service at 10.30 am and hope (DHQ permission pending) to open the hall for worship at 10.15. We will then share with a ZOOM meditation at 11.15am.

Easter Sunday there will have a YouTube service at 10.00 am and (DHQ permission pending) plan to open the hall for worship at 09.45

We will then share with a ZOOM meditation at 11.15am.

We will need to space the seats to provide the recommended 2M distance. We will have to wear masks and are not permitted to sing. But if you would value being able to worship over the Easter weekend in the hall then this will be possible. Please feel under no pressure to come to the hall. We will ensure that you can join in Easter worship **from home** if you feel this is the sensible and safe thing to do.



There is a full day of activities on Fortress Radio.

<https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>

And don't forget Songs of Praise Sundays at 13.15pm



Maggie is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



Birthdays

- Brian Lamb Saturday 27-March
- Lana Pearce Thursday 1-Apr
- Philip Coles Friday 2-Apr

Ben Sebolao Friday 2-Apr
John McCairn Saturday 3-Apr
Gordon McMasters Sunday 4 -Apr

Prayers please for

Continued prayers for **Jean Mayton** in a nursing home in Westgate-on-sea, for the family and friends of **Captain John Garbutt**, for **Ann** and Fred – neighbours of Jason, **Chris**, a friend of Gay. Prayers too for **Joyce Hill**

For **Melvin Harris** who is gravely ill in Canterbury Hospital.

We continue to pray for **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John McCairn** all waiting for medical treatment. For Tracy's dad **Ivan**. Continued prayers for **Paul** , son of Hazel, who has one more treatment session and for **Archie**, Lisa and Scott.



The mark of love

As we approach Good Friday this could be a powerful witness.

The 'mend mark' is a distinctive wristband that is designed to resemble the nail scar of Christ. The bracelet features two circular disks that rest on each side of the wrist. When worn, these circles simulate the hole that was caused by the nail driven into

the wrists of Jesus as he displayed the greatest single act of love the world has ever known. If you wear it and people ask you – what will you say about the cross?

Wear it with **conviction**, wear it with **honour**, wear it with **faith**, wear it with **love**.



You will each have received a

Palm cross

Hold the cross in your right hand and then place your left thumb on the left 'crosspiece'. Pray for the world, in these

or similar words: Loving God, thank you that your peace reaches into every situation across our world. Be close to those places that need peace this day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer

Place your left thumb on the right of the 'crosspiece' and pray for people in need in these or similar words: Loving God, thank you that your hope reaches into every situation. Be close to those who are ill or sad this day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer

Place your left thumb on the base of the 'crosspiece': Pray for the community where you live in using these or similar words: Loving God, thank you that your joy reaches into our homes. Help us to know that you are with us every day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer.

Place your thumb on top of the 'crosspiece': Pray for those who lead in the church and teach us about Jesus: Loving God, thank you that your love is shared through your church. Give wisdom to those who help us to know the Good News of Jesus. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer

Place your thumb in centre of the 'crosspiece': Pray for yourself, in these or similar words: Loving God, thank you for Jesus and the love he showed for me. Help me to follow him more and more each day. Amen.

Thoughts from Major John. My Song of Joy

Early this morning (Wednesday) I was walking along Chalk Hill, Pegwell, with a clear blue sky above and fields on either side. A skylark started to rise up from the field singing its song as it rose higher and higher. I could still hear its song when it had risen so high it was just a tiny black dot up in the heavens. The song of the skylark and the beautiful morning really lifted my spirits and filled me with joy. My thoughts turned to a Salvation Army band selection entitled 'My Song of Joy', written by my uncle, Bandmaster Charles Dove.

One of the songs featured in the selection is a song by Sidney E. Cox. As I carried on the rest of my walk the chorus was going round in my mind and seemed to fit well the sights and the sounds I had just enjoyed. When I got home looked the song up in Gems for Songsters 7.

'My Heart Sings'

Whenever I think of Jesus my heart sings for gladness;
For He it was who pardoned me, and he it is who heals my sadness by His one
great offering: That's why my heart doth sing.

Whenever I think of Jesus: His life freely given,
The greatness of the debt He paid, the pathway made from earth to heaven.
His strong hand to which I cling; that's why my heart doth sing.

Whenever I think of Jesus: On sinners bestowing
The riches of His wondrous grace, so deep, so like a river flowing,
Joy unending He doth bring, That's why my heart doth sing.

Chorus

My heart sings whenever I think of Jesus,
My heart sings whenever I think of Him.
As I ponder His sweet grace,
And the glory of His face.
Then my heart sings whenever I think of Him.

Time to Smile

An elderly clergyman muttered and mumbled his way through services much to the dismay of the congregation who couldn't understand what he was saying. Eventually the churchwardens persuaded him to let lay members read the lessons and say the prayers. He agreed on the one condition that they spoke clearly and distinctly!

Readers will remember the notice in the kitchen of the church hall which read: 'Ladies when you have emptied the teapot please stand upside down in the sink' To which has now been added: 'No hot bottoms on the work tops'.

A father came home from work to find his small son busily drawing. 'What are you drawing?' he asked 'God' said the little lad while his father looked on smiling. 'You can't draw God' he said, 'no one knows what he looks like'. 'They will soon' came the reply, 'I've nearly finished'.

Mixed Message

Thank God I'm an atheist and I'm not superstitious, touch wood. I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous. I thank my lucky stars I don't believe in astrology. I am a committed pacifist and I'll thump the first person who says I am not!

Quiz

1. Who was called the Father of Medicine?
2. Whom did James Earl Ray assassinate?
3. What is the popular name for the wood-hyacinth?
4. What was a Minster originally attached to?
5. Which volcano erupted in 1883 and lies between Java and Sumatra?

Animals

1. What type of creature is a mandrill?
2. The chipmunk is related to which creature?
3. The bandicoot is a marsupial from which country?
4. Which is the most intelligent breed of dog?
5. Which is the fastest- Hare, horse, or greyhound?

TV Anagrams

1. Beached frivolity
2. Crowd Hoot
3. A Contortions Tree
4. Brute Peel
5. Shipment SOS

Quiz

Animals

1. Hippocrates
2. Martin Luther King
3. Bluebell
4. Monastery
5. Krakatoa

TV Anagrams

1. Monkey
2. Squirrel
3. Australia
4. Border Collie
5. Hare

1. Vicar of Dibley
2. Doctor Who
3. Coronation Street
4. Blue Peter
5. The Simpsons

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Would you like support
with your diabetes?

Are you a carer for someone
living with diabetes?



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someone else effected
by diabetes?

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with one of our trained volunteers,
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Diabetes Friends

To get connected, or for more
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emma.cobon-drummie@diabetes.org.uk



DIABETES UK
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LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

—or so it seems to EILEEN PARKIN, a nurse in a Salvation Army maternity hospital

LOVE makes the world go round, or so the popular proverb would have it. It's certainly love which makes my world go round, for I work in a Salvation Army maternity hospital, which is quite a little world of its own. . . .

Here's a husband, bringing his wife a dozen red roses. The label says, 'To my darling wife.' Proud

father thrilled with the first baby? Wrong! It's their fourth!

And here's another. Yes, a first child this time. And the young father, after spending some time with his wife, goes to peep at the baby—his baby, their baby. Love, joy, pride shine from his eyes. He places a finger in the baby's fist, for that's as near as he can yet get to holding the baby for himself and helping to care for this tiny fragment of humanity.

'This one's mine!'

'It's a boy!'—and after two daughters Dad is more than delighted with the news. 'This one's mine!', he says, and adds, with true masculine pride, 'They say he's like me. I can't see it though. Is he?'

Then there's the young girl who knows that there

will be no father coming to see *her* baby. Friends (parents, too, perhaps) have tried to persuade her that adoption would be better than life with an unmarried mother. 'But I can't part with him,' she says. 'I won't! I don't care what the neighbours say. I love him.'

That's love for you. Love in so many different guises, love with so many varied facets—love that makes the world go round.

It's love that brings the pride of parenthood, the dozen roses, the 'don't care about the neighbours', the sacrifice of oneself for the baby's sake. But what's behind it all?

Perfect mirror

The Christian believes that all love is just a part of the great love of God. Indeed, that human love is a perfect

mirror of the love God has for us—the self-sacrificing love that looks at us and fondly says, 'This is My child.' He is part of Me. There is nothing I wouldn't do for him.' Jesus Himself, who was so sure of His Father's love, compared parental love with that of God. 'You who are parents know how you care for your children, and do all you can to meet their needs. How much more, do you imagine, does God care for you?'

He is waiting to come, in love, to us all: to the parent who wants to do his best for his child, to the girl who needs all the help she can get. He can take their ordinary, human love, and make of it something divine.

For His is truly the love which makes the world go round.



From the War Cry in 1971. Below - Some of the mothers that Major Eileen cared for





This is Holy Week

Easter 2021

Use the wonderful pictures ESigned and Reproduced from Mission World - (Image) - 16 - a small one for each page to help you gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of Easter – May you know that Jesus can help you live during this time of crisis

Please keep this booklet – and also the Easter Journey

On the back of this booklet is information about our services over Easter



We would love you hear from you.

Call on 07900497326 or ring on the door if you have any questions

May God bless you this Easter

Stations of the Cross

1 | Page

Today you will have received a number of items to help you in worship this Holy Week.

One that we are especially hopeful for is the Stations of the Cross booklet.

As you can see from the picture we have had banners made with 16 images – the stations that are traditionally considered during Holy Week. The banners are on the front fences are a very bright and eye catching. We hope people will take time to look at them and ask about this special time of year.

The booklet has been produced primarily for people to take away as a reminder of the images – and to enable them to reflect upon what Easter might mean to them.

We hope you will find the reflections and prayers helpful – **will you especially pray for the people who will walk by the hall** – that they might stop and encounter God as they look upon the road to Calvary.

Worship at Home 28 March 2021

Call to Worship

Jesus is coming!
From the mountainside, from the seaside,
from the homes of the rich
and the company of the poor,
from the bedside of those who are sick,
Jesus is coming!
Along dusty roads,
with a ragged band of travellers,
Jesus comes to Jerusalem,
Jesus comes to worship.
Will we greet him with Hosannas?

Opening Prayer

Let's pray:
We have come to meet you today, Jesus.
We don't know quite what to expect.
We think we know what we need,
how you can meet our needs.
But we come humbly, laying our coats before you.
It's your call.
Reveal to us who you are,
how you can be a Saviour in our lives,
a Saviour in our world today.
Come Lord Jesus!

Written by Carole Penner, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/>

Song 196

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry;
Thine humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

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

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne
Expects his own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

The Bible says that as Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem.

He sent two of them to get a donkey and a colt.

This fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah.



Jesus mounted the donkey
and rode into Jerusalem.
Many laid their cloaks on the road before him
their cloaks on the road before him and brought palm branches to wave and
celebrate.

Behold, your king is coming to
you righteous and having
salvation is he, humble and
mounted on a donkey, on a
colt the foal of a donkey.

Jesus mounted the donkey and
rode into Jerusalem. Many laid

Hosanna in the highest Heaven

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

Hosanna to the son of David.

But not all who were there understood him, some called him only a prophet believing him wise but denying his divinity, some raged and cheered for a revolution hoping he would liberate them from their oppressors.

To others he's nothing more than an interruption.

Even as children ran and shouted for joy, his enemies wove through the crowd, watching, sealing, plotting.

The range of reactions was great and wide.

Celebration, worship, revolutions, deception, cynicism, condemnation, boredom, disinterest,

But every single person had to confront one thing; **Who he was.**

Song 135

*All glory, laud and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

1 Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessèd one.

2 The company of angels
Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.

4 To thee, before thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee now high exalted
Our melody we raise.

5 Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious Kin

Prayer

Song 376

King of kings, majesty,
God of Heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest friend,
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end:
All within me falls at your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow;
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve your majesty.*

2 Earth and Heaven worship you,
Love eternal, faithful and true,
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
Brought this sinner near to your throne:
All within me cries out in praise.

Are you sitting comfortably?

I want to tell you a story – it’s about me - and it happened a long time ago when I was very young – just a colt in fact.

Try to imagine this

One day I was with my mum – minding my own business when two men came up and started to untie us and lead us away. Our master was a bit surprised, but he was told we were needed – and so he let us go

Next thing I know someone has sat on me and I am walking into the city. You must realise that I’d never been to Jerusalem – I had hardly ever left the field we lived in – but here I was walking into the city – and the crowds were singing and shouting and waving their arms – they were so kind to me – they placed their coats and branches of palm leaves on the floor so that I would not have to walk on the stony road.

It went on and on – some of the old people complained at the noise but were told that even the stones would cry out if the people were silenced.

My heart swelled – I had never felt so excited – so proud – so special. All these people cheering and waving – and me – just a young donkey from the countryside.

Well, you can imagine that evening I was so tired – I had never had such an amazing day – I slept so well and dreamed all through the night of that wonderful day.

Maybe you know how I felt? You have those mountain top experiences – and you want to have them again and again. If you do then you won’t be surprised with what I did next.

I left my mum and went back to Jerusalem.



I walked into town and found a group of people by the well. "I'll show myself to them," I thought.

But they didn't notice me. They went on drawing their water and paid no attention

"Throw your garments down," I said crossly. "Don't you know who I am?"

They just looked at me in amazement. Someone slapped me across the tail and ordered me to move.

"Miserable heathens!" I muttered to himself. "I'll just go to the market where the good people are. They will remember me."

But the same thing happened. No one paid any attention to me as I strutted down the main street in front of the marketplace.

"The palm branches! Where are the palm branches!" I shouted. "Yesterday, you threw palm branches!"

Hurt and confused, I returned home to my mum.

"Oh, my son, oh how foolish you are," she said gently. "Don't you realize that without Him, you are just an ordinary donkey?"

And then I understood – I was only happy when I was with Jesus.

When I lifted Jesus up in my life I was no longer ordinary - I became the one he created me to be.

It's all about you Jesus. It was never about me – I'm sorry – but now I understand.

All the praise goes to you.

You see how easy it is to take the credit and think it's about us.

I'm much older now but I have seen it happen so often. Its especially true in churches like yours.

You do so many good things – many people admire and respect what you do.

And when you hear the praise for all of your achievements you can begin to think it's for you – just like I did all those years ago,

So just listen to a very old donkey – give the praise to God – and then you will really be blessed.

A good friend of mine – Graham (Graaaaham!)– wrote these words

So let us learn how to serve,

And in our lives enthrone him;

Now of course this is but one way to imagine the donkey. Perhaps it wasn't like that at all.

Well it wasn't for Corrie Ten Boon

Corrie ten Boom was once asked if it were difficult for her to remain humble.

Her reply was simple. "When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road, and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" She continued, "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honour."

Song 165

From Heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve,
And give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow him,*

*To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick

These weeks of Lent we have been looking at how we open our lives to God

Our eyes, our ears, our hearts – and this week our will

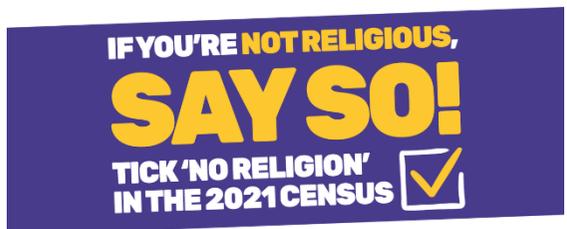
As we said at the beginning of the meeting

Every single person has to confront one thing.

Who is Jesus?

'If you're not religious, say so!'

New campaign asks people to
tick 'no religion' option on
Census



Does that worry you? I must admit I never saw the advert – but I received texts and when I looked on-line, I see that Humanists UK have been using social media, adverts on hoarding on busses and in the press.

Humanists UK claim that money is wasted supporting churches and if the true figure of faith (which they say will be low) was known then the money could go to proper causes. They say that this is not a Christian country and the government should not support the church.

Of course, this is not the first time they have campaigned during the census – in 2001 they were asked to remove adverts that said – If you're not religious - For God's sake say so.

Which made me smile - because He (God) really does need us to be honest.

So here we are on Palm Sunday – and we must again hear that question and be honest

Who is Jesus? Are you religious?

And that is why Palm Sunday is such an important part of Holy week because it really is like doing your census again. It forces us to honestly answer that question “Who is Jesus? Are you religious?”

1 Praise is rising,
 eyes are turning to you,
 we turn to you.
 Hope is stirring,
 hearts are yearning for you,
 we long for you.

'Cause when we see you, we find strength to face the day;
in your presence all our fears are washed away,
washed away.

Hosanna, hosanna,

*you are the God who saves us,
worthy of all our praises.
Hosanna, hosanna,
come, have your way among us;
we welcome you here, Lord Jesus.*

2 Hear the sound of
hearts returning to you,
We turn to you.
In your kingdom
broken lives are made new,
you make all things new.
Chorus

Paul Baloche (born 1962) and Brenton Brown

Matthew 21:1–11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-18

As Jesus took those first steps towards Jerusalem a process began that would lead to his death.

It was inevitable, it was unavoidable.

Although Jesus had said and done many things that had angered those in authority, his entry into Jerusalem is the moment when the focus shifts and we watch events unfold that can no longer be reversed.

And today we need to look again at what was happening on that day and why it divided the people so strongly. Jesus deliberately sets out to challenge us.

Are you religious?

85 years ago, a crowd gathered on an August day to commence what was to be an unparalleled event for its time. Hundreds of thousands of spectators, police officers, and soldiers gathered for an event so spectacular, so colossal, it almost seemed to come out of a fairy tale rather than real life. Some six continents and

49 countries were represented, with most guests, especially the athletes wearing clothing with their own home flag represented, either on their person, or as they waved their flag for the crowd to see.

But the most obvious flag, the most conspicuous flag that day, was by far, the Swastika. It was draped anywhere and everywhere there was room. For this was the 1936 Olympics, hosted in Berlin. And while most of the athletes were present, the main attraction that day was not the athletes who would compete for medals, but the one who would preside over them, Adolf Hitler.

At 3:18 p.m., according to the author Daniel James Brown, “Adolf Hitler left the chancellery in central Berlin, standing upright in his Mercedes limousine, his right arm lifted in the Nazi salute. Tens of thousands of Hitler Youth, storm troopers, and helmeted military guards lined his route from the Brandenburg Gate through the Tiergarten and out to the Reichssportfeld. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary German citizens had massed along the way, leaning from windows and waving flags or standing twelve or more deep along the street, again using periscopes to get a glimpse of Hitler.

Now, as his limousine passed, they extended their right arms in the Nazi salute, their faces upturned, ecstatic, screaming in pulsing waves as he rode by, “Heil! Heil! Heil!” At the Maifeld, where the Olympic team members stood, the athletes began to hear the distant sound of crowds cheering, the noise slowly swelling and growing nearer, then loudspeakers blaring, “He is coming! He is coming”. “He is coming! He is Coming!” Chilling words aren’t they?

This was the first time the world really who Hitler was – he used his entry to force people to look at him. It is chilling as we know full well what Hitler wanted to be – and we can all picture those films and images of crowds going wild.

Just compare the scene.

Palm Sunday...the day Jesus entered into the Holy City, not standing on a Mercedes, or even the ancient world’s equivalent, the chariot, but rather he came on a donkey.

So why a donkey?

Matthew, Luke and John all include the little story of the prearrangement of the loan of the donkey. This was a conscious deliberate act – not an accidental one.

It is possible to picture Jesus exhausted from a long walk. It would have been hard going. Jerusalem is a city 2700 feet above sea level. Hard going. It was quite usual for people in the crowd – and remember thousands would have been travelling into the city at this time – you would ask someone travelling with you if you could ride on their donkey for a while – as you got your strength back. Sort of Uber Donkey.

But that is not it. This is pre-planned and it is an essential part of what is happening.

It is widely known that victorious Roman generals, when returning to Rome, would ride a white horse in their 'triumph'. A triumph was a carefully planned procession to show the people back in Rome what a great and marvellous general they were.

In the procession they would bring all the loot (the treasures and the slaves) that they had purloined as a result of the victory and by doing so demonstrate how triumphant they were.

If the idea of a Roman triumphal procession lies behind Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, it is clearly and importantly a subversion of this kind of event.

The type of transport is a donkey not a white horse; the people in the procession all came willingly and were not forced; Jesus' triumph is yet to come and is in any case the kind of triumph only God would think triumphant.

So the description may bring to mind a Roman triumph, but much closer links can be found in Jewish tradition.

1 Maccabees 13.51 On the twenty-third day of the second month, in the one hundred and seventy-first year, the Jews entered it with praise and palm

branches, and with harps and cymbals and stringed instruments, and with hymns and songs, because a great enemy had been crushed and removed from Israel.

One very striking passage from Maccabees recounts the victorious procession of the Maccabean army into Jerusalem after they had conquered Jerusalem in the Maccabean war against the Syrian Greek (Seleucid) Empire. Particularly striking here is the reference to the Maccabees being accompanied with praise and palm branches as Jesus also was.

It could be that the crowd had this event from Maccabees in mind as they journeyed into Jerusalem and saw Jesus as a new Simon Maccabaeus come to drive a new occupying army out of their city.

Alongside this passage is also Zechariah, and if we connect the Maccabees with parts of Zechariah then Messianic bells begin to ring. There is, of course, Zechariah 9.9, which reminds us of Jesus as both victorious and humble.

Zechariah 9.9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

This connection may also have resonances of 1 Kings 1.33 which described Solomon's journey to his coronation riding on mule.

All of this makes clear that in Jesus' deliberate mounting of donkey were enough clues to suggest to the crowd that he was the longed-for king-like figure who had come to redeem his people

They responded by hailing him as the crowd had done to Simon Maccabaeus only 150 or so years before.

So what happened to the crowd following Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

They appear simply to melt away as the narrative turns once more to Jesus and his followers, but why?

What was it that so gripped their attention one minute and so entirely slipped from their minds the next?

What is likely is that when Jesus did nothing more dramatic, more pressing needs (finding somewhere to stay, meeting family members, and so on) took over and their praise of Jesus took second place in their minds.

Let's go back to Berlin in 1936

The world for the first time saw the reality of who Hitler was creating himself to be.

He was aiming to take the place of God.

The world heard the crowds crying Heil Hitler. They saw it on paster and banner,. They heard it on loud speakers blearing across cities and town. And they witnessed German people saying it over and over again.

Every day you would end up saying "Heil Hitler!" from 50 to 150 times a day, immeasurably more often than the old neutral greetings such as hello, how are you, good to see you.

The formula was required by law; if you met a friend on the way to work, you say it; a meeting at work was opened and closed with "Heil Hitler!"; "Heil Hitler!" says the postman, the bus conductor or taxi driver, the women who sells you lunch at the corner shop and if your parents' first words when you visited are not "Heil Hitler!" they have been guilty of a punishable offense and can be denounced.

"Heil Hitler!" was said time and again. And if you did not reply – there would be trouble.

Just think for while the implications this had for church. Would you say this if you were met a the door of a church.

Because chillingly Heil really means salvation. It is exactly the same as saying Hosanna

I will not say it again because it is utterly repugnant. The German people were forced by fear, violence, and death to repeat it hundreds of times per day the word that greeted the only true God – the only one who can ever truly save.

Song 366

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Lord we lift up your name,
With hearts full of praise,
Be exalted, O Lord, my God,
Hosanna in the highest.

2 Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings.
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings.
Lord, we lift up your name,
With hearts full of praise,
Be exalted, O Lord, my God,
Glory to the King of kings.

Carl Tuttle

'Hosanna' is so widely used in worship songs and in hymns that it is easy to assume that it is dotted throughout the bible with as much joy as the word 'Hallelujah'.

'Hosanna' is used only here – on palm Sunday – and Psalm 118.25.

Hosanna means 'save now',

In Psalm 118 is a cry of appeal by the whole people of God that God would hear them and save them.

It is very likely that it is a psalm that would have been on the lips of the Jews at this time – why – that they would be saved from their Roman oppressors.

The psalm was one of petition and pleading.

If the people had been chanting psalms as they journeyed to Jerusalem -the sight of the Roman soldiers dominating their beloved city would - surely have brought this psalm to their lips and their songs.

And this is why what happened next was inevitable.

People looking at this scene see

Jesus suddenly and deliberately riding a donkey,

this taking place on the Mount of Olives,

the spreading of the cloaks to welcome a king

the singing of a well-loved psalm that looked forward to a king-figure like David coming to redeem Israel.

All these things happening at the same time so deeply and richly suggest something to a first century Jew

The people around Jesus began to draw conclusions about who Jesus was.

1 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.

2 He comes the broken hearts to heal,

The prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
The blind shall see.

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

4 We call you now to worship Him
As Lord of all.
To have no gods before Him,
Their thrones must fall!

On that day Jesus was the same person that he had been for the rest of his ministry, so what was it that made the crowd begin to recognise and proclaim his Messianic significance?

The donkey on the Mount of Olives might have been enough.

Could it be that the singing of Psalm 118, as was customary on the way to a major festival, while Jesus was on a donkey, on the Mount of Olives, on the way into Jerusalem, brought Jesus' identity into focus in a new way?

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem and the crowd melted away.

The human attention span is very poor indeed.

Often today we blame the speed of our society, technology in general and mobile phones in particular for shortening our attention span, but maybe its always been that way?

Even at a time when there were few external factors to distract, the arrival into Jerusalem, the need to find somewhere to stay and something to eat seems to have been sufficient to pull people away from their dawning realization that the

one they had accompanied into Jerusalem waving palms and with shouts of 'Hosanna' might just have been the one for whom they had waited for so long.

The Gospel writers give little explanation about why the crowd disappeared and perhaps this is simply because it needed little explanation.

Even when faced with the most important news of all, it is far too easy to be distracted and for our attention to fade.

Why is it that sometimes we put our heart and soul into explaining the mysteries of Christian truth, or of proclaiming Jesus, and people simply do not grasp what we are talking about?

If the crowd could not even linger in Jerusalem with Jesus for a day or two after shouting 'Hosanna' and waving palms no wonder we also struggle to stay with and live out our recognition of who Jesus really is when we encounter him in our lives. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't try but it does offer us a level of forgiveness when we fail.

So here is the challenge if you are struggling at the moment, pray that this week you will overcome the distractions and concerns that could take your attention away. May this week you know the God who has, who is and who will save you.
Hosanna

(*Journey to the empty tomb – Paula Gooder)

Song 74

At the name of Jesus
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him
King of Glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

2 At his voice creation
Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces,
All the hosts of light,
Thrones and dominations,
Stars upon their way,
All the heavenly orders
In their great array.

3 Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed.

4 Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.

5 In your hearts enthrone him;
There let him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true;
Crown him as your captain
In temptation's hour; Let his will enfold you
In its light and power.

Palm Sunday Benediction
(based on Luke 9:51, Matthew 16:24-25)

“Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51)

Our Lord is on a journey,
and the way leads through opposition and misunderstanding.

Jesus invites us to follow him.

This journey leads through the shadows of betrayal,
the night of Gethsemane,
the afternoon darkness of Golgotha.

“Then Jesus told his disciples,

‘If any want to become my followers,

let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For those who want to save their life will lose it,

and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matt. 16:24-25)

Our Lord is on a journey.

May we have the grace to follow this Christ,

and to give to him our very lives.

For in giving away our lives, we find them,

and in dying we live.

This is a vision of the way it can be, the way it should be—

Shouts of welcome, a joyful procession,

a community celebrating together.

The same vision is offered to us today:

We can welcome Christ into our lives;

We can celebrate his transforming power.

How swiftly things changed back then,

How swiftly we, too, can be distracted.

May we hold fast to his vision of goodness—

Peace from the practice of justice,

equality from the practice of respect.

As this week unfolds,

We will let ourselves be overtaken by God’s love

We will pour it back out into the world.

Jesus enters Jerusalem



APPROACHED
BETHANY
BETHPHAGE
BRANCHES
CLOAKS
COLT
CROWD

DISCIPLES
DONKEY
DOORWAY
HOSANNA
JERUSALEM
JESUS
KING

MOUNT OF OLIVES
PALM
SHOUTED
UNTIE
VILLAGE

