



# HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH WILLIAMSTOWN

**5 April 2020**

**Palm Sunday**

## **Prayer and Reflection**



*Holy Trinity has been a faithful Christian presence in Williamstown since 1854. Holy Trinity welcomes everyone regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background. Thank you for being part of our faith community.*

*There will be a Live Facebook video reflection at 10am Sunday 5 April*

*If you would prefer to participate in a live stream Eucharist please go to [www.htw.org.au/services](http://www.htw.org.au/services) for a list of recommendations.*

## **ABOUT HOLY WEEK**

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the Pascha developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter with which we are familiar. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century. Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, 'commandment', because of the use of John 13:34 in the Antiphon) contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist (Holy Communion), and the Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into Good Friday with its two characteristic episodes. The veneration of the Cross is older; the sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours' Devotion was introduced into the Church of England in the nineteenth century. The first is now sometimes incorporated into the structure of the second. It is a widespread custom for there not to be a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, Holy Saturday, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as Easter Day draws near.

## **REFLECTION**

Each year, I enjoy decorating worship spaces full of palm branches, but it is always telling that before the end of the day, those branches need to be cleared away and discarded. Signs of celebration become material for compost so very quickly. The spectacle is fleeting. Jesus' procession into Jerusalem is a great spectacle, the crowds greet Jesus as a hero, but the voices of the mob that shout 'Hosanna!' will later shout 'Crucify!' Worldly fame is fleeting. It is Christ's life, death and resurrection, and the faith inspired by it, that is enduring.

Rev Elizabeth

## PARISH PRAYER POINTS

### **For the Church:**

- Pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
- Anglicare Australia

### **We pray for**

- St George's Monbulk
- St Stephen's & St Mary's Anglican Church, Mount Waverley
- St Luke's South Melbourne
- All Saint's Anglican Church, Greensborough
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### **In our Community:**

As part of our regular cycle of prayer, we pray for Christine Hurwood, Heather and Michael Jobling, Ann and Mark Skurrie, Margaret Swane, Kate Strasser, Sarah Thompson, Marjorie Todd, Jane Van Tooren, Pauline Whittaker

We pray for those who are suffering or unwell at this time, including: Gordon and Audrey Beal, Ron and Joan Bates, Anne Mulholland, Helen, Barbara and Brett Hingston, George Hodges, Heather Jobling, Bryan Matty, Laurie McLay, Robert Mander, May Kofoed, Diane Robinson, Ian Stewart, Marjorie Todd, Carol Williams, Sue Wragg.

## AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

As you enter into this time of prayer and reflection, you are invited to light a candle as a sign that this time you set aside is sacred.

*Holy Trinity Anglican Church is on the sovereign lands of the Yalukit Willum of the Kulin Nation. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

### **THE SENTENCE**

“At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” *Philippians 2.10–11*

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy**

## **CONFESSION**

*Return to the Lord your God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13*

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace we have been saved. Ephesians 2: 4-5*

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to God's call, we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore, we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **COLLECTS OF THE DAY**

Merciful God, as we enter this Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter into triumph the city not made with human hands, the new Jerusalem, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory for ever. **Amen.**

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross: in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*We begin this morning the Great Week of the Christian year. During Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection, by prayer and by works of love and self-denial. Today we come together with the Church throughout the world to call to mind our Lord's Passover from death to life, which is the centre of the Easter mystery.*

*Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross may we share his resurrection and new life.*

*If you have made a Palm Cross, please say this prayer.*

Blessed are you Almighty God, whose son Jesus Christ entered into triumph into the holy city this day to complete his work as our Messiah. May these crosses be signs of the victory of your Son. May we ever hail him as our king, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who now lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*There is a palm branch colouring page in this pew sheet as reflective exercise.*

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**The First Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks  
to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have  
set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who  
vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who  
are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

For the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 31:9-18**

<sup>9</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

<sup>10</sup> For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

<sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours, an object of  
dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

<sup>12</sup> I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.

<sup>13</sup> For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme  
together against me, as they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup> But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.'

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and  
persecutors.

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

<sup>17</sup> Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD, for I call on you; let the wicked be put  
to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

<sup>18</sup> Let the lying lips be stilled that speak insolently against the righteous with  
pride and contempt.

### **The Second Reading** Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

For the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

### **The Palm Gospel** according to Saint Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**THE SERMON** Rev Elizabeth Murray

*A recording of the sermon will be available from Sunday morning.*

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and  
is seated on the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to  
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion  
of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*Intercessory prayers are available with this service sheet.  
You are welcome to pray as you wish.*

*This time of prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer.*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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. Save us  
from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

## A BLESSING

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they  
may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

*Palm Sunday is a suitable time to reflect on the whole Passion Narrative.  
You are invited to read The Gospel According to Saint Matthew 26:14 –  
27:66. If you would prefer to listen to this reading, a version can be found  
on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfvuL4zCNlc>*



**Happy Birthday to  
Ian Stewart for Wednesday  
Sue Searls for Thursday**

