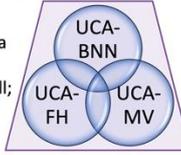




Whitehorse Uniting Cluster

The Uniting Church in Australia
Congregations of: Blackburn
North / Nunawading; Forest Hill;
and Mountview (Mitcham);
in a shared ministry together



Palm Sunday 10th April 2022

Entry into church with palm procession around church
Hymn 250: Singing All Glory Praise and Honour with palms.

WorshipOnYT

Two rounds inside the church

<https://youtu.be/h3a8fTTrAdE>

Welcome

May the worship be a blessing to you

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.



Aunty Joy

Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good

His steadfast love endures forever

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Prayers of Adoration, Invocation and Confession

On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus, you have spoken of your end and new beginnings to disciples who did not understand. Now you have entered our city and summon us to follow you, to watch and wait with you.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace and glory in the highest heaven.

Lord, help us enter the intensity of the week ahead of us, that we may truly wait and watch with you.
As all is revealed, all is changed, before the revealing of love's way, love's cost, love's victory, love's glory,
may our lives be changed and reborn.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace and glory in the highest heaven.**

Lord, in this moment of silence we acknowledge our need for you grace.
We ask for your forgiveness

Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
"Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God

Hymn 724: Hosanna in the highest

<https://youtu.be/SKHwBamBSPk>

Chet Valley Churches

Written by Carl Tuttle 1985

Performed by Vineyard Worship

Video in background from 2018 Palm Sunday Procession

From Church of Bethphage to church of St Anne near Lions gate Jerusalem

See video: <https://youtu.be/9o0kDY1mcuc>

Jerusalem Experience, Private Tours and Video Tours

Jerusalem Experience.com

Readings – Margaret Swain

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let Israel say, His steadfast love endures forever."

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. ²⁷We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its

owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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Young at Heart

Story – Pip and Posy (about sharing and caring)

Sharing with one another

The owner of the donkey shared him with Jesus.

Without the donkey there may not had been a triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

A humble entry on a donkey not a stallion.

When the donkey's owners asked: Why are you untying my donkey? Jesus' disciples replied: The Lord needs it. They didn't object. Perhaps they knew who the Lord was.

They shared without expectations and trusted the disciples to return their donkey.

That's true, generous and trusting. Have you ever allowed a stranger to use something that belongs to you, trusting it is needed and will be returned?

The owners of the donkey made history. Their generosity and donkey has been remembered throughout the ages.

Hymn 348: Ride on, Ride on in Majesty

<https://youtu.be/uHelX8xTpYs>

sung by choir of St Michael & All Angels, Bassett, for Palm Sunday 2021

North Stoneham & Bassett Parish

Written by Henry Hart Millman (1791-1868) and music by John Bacchus Dykes 1823-1876

Sermon – laying down our cloaks on the road for Jesus – Rev Tina



In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen

Jesus' followers are throwing down their precious cloaks, their outer robes that are embroidered and jewelled. Most likely they cost a year's wages or were inherited from their fathers and may have designs that symbolise what family they come from, robes that gave them status in the community.

The road is filthy. There is dung and urine everywhere from people squatting and animals. When the little colt carrying Jesus, and the crowds, walked on these robes, they were completely ruined and useless.

Jesus rides on in obedience to God's divine plan for him and as he rides on, the crowds who followed him and believed in him, welcomed him as a king. He rides a donkey that's borrowed, where his need overrides ownership. The owners have contributed to history and their colt will be returned. Perhaps people often shared their animals, if needed. Perhaps this was a form of hospitality. This was a triumphant victorious entry into Jerusalem by a humble king on a young donkey, not a magnificent and valuable horse or a powerful stallion.

The spreading of cloaks on the road is a royal welcome. The psalm is a hymn for a royal procession of a king on his way to being enthroned. For Jesus his crown is made from thorns and his throne becomes the cross and his moment of glory is for our sake.

Those who welcome Jesus are the crowds who followed him along the roads from Galilee to Jerusalem, followers from many villages. They are not the people of Jerusalem who do not recognise the coming of their salvation in Jesus or God's peace amongst them.

The pharisees stand in opposition to the kingdom of God. They stand in opposition to God's divine plan and fight to keep their little kingdoms, which are passing, fragile, temporary and die with them. They are not open to the transformation of God's kingdom or wanting to build up a kingdom that lasts for eternity and is forever. They cling to their kingdoms rather than embrace God's divine plan for God's kingdom, yet in the end their opposition brings it on, in the death of Jesus.

This is a clash of world views and beliefs, where once again Jesus turns ideas and kingdoms, upside down to bring transformation, grace, and eternal life.

Jesus and his followers will not be silenced by the Pharisees of this world, for even the stones cry out and shout for the Lord and speak his good news into our lives. We may even cry: *Hosanna! Here comes our Lord!*

With Joy we recognise the coming of God's kingdom amongst us through Jesus our Lord. Will we throw down our precious cloaks on the road to be trampled by the crowds and the little donkey? What will we give for our salvation? How far will we go for Jesus? Will we give up holding fast to our little kingdoms to embrace the kingdom of God?

I wonder if Jesus is calling us to hold our kingdoms lightly and to focus more on building up the kingdom of God. We build up the kingdom of God when we love others by contributing to the wellbeing of our family or church or community or workplace or nation or the world, and use our God given spiritual gifts, such as the gifts of helps, administration or hospitality or healing or leadership.

Consider the times we've made a stand for our faith, the times we have made sacrifices for our faith, the times we have loved God and others as ourselves, the times we have heard the call of God. The times we have set off on a journey of faith where what we have contributed that has made a difference in the life of the church, an individual or group of people.

Jill will say something about the difference Centre 81 has made, how we were at the Deakin Awards Ceremony on Thursday night, and how they received an award, along with the Australian Children's choir and a 90-year-old man who got the loudest cheers and clapping's from people.

Getting back to those expensive robes that Jesus' followers laid down on the road for the donkey to walk over along with the crowds. Imagine if I lay down my Alb on the road for Jesus to ride over. An Alb I wear because I love God and desire to make a stand for God in a secular world, as a woman of prayer, a spiritual leader. To lay it down on the road for Jesus would symbolise he is king over my life, and I belong to his kingdom.

I've led a life of obedience to God since I was six, after praying one night and feeling surrounded by God's love. I don't know whether you've watched a sheep dog listening to a shepherd and rounding up sheep. How the sheepdog listens for the shepherd's voice and at times it seems they are of one mind. It's a bit like that for me and I know of many people who chose to live like this, praying and listening, following Jesus.

I invite you to look back over your life, to remember and celebrate the times you have laid down your cloak in the dust and dung on the road for Jesus and his donkey to ride over. The times you have reached out to others to wipe their tears and truly listen to their need for comfort, compassion, and care. The times when you have made Jesus king over your life.

The Lord be with you

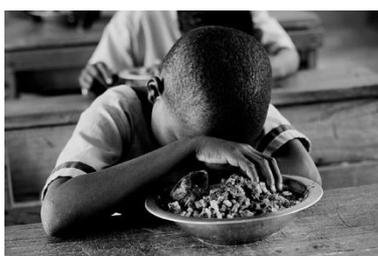
Moment of Quiet Reflection



Hymn 232: O the deep, deep love of Jesus
Audrey Assad and Fernando Ortega

<https://youtu.be/1vUhwjydk8A>

Offering Prayer



(about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have)

**Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom all for
 transformation through your grace and love
 made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen**

Prayers of the people – Tim Joyce
(Some of the prayers are from World Council of Churches)

This morning we will be praying for:

Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

The following is a prayer from Romania (a neighbour to Ukraine) – from a region of the world in turmoil at the moment

Lord Grant us the gift of unity

O, Lord, who gives unto each nation its place and time and mission: grant us the gift of unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, that the ancient church, and all Christians of this land, each loyal to their confession, culture and nationality, may discover new forms of common Christian witness, and stand before the divided world as a united and humble fellowship. O Lord, who commanded your disciples to pray both for their neighbours and their enemies: give us such love for one another, that with one voice and one heart we may glorify your name, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

(Dr Ion Bria, Romanian Orthodox Church. WAGP p. 161)

Almighty God - Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

Merciful Lord we pray for the world

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:

- a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
- a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
- a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
- a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the strength and courage to build it.

We pray for Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania. We pray for:

- better relationships among different ethnic groups and traditions
- respect for the rights of children, women, the young and the elderly, so they can receive adequate education, jobs and health care
- economic developments that serve all people
- ending practices that harm the air, soil and forests, and installing instead measures to protect the environment.

And we pray for the leaders and people of these countries as they respond to the humanitarian crisis unfolding on their doorstep. We pray that diplomatic efforts will prevail. We pray for compassionate and effective responses from within and from outside. Lord we pray for peace.

We pray for the poor, neglected and marginalised in our own community. That governments and individuals will respond with compassion and generosity.

Almighty God we pray for your church. Guide and govern it by your Spirit, so that all who call themselves Christians may be led in the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit and in the bond of peace. We pray for our Whitehorse Uniting cluster of churches, that we may effectively reach out and witness to those within our communities and around us, and be ready for the challenges that face us.

We pray also Lord for other churches. The Anglican Church of the Ascension, Burwood East, Blackburn (The Avenue) Uniting and Harrison Community Services (Uniting) that they too may serve you and their communities with faith, compassion and courage. We pray that you will bless their witness and their

ministries. Merciful Lord, we pray for those in special need at this time; for the sick, the lonely, the grieving. We pray for comfort and support. We entrust them all to your care. Enable us to respond in your name. Lord, grant us peace - that we might serve you in the world. We pray these things through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord who taught us to pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name
 Your kingdom come
 Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven
 Give us today our daily bread
 And 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 for ever, Amen.



Hymn 409: O Breath of Life

https://youtu.be/l-r3xd9_P3k

Evangelical Movement of Wales 2020

Sung at EMW Aber Conference 2018

Written by Elizabeth Ann Head

Acoustic Version Emu Music

Trevor Hodge 2009 CCLC Song Number 5439290

<https://youtu.be/0lpCy3Qq3VI>

Notices



Congratulations to the team from Centre 81
 who have been awarded a Deakin Community Award



Congratulations for the Australian Children's Choir

Blessing

God, who is love, fill our hearts

Christ Jesus, who is new life inspire us and increase our faith

Holy Spirit, who is with us, make our hearts burn on this Easter Journey

**Open our eyes to the presence of Jesus amongst us
as we walk in faith and trust with the Lord.**

Procession of Palms as we leave the service as we sing:

Hymn 724: Hosanna in the highest

<https://youtu.be/SKHwBamBSPk>



Reflection on the Lenten Study – Rev Tina

It's been a wonderful Lenten journey with a study based on movies, hospitality and getting to know one another. An average of between 17 to 20 attended the Sunday at 4PM group and between six-seven attended the Wednesday at 10AM group. When things went wrong with the technology, we were surprised by hospitality with Trevor Thomas kindly offering his home for a study and others joining together for a hearty discussion over high tea. We had laughter and discussion over pizza, wonder pies, quiches, and pastries. Most of all we shared stories, insights, and our lives because the movies helped us explore our faith and go deeper and find Jesus in one another. The movies taught us about hospitality and compassion, redemption, and sacrifice for others. It was in eating together and sharing food that we discovered Jesus amongst us and within us and it all gave us a chance to share about our experiences, beliefs, values, culture, and theology. A chance to ask questions. Many thanks to those who gave their time to operate the technology, Trevor, Eddie, Jacinta, Daniel, and Brian. To everyone who brought food and offered hospitality and who cleaned up the dishes. Many thanks to all those who came and supported the study and contributed. We will have more movies, with meals and discussions later in the year.

Pastoral Care tips – Rev Tina

God is found in the ordinary. A cup of tea shared, a cake baked for family, shared laughter, acceptance, a phone call, or hug or in simplicity, silence, or presence.
Practice the art of gratefulness and give thanks to God and others.



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