

A Reflection for Palm Sunday in the Peak Five with Rev'd Alan Griggs



Welcome to this short reflection for Palm Sunday, with me Alan Griggs...curate to the Peak Five. I have added a few moments to stop and reflect on how we might welcome Jesus into our lives in this time of isolation and uncertainty. I hope they help. This reflection is also on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wFo4kwmBh0&feature=youtu.be> under the title: Palm Sunday in the Peak Five with Rev'd Alan Griggs.

I know that Holy Week will be very different and difficult for many of you given we cannot gather face to face in worship at this very special time of year. So, as we think about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His journey to the cross let's hold each other in prayer this week.

I know that Rev'd Carolyn encouraged us to make palm crosses out of any material you could find to help us think about how we respond to Jesus...

My daughter has made one out of logs and here's a picture, unfortunately it's impossible to pick up and wave but, I think it was a good idea and great effort!!



Take a moment to reflect on the cross...the place where Jesus took our sin and died for us all so that he can welcome us. In this time of uncertainty...leave your anxieties and burdens here.

When I first discovered faith in Christ, in 1994 I was in Israel and was ready to respond to Jesus and welcome him into my life and here's some photos from that time.



I couldn't help but notice that I had the same hat on wherever I went. I must have only had one hat! You will see the picture on the bottom left is on the Mount of Olives, the same view that Jesus would have seen, albeit a bit different in the first century, but not far off!

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem must have been an incredible moment when the prophecies are being fulfilled.

Matthew quotes from the prophet Zechariah: "Look your king is coming"..."humble and mounted on a donkey"

So, in this time of great uncertainty let's join the people of Jerusalem on this Palm Sunday and respond to the promised Messiah and join the peoples cry.... 'Hosanna to the Son of David'.....Hosanna in the highest heaven". I wonder if Palm Sunday also invites us to welcome Jesus....to respond by coming out to meet him?

In this unusual time when we are unable to even leave our house...still take a moment to reflect on what it might mean for you to come out and meet Jesus and welcome him



I had the wonderful privilege and opportunity to visit Tanzania with my previous church before I joined the Peak Five and we supported a local Christian Charity to help provide a school, a clinic and other key facilities to some Massai villages on the request of the Maasai elders.

And when we travelled to one of the villages, the whole village was expected to gather and meet, *for them*, some important visitors. In the same way, in the first century, the whole city would come out and greet an important visitor.

So, for Matthew it's important to let us know who responded to Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem and who came to welcome Him.

We find in Matthew verse 8 that 'a very large crowd' came out to meet Jesus. But, who is in this 'very large crowd'?

Luke tells us that it included "the whole multitude of the disciples" yet, unsurprisingly perhaps, we do not find any of the Religious leaders or the Temple authorities coming out to welcome Jesus. But, we do have a small group of Pharisees mentioned as part of the crowd in Luke's account and in John's account and these Pharisees say to each other "You see, you can do nothing....look the world has gone after him".

In other words, there is something unstoppable about Jesus, and His significance in all of creation, and His significance to all of us.

We might be isolated at the moment.....but take a final moment to look at this picture and imagine yourself in this wonderful joyful crowd....joining together as we see all our hopes and expectations fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah...Imagine the joy as the crowd join together shouting, dancing, and singing... "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord....Hosanna in the highest heaven"



Let's pray.....

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**