

Church of St Chad
Hopwas



Morning Prayer
28th March





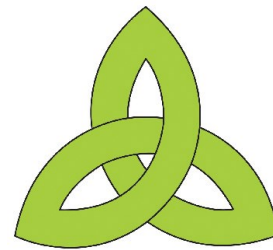
*Following Christ in the footsteps
of St Chad*

Welcome

HYMN Meekness and Majesty

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

Amen.



THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom
no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify
your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

"The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets".

Amen. Lord, have mercy

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Silence

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



Almighty God, who forgives
all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you*
from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you*
in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



COLLECT

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



BLESSING OF PALM CROSSES

Heavenly Father,
bless these Palm Crosses
Let them be to us a sign of
Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem
and a reminder and a reflection
of the events that bore him to the cross
as we too, follow him, into Holy week
In and through his precious name.
Amen



FIRST 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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

My Song is love unknown

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to JOHN (12:12-16)**

Glory to you O Lord

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting:

*Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes
In the name of the Lord
the King of Israel!*

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

SERMON

Palm Sunday reminds us of our connection with the Jewish faith. It reminds us also, of how both faiths, Jews and Christians, look for God's entry into human affairs by the coming of the Messiah. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is the witness that God does not leave us without hope. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is not only Jesus going to a place of danger; it involves Jesus engaging in dangerous activity.

New Testament scholars confirm that there were actually two processions taking place on that day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Jesus was coming down from the Mount of Olives on the *east* side of the city. The other procession less known to us but obvious to people of the time, was a Roman imperial parade on the *west* side of the city.

Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor was entering the city through the Damascus Gate. It was the practice of Roman Governors to require everyone to attend when they entered the city with their troops. The crowds would honour the Romans with branches and flowers. The Damascus Gate had a paved Roman road, wide enough to allow a Roman legion to march in formation and Pilate was at the head of a column of 600 cavalry and foot soldiers. Three times a year Pilate brought military support to Jerusalem to help control the massive crowds at major Jewish festivals, and Passover was one of those times.

The Romans would have entered the city with all the pomp and ceremony that the most powerful army in the world could muster. Flags with the golden eagle symbol, the sound of beating drums, the noise of war horses, the jangling of armour and the glint of spears. It was an awesome display of power, but it was also something else. It was an overwhelming display of Roman theology.

According to Roman theology the Emperor was not only the Ruler of the Roman Empire, he was the son of God. The emperor bore the titles Lord and Saviour and was known as the one who brought peace on earth. When an Emperor died he was thought to take his place among the gods. The contrast with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem could not be more startling.

It is believed that Jesus' entry through the *Beautiful Gate* was a direct mockery of the Roman governor and his troops. And this mockery was the reason that Pilate wanted Jesus dead. The Beautiful Gate was the one through which the Jews believed that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem. Jesus was intentionally playing on these themes, as well as the theme that the power of God's peace was more honourable than the power of war. Jesus was presenting a quite different image of holy power than was Pilate. He was riding a donkey instead of a war horse. He was leading a legion of disciples in rags, wearing the armour of good will. The crowds roared approval for this act of public theatre and considerable defiance. Pilate was not amused and he considered it an act of a dangerous revolutionary.

Pilate's parade embodied the power and glory of violence. Jesus' parade offered an alternative vision. One that Jesus called the Kingdom of God. These alternative visions of human life would clash violently in the following week. In the coming week, which we moderns call Holy Week, Jesus will be subjected to unspeakable violence by those in power. It will end in Jesus' brutal and barbaric death on a cross.

Jesus chose not to respond in a tit-for-tat way because all violence brings, is more violence. Jesus took all the violence on himself to end the perpetual cycle of brutality. So that we, (you and I) his followers would never respond to violence, with further violence.

So on this Palm Sunday we are reminded of two parades. One that celebrates the victory of political and economic power for a few. One that proclaims an alternative vision of peace and a love. The parade of Jesus gives hope for all who feel threatened and hopeless

We are a community of believers who seek to grow in faith and understanding as we live the way of Jesus the Christ. Living the Way, is not always the most popular and not without danger as the coming week will clearly show. But beyond every Gethsemane and beyond every Calvary, there awaits a resurrection. The Way toward that resurrection is always the journey with the One who rides the borrowed donkey. This shows that God's plans do not come to fruition through violence or oppression, but through compassion hope and love.

It is human nature to respond to violence with violence. But Jesus calls us to be fully human and give up this response to violence. As He clearly did in giving his life on the cross to bring an end to our violence

Palm Sunday is God's reminder to us all of what can be done when we respond with courage, compassion, humility, love and hope, in the face of opposition and oppression.

Amen

HYMN Ride on, Ride on in Majesty



CREED

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**



PRAYERS FOR OTHERS (offered by Sue Rose)

Jesus, when you entered Jerusalem on a donkey, on the day we call Palm Sunday, you went into a place you had been to many times before. The crowds flocked to see you and laid palm leaves along your way shouting Hosanna to the son of David, while, in stark contrast, on the other side of the city Pilate as coming into Jerusalem with his army, like a conquering king. We live in a world of contrasts; of culture, the colour of a person's skin, of rich and poor.

Lord, we ask for your help as we navigate the world today. May we see the world through your eyes in the way that we interact with others. You Lord were not the conquering king the Jews were waiting for, yet you changed people not by force, but by your teaching about the Kingdom of God.

May we, as your disciples in the 21st century, be emboldened by the Holy Spirit to share the Kingdom of God with those around us as we follow you in our daily lives.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Jerusalem is also a spiritual place. The Temple, Jesus said, is a house of prayer. It was, and is, a place where a person can connect with God on a higher level. Jerusalem is a sacred place to Jews and Christians, and we wait for the time when the New Jerusalem would be made manifest in the world. Lord, as we follow you into the Temple we see you teaching and healing, leading people to understand the graciousness and loving kindness of God.

Lord, help us to find time this week to spiritually sit at your feet as we read through the scriptures that tell of your last week as God in human form. Help us to find that sacred place within ourselves where you minister to us in the power of the Holy Spirit of the wonders of the Kingdom of God.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, Jerusalem was a very emotional place for you. What you must have been feeling as you entered the city, knowing that your death was imminent, is incomprehensible to us. First you turned over the tables of the money changers in the Temple courts. Then Peter denied three times that he knew you. But it was only as you had prophesied, along with the betrayal of Judas. You let out all your emotions in the garden of Gethsemane and they overwhelmed you; anger, sadness, frustration, fear, yet such was your strength that you surrendered your life to finish what God has started, in bringing salvation to the heart of mankind. Your weakness puts our strength to shame Lord.

We have run the gamut of emotions in our lives, sometimes in unrighteousness, with people, friends and family, and endured physical, mental and emotional suffering through the betrayal and deception of people we trusted. As we walk with you through Holy Week, may we look into our hearts and forgive those who we still hold in unforgiveness because of their actions and words.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Holy Lord, the sick were brought into your presence wherever you went, even in the Temple. In the same way we bring to you family and friends, and people in our parish, who need to feel your healing touch and hear your words of healing in their lives. We pray for

**Beryl and Roger, Audrey, Jack, Barbara and Edwin, Jim,
Norma, Melanie Lees, Lesley Fox, Catherine and Eric,
Dave Atkinson, Ann Thurgood, Michael Dalton, Finn Collyer,
Perry Rabicano, and Sue Foster
praying also for their families and carers.**

May they know your healing love and presence in their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. We also give thanks for the numbers of people who have now received the vaccine against Covid, and pray that supplies of the vaccine will continue to be available for the second doses to be given in due course.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Hear our prayer Lord as we remember the thousands of men and women who have lost their lives to the virus in the last year. We pray for families with painful memories and anger still, who mourn the deaths of their loved ones. Surround them with your love Lord and bring them out of their darkness into your glorious light. We pray especially for George Cross who is now resting in peace in your presence, and for his family as they mourn his loss. Comfort them Lord in their grief and grant them your peace at this sad time.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Holy Father, as Christ entered Jerusalem, let him enter our lives, let the King of glory come in, that he may rule in our hearts, and that we may offer our love and lives to him; Through the same Christ our Lord, who offered his life for us, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

**Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers
for the sake of your son
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

LORDS PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen**



HYMN Make way, make way

THE GRACE *(Shared with each other)*

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all this day and forever more. Amen**

BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Chad's Church Opening Times for APRIL

2 nd	2pm	Good Friday - An hour at the cross A service of readings and reflection as we contemplate the event of Holy Week
4 th	10.30am	Easter Day Communion We share Communion together sharing <u>only</u> the bread in the form of wafer
7 th	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)
11 th	10.30am	Easter 1
14 th	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)
18 th	10.30am	Easter 2
21 st	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)
25 th	10.30am	Easter 3
28 th	10am-4pm	Church open for Personal prayer (Wed)

NB: Please note that ALL Covid protocols remain in place, including the wearing of face coverings. Unfortunately Hymn singing is still not allowed

*On Friday evenings at 7.30pm
we have a virtual "Coffee Evening" on Zoom*

*If you are able, and would like to take part
Please contact:
Keith Dawson (01827) 289406*

