

The Parish of Gornal and Sedgley

All Saints, Sedgley
St Peter, Upper Gornal
St Andrew, The Straits



Welcome to your
Palm Sunday Service in Isolation
5th April 2020

Dear Friends

Many of us are using technology more, and others using it for the first time, to connect with family, friends and our church family.

We are conscious that many of you do not use Facebook, so we felt that we could offer this service of prayer for you to use at home to celebrate Palm Sunday, spiritually joining the church family.

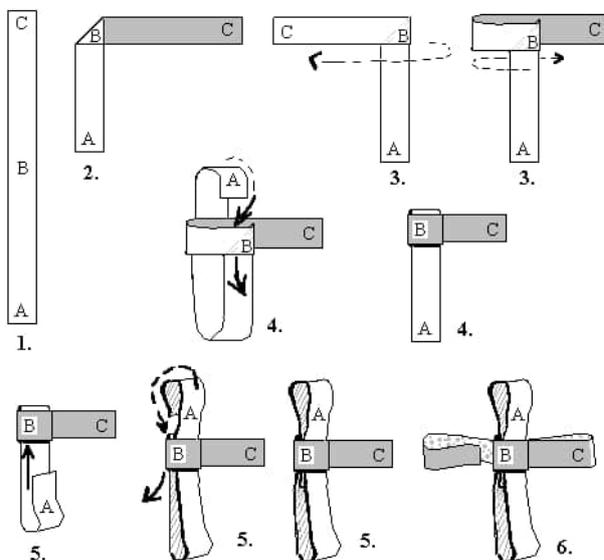
Included are links to YouTube hymns, which have the words included (just click the links in blue).

As this is Palm Sunday it would be good to have some palm crosses!

As we are unable to distribute palms this year why not make your own?!!

Before we begin our worship on Palm Sunday, why not take time to prepare by using the craft activity to make a paper Palm Cross:

HOW TO MAKE A PALM CROSS



or why not draw a Palm Cross on the Palm of your hand:



If you are on Facebook or Twitter you could add a picture of your Palm Cross to your account adding the hashtag #palmcrosses20.

And so we come to pray together ...

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all wherever we are.

Let's listen to or sing our first hymn by following the link below:

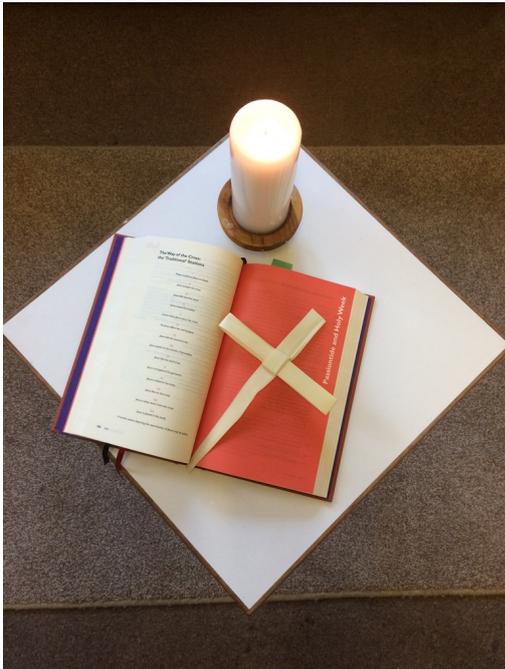
All Glory Laud and Honour:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3a8fTTrAdE>

Introduction to our service

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come in our own homes but spiritually together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

If you have made a palm cross or have one from last year hold up palms while you pray this prayer, or use the photograph:



God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; let the palms be for us signs of his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Palm Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street.

As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Mark 11:1-11

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Let's listen to or sing our second hymn as we lift our crosses high,

Make way, Make way:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aICQ7fb0hEA>

The Collect

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

Take a moment of silence, before you 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 forever. Amen.

Readings

Read the readings from this week's sheet; try reading them out aloud.

At the end of each you may say: This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

We listen to or sing our next hymn, Ride on Ride on in Majesty:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcxG2JasPds>

The Passion Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name. **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Hear the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

See the separate pew sheet with the reading.

At the end:

This is the Passion of the Lord.

A reflection from Guy - Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week 2020.

Holy Week is about listening to God, the priority for all Christians. Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied him, and the rest deserted him.

The crowds turned on him.

As we go through these difficult days this year we cannot be gathered together, as in previous years, but let's again affirm our commitment to listen to God and to build up the relationships between us as those who are disciples of Jesus Christ.

This year through many telephone calls and other communication methods which some of us had never heard of before, we are building the church in a new way.

The normal and various signs and powerful actions of this week; the Renewal of Ordination vows and the Blessing of the Oils usually on Maundy Thursday, cannot happen;

The foot washing and stripping of the altars on Maundy Thursday evening; the starkness of the bare church on Good Friday; cannot happen.

But in this enforced separation, let's take this time as the gift of retreat from normality and focus on God and all He has done for us.

The waiting and dead silence of Holy Saturday; this can happen in our homes.

And the sheer joy on Easter Day; lets allow this to happen, and lets allow the love, joy, hope and power of the resurrection flow through and from us!!

Let's take this situation as an opportunity to renew our trust, ensure we are open and honest to God and one another and commit ourselves with renewed energy to respond to the Good News.

Christ is alive and so we can proclaim the gospel afresh confidently in this generation. It is the wisdom of God, the power of God for salvation.

Amen.

Silence may be kept.

Prayers of Intercession

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy.

For our Government and all whose decisions effect the lives of others, that they may know your guidance and wisdom and may their decisions be just and for the good and health of all, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace.

For our NHS and all care workers and essential workers, for all who serve us in any way at this time, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are unwell, for those who are grieving, for those weighed down with hardship, anxiety, failure, or sorrow, that they may feel that God is very close them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so we have courage to say:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

The Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

Ephesians 2.13,14

May the peace of the Lord be always with us.

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring us by faith to his eternal life.

Amen.

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep us steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

Amen.

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with you always.

Amen.

Let's listen to or sing our final hymn, 'My song is love unknown'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv7OZSoA22w>

Let us live in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ,

Amen

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