



The Methodist Church

Bury St Edmunds Circuit.

WORSHIP SHEET FOR 5TH APRIL 2020

6TH SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome to worship

We pray that as you use this sheet on a Sunday morning, we can draw strength as we worship God together as a circuit.

you may wish to light a candle as a focus

As preparation for worship read through the words of **Psalm 188** Vs 1-2- **A song of ascents.**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures forever'. **Amen.**

Lead us into Holy Week

We tell your story,
We follow your footsteps
LEAD US INTO HOLY WEEK

We walk towards the city
We wait in the garden.
LEAD US INTO HOLY WEEK

We journey towards death
We hope for resurrection.
LEAD US INTO HOLY JOY. AMEN.

Prayer of approach

Give thanks to Lord, for God is good;
God's love endures forever.

We gather with praise filled hearts.
We shout our 'Hosannas' and sing our praise;
God's love endures forever.

God has been faithful in every age;
And God will be faithful till time is no more;
God's love endures forever.

God is our rock,
Our resting place;
The unshakeable ground on which we stand;
God's love endures forever.

This is our God – eternal and sure;
God's love endures forever.

So give thanks to God, for God is good;
And God's love endures forever. Amen.

As we join together as a circuit this morning in worship we ask loving God continue to be with us, renew us; fill us; and open our hearts to your presence, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Father forgive we ask, father forgive us when we turn the other way, when we close our ears and close our mouths. Forgive us for not turning around, hearing the cries of the weak and not speak out for those who face injustice and persecution. We fall short in our discipleship each day so we come now in your presence to ask your forgiveness once again.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in life eternal. Amen.

Our Lent Liturgy

Reading Matthew 21: 1-4

"Jesus triumphal entry"

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:



By the cross we lay the palm leaf

Prayer:

Show us, Good Lord, the peace we should seek, the peace we must give, the peace we can keep, the peace we must forgo, and the peace you have given in Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Hymn StF 673 vv. 1,2 and 5

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

5. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you I me.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)
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Today's Lectionary Gospel Reading

Matthew 21: 1-11 from the Message Version

The Royal Welcome

21 ¹⁻³ When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

⁴⁻⁵ This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

Tell Zion's daughter,
"Look, your king's on his way,
poised and ready, mounted
On a donkey, on a colt,
foal of a pack animal."

⁶⁻⁹ The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and

crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

¹⁰ As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"

¹¹ The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."

Reflection

Jesus and his disciples arrive in Jerusalem with crowds of Passover pilgrims from all over the Jewish world. Inspired by the memory of Moses, their hearts and voices overflow with excitement and hope as they prepare to enact the Passover as their story of liberation. The inevitable strains on law and order draw in extra soldiers to keep the peace, which only serves to heighten the pilgrims' hopes for freedom. They enter the city in what we would see as more of a 'demo' or 'march' than a pilgrimage walk, singing the Passover psalms. Jesus' staged entry is performance art in true prophetic style. Matthew's mention of a donkey and a colt shows how much his account is shaped by his reading of Zechariah 9.9 (Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your King comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey) alongside Isaiah 62.11; (The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: say to your daughter Zion, 'see your salvation comes his reward is with him, and his recompense before him') it is the latest in the series of fulfilment quotations that structure his narrative. By the choice of a donkey, Jesus contrasts himself with kings and generals who preferred horses and chariots. It is a moment when Jesus might well have been tempted to act differently – perhaps with the hope of becoming the political leader that so many were hoping for. Instead he acts out his vision of truly liberating leadership, entering the city of peace as a humble peacemaker, hungry only for righteousness and mercy.

As we know Jesus came to serve not to be served. He came humbly. He came to take away the sins of the world. As followers of Jesus, maybe especially at this time, when the

world is in turmoil, we are asked to serve one another in humility. A simple gesture of kindness, picking up the phone or using some other form of communication we can continue to serve people in their time of need. **Amen.**

Hymn StF 82

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder thy power throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

3. And when I think that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die-I scarce can take it in
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home-what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

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Prayers

Heavenly Father we come to you and pray

- For doctors, nurses and other health professionals as they come under pressure and strain – that they would be kept free from illness
- For scientists to be successful in finding a vaccine and other effective ways to protect people from the virus
- That people would be mindful of the effects of their actions on others:

following medical advice carefully and being responsible when buying supplies

- That time in isolation from others would provide an opportunity
- For all those whose work or study is hit by the crisis.
- For the friends and family of those who are ill that they would be comforted and enabled to care for those who are sick.
- For those who mourn loved ones.

We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We say together the Lord's Prayer
Our Father.....

Hymn StF 264

1. Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives;
Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

*Make way (Make way), make way (make way)
For the King of kings (for the King of kings)
Make way, (make way) make way (make way)
And let his kingdom in.*

2. He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

Chorus

3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
With laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.

Chorus

4. We call you now to worship him as Lord of all,
To have no gods before him, their thrones must fall!

Chorus

Sending

Christ our King, make us faithful and strong to do his will that we may reign with him in glory; and may almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**


Grace

We say together the words of the Grace
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all forever more. Amen.

*An image you may find helpful at
this time*



Ride on ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, your power and reign.
(Vs 5 Henry Hart Milman)



Jesus said, "Do **not**
let your hearts be
troubled, and do **not**
let them be **afraid**"

John 14:27 (NRSV)

The Methodist Church
www.methodist.org.uk

If you have received this by post but you have an email address please let Debbie know – deborahborda27@gmail.com or 01284 754574

If you hear of anyone who has not had this communication and would like it then please let Debbie know

As we travel from the joy of Palm Sunday and on to the journey to the cross and all that Holy Week brings you might find the words of this hymn helpful StF 277

- 1 **My song is love unknown**,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh and die ?
- 2 **He came** from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow ;
but they made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend !
- 3 **Sometimes** they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing ;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify !'
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.
- 4 **Why, what** has my Lord done ?
What makes this rage and spite ?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries !
Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst him rise.
- 5 **They rise**, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away ;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.
- 6 **In life** no house, no home,
my Lord on earth might have ;
in death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say ?
Heaven was his home ;
but mine the tomb
wherein he lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine :
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine !
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (c.1624–1683)