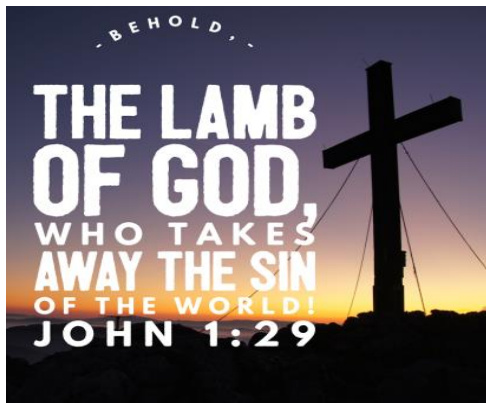


Guided by a cloud 53 (Exodus 13:21-22)

This Sunday is Palm Sunday the beginning of Holy Week. It is the day we celebrate the triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On that day, as Jesus and His disciples travelled to Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples ahead to locate a donkey. They returned with the donkey, spread their cloaks on it, and then Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Crowds gathered, spreading their clothes and branches on the ground and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel" (John 12:13). Making a path with garments or branches was a customary way of honouring a person (2 Kings 9:13), similar to laying out a red carpet in modern times. The people were praising Jesus and asking Him to be their Messiah. However, less than a week later, those people shouting "Hosanna" would shout "Crucify Him" (John 19:6). The events of Palm Sunday were very symbolic.



Worship time

[How deep the Father's love](#)

[In Christ alone](#)

[Jesus Christ I think upon your sacrifice](#)

The palm branches that the people waved represented goodness, well-being and victory referring to the final victory Jesus would fulfil over death. 1 Corinthians 15:55 says, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" Palm branches also appear in other places in the bible. King Solomon had palm branches carved

into the walls and doors of the temple (1 Kings 6:29). In Revelation people of every nation raised palm branches to honour Jesus, "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing robes and were holding palm branches in their hands" (Revelation 7:9).

Jesus riding in on a donkey, directly fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of Zechariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, daughter Zion! Shout, daughter Jerusalem! See your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." In biblical times, it was common for kings and important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions. Jesus reminded us that He is the Prince of Peace. When people shouted "Hosanna!" meaning "save now", they were hailing Christ as King. In their minds they waited for an earthly king, however, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him. The then Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, would come into Jerusalem with his soldiers for Passover, showing his strength through the arms his men carried. Jesus, however, on a donkey with His disciples unarmed, demonstrated the Kingdom of God, His peace and God's grace.

The Bible says that Jesus wept for Jerusalem "As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it, and said, 'If you, even you had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.' (Luke 19:41-42) In the middle of all the praise He knew in His heart that it wouldn't be long before these people would turn their backs on Him, betray Him, and crucify Him. His heart broke with the reality of how much they needed a Saviour.

As we come together to take communion, Palm Sunday gives us an opportunity to reflect on the final week of Jesus' life. It is a time for us to prepare our hearts for the agony of His Passion and the joy of His Resurrection.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7