

Lectio divina: Thursday 2nd April 2020

OPENING PRAYER

Open us up to your word, O gracious and generous God.

May this time be for us a sanctuary of quiet as we connect with you and with our inner life where the Spirit of Jesus waits in welcome.

*In Lectio divina [sacred reading] the text will be **read** through twice, quite slowly. Notice what word or phrase takes your attention in some way.*

John 12:12-19 (TPT) The Passion Translation©. 2017

¹²The next day the news that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem swept through the massive crowd gathered for the feast. ¹³So they took palm branches^[a] and went out to meet him. Everyone was shouting, "Lord, be our Saviour!^[b] Blessed is the one who comes to us sent from Jehovah-God,^[c] the King of Israel!"

¹⁴Then Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it to fulfil what was prophesied: ¹⁵"People of Zion,^[d] have no fear! Look—it's your king coming to you riding on a young donkey!"^[e]

¹⁶Now Jesus' disciples didn't fully understand the importance of what was taking place, but after he was raised and exalted into glory, they understood how Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies in the Scriptures that were written about him.



¹⁷All the eyewitnesses of the miracle Jesus performed when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead kept spreading the news about Jesus to everyone. ¹⁸The news of this miracle of resurrection caused the crowds to swell as great numbers of people *welcomed him into the city with joy.*^[f] ¹⁹But the Pharisees were disturbed by this and said to each other, "We won't be able to stop this."^[g] The whole world is going to run after him!"

Footnotes:

- a. [John 12:13](#) Or "Hosanna!"
- b. [John 12:13](#) The palm tree is a symbol of triumph, victory over death. Palms grow in the desert and overcome the arid climate. Deborah sat under a palm tree as a judge in Israel and received the strategy to overcome her enemies. See [Rev. 7:9](#).
- c. [John 12:13](#) See [Ps. 118:25-26](#).
- d. [John 12:15](#) Or "Daughter of Zion."
- e. [John 12:15](#) See [Zech. 9:9](#). Conquering kings would ride on a warhorse or in a golden chariot, but Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a domesticated donkey. He is the King of Peace.
- f. [John 12:18](#) The Greek is "the crowd went out to meet him." The Aramaic is "great crowds went in front of him."
- g. [John 12:19](#) The Aramaic is "See, you have lost your influence."

Take 5 minutes now **to reflect** on the text, paying special attention to whatever has taken your attention, and how this connects with your current circumstances.

And now bring your mind to stillness and **rest** in the loving presence of God, like a weaned child on its mother's knee [Psalm 131] – no questions, no thinking, just feeling relaxed and safe, against the heart of God who is always there for you.

[The song being played as we conclude our prayer is Psalm 131 by the Sons of Korah – you can find them on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plKAifJwhuc>]

Questions for further reflection:

What would it mean for you to say to Jesus, 'Be my Saviour?' given the current situation with Covid-19?

In this time of physical distancing we're unable to gather in the way that the scripture speaks of. How might you welcome Jesus into your 'bubble'?

And two ideas for Palm Sunday



What if everyone on Sunday April 5 in the morning, puts a branch on the door of their house or on the window, to celebrate Palm Sunday?

It could be any green branch you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks.

Want to join? We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the body of Christ. **We are the Church**

from the Deacons Bench website

And a link illustrating how to make a palm cross! [don't be put off by the lengthy link!]

https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+a+palm+cross+step+by+step&rlz=1C1GCEA_enNZ851NZ851&oq=how+to+make+a+palm+cross&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j0l7.11080j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvallbx=_RmFXr_uK8rQrQG1kIGABw53