

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
DIOCESE OF BALLARAT
ST PAUL'S - BAKERY HILL



"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)

**Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday
5th April 2020**

***A Year to challenge violence, injustice & oppression, and work for peace
and reconciliation***

Welcome to St Paul's Church as we meet in separate places! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. We gather in prayer from where ever we are. If you have found this order of service and are using it, please feel free to make yourself known. Contact details are on the last page.



Palm Sunday
Worship 9.30am [Zoom]

Contact Sister Elisa to be included.

Dear people of St Paul's,

In this time of separation from our church gatherings, we can affirm and encourage each other in prayer. We can also join in worship at our regular times using this form of prayer which is built from the Anglican Churches Liturgy for Palm Sunday.

You can use it on your own or with others around you. You may use all of it or a part of it as suits you. If you have some lovely recorded music which feeds your faith, then add that to the mix also.

Further, I suggest you create a prayer space, in it you could have a candle, a cross and /or a picture, none of these are essential, but may be a help for prayer.

Finally, I pray that this difficult season may be one which, despite hardship, enriches and strengthens your faith.

Every blessing

Sr Elisa

When all are gathered, the presider begins:

In the name of God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

This morning begins the Great Week of the Christian Year.

During Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection.

With Christians throughout the world,
we come together this week to call to mind,
and to express in word and action,
the centre of the Easter mystery:
our Lord's Passover from death to life.

Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City to complete his work as Messiah: to suffer, to die and to rise to new life.

Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross, so that, sharing his sufferings, we may be united with him in his risen life.

Let us pray.

Sovereign God,

we thank you for these branches of palm.

By your blessing may they be for us signs of the victory of your Son.

May we who look [reflect] on them ever hail him as our Messiah,

and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Penitential Rite

The Kyrie:

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy!

The Prayer of General Confession:

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us

We pause to reflect on our lives

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,

we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

and in what we have failed to do:

we have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. ¹ John 2: 1-2

COLLECT OF THE DAY: (*pause for silent prayer*) Merciful God, as we enter this holy week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph the city not made with hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ 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**

PSALM 118.1-2, 19-29

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² **Let Israel say,**
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ **This is the gate of the LORD;**
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² **The stone that the builders rejected**
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made;**
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.**
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

**28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.**

29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other
names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Matthew 21.1-11

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

+ Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Reflection by Sr Elisa

The entry into Jerusalem.

Normally on this day we’d be doing a lot more than we are. We would bless and distribute palm crosses, we would ceremonially process into the church waving palms and clothing and singing hosanna in the highest and blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, as the scripture suggests. Then we would turn immediately to the story of the Passion of Christ.

Because we are limited for time and are not able to be physically present to each other, I am going to take us into the season of the Passion over the course of this week beginning today with the entry into Jerusalem.

So how do we think about Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. In many ways Matthew’s Gospel is the most political of all the Gospels. Jesus is established from the very beginning as the Messiah, the one promised and looked forward to, but who is not recognised or appreciated by the Jewish leadership.

The oddest thing in this passage is the two donkeys, a donkey and a donkey foal. It highlights Matthew’s very literal use of the Old Testament Zechariah 9.9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

It also points us to one of Matthew's intentions with the story. That Jesus is not just any hero or prophet entering Jerusalem and being hailed by his followers, he is: The Prophet, The Messiah, The Anointed One, who is descended from the line of David, coming to claim his rightful throne in the city of his people.

A King would normally ride a war horse as a sign of his power, but a king on a donkey is a sign of peace. He does not need a horse because the battle is won. Jesus enters the city in peace displaying no signs of power. Matthew leaves out the part of the Zechariah quote where he is victorious and triumphant but chooses to emphasize his humility.

The next significant part of the story is the crowd and what is called out.

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

We normally take the word, 'hosanna', as a word of praise, something like 'Alleluia', and there's no doubt that there is a sense of that in the way it is used in the story.

The word 'Hosanna' literally means; 'Save please', or 'please save us' so it also has a sense of desperation and need. What could those who were crying out want to be saved from?

Well of course there was the Roman occupation of Israel which caused much suffering and oppression to the people, but there was also the great need of many people to be saved from poverty and disease and the power of human brokenness in their lives. So, we meet here, both the political and the social reality. As the story unfolds, we see Jesus on one level challenging the corruption of politics and misuse of power but on another level, he has no direct

interest in deposing those political powers in the way desired by the people, that is through war and violence.

He addresses the social realities of his world when he heals those he meets and teaches God's way of life as in around the beatitudes and the desire of God to be the one who governs all life. In the cleansing of the temple, claiming for God, the house of God, which follows this story directly, he cries out.

“My house shall be called a house of prayer’;
but you are making it a den of robbers.”

So often we think of salvation as being from sin, but we need salvation from much more than sin, often we need salvation from the results of sin, either by ourselves or from others. We need salvation from injustice and oppression, we need salvation from our sense of powerlessness in life, we need salvation from illness, from the corona virus, we need salvation from the damage we have done to our world which we seem to be at a loss to be able to undo.

Jesus comes in peace, riding a donkey into our lives as a gentle and humble king who loves God, and because of his love of God, and his relationship with God as the Son of God, loves us also. He comes to save **us** but the salvation he offers is one which also promises to shake us up.

The story of the entrance finishes with this,

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Thus, the peaceful image of Jesus on a donkey is juxtaposed by a city full of concern and confusion [feels a bit like us right now doesn't it?]. The last time in Matthew when Jerusalem was like this was when Herod heard about the promised Messiah from the wise men.

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. Matthew 2: 2-3

This all suggests that Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem in this way is deeply threatening to the powers that be and also the people. Herod thought of himself as the King of the Jews. The people of Jerusalem would have been worried about the consequences of another king arriving on the scene.

The scene is set.

Jesus arrives as a peaceful king, the Messiah no less. He is welcomed by people who are longing to be saved and he is disturbing to people who do not want their world disrupted even when there is much which needs healing and forgiving and liberating.

Questions for us to consider: what do we need saving from? What do I need to be saved from, and what do I need to be able to let go of in order to receive the gift of life which Jesus offers? So much tension as we come to the week of passion. Amen.

The Creed may be said

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his
kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to

come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem,

and for all the nations of the world especially in this time of battling
Covid19.

Pray for enemies to be reconciled and for justice to be done and
provision for the wellbeing of all.

(pause for silent prayer)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for candidates for baptism and confirmation,

and for Christians everywhere preparing to renew their Baptism promises
this Easter.

Pray for courage and integrity in following the way of the cross.

(pause for silent prayer)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick and all prisoners,
and for people preparing to die.
for healing, freedom, and hope.

We commend to you Keith, Ivor, Bert, Mandy, Joyce, Jean, Carmel, Hazel,
Heather, Stephanie, Tamara, Andrew, Aaron, Sue, Vera, Jenny, Jan, Fr
Peter, Seth, Corey, Michele, Gillian, Pauline. We pray for patients
suffering from serious diseases and those who care for them.

(pause for silent prayer)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints,
and for the resurrection light that shines on them.

Remember those who have died.

(pause for silent prayer)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy God,
hear the prayers of your Church.
Forgive our sins,
and send us the grace we need
to be faithful followers of our crucified and risen Lord,
for we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Amen.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies it bears much fruit.

If we have died with him, we shall live with him.

The following may be said

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Prayer of Spiritual communion [the reserve sacrament is placed where people can see it]

Pause

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen”

Further pause.

Prayer after Communion...

God our help and strength,
through the mystery of the sacrifice of Christ,
confirm our faith,
that we may walk with your Son, in the way of salvation.

Father we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory, Amen.

THE BLESSING

Grant, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

All parish activities are on hold or under assessment until further notice



Holy week

Holy Week is a roller-coaster ride from joy to sorrow. When you are on a roller-coaster, perhaps at a fair or hurtling along in real life, you hang on for dear life and trust in the process. You may be preparing for a wedding, a funeral or watching a teen teetering on the brink of success or failure. The Church from the first centuries relived this week: let reading each of the gospel accounts be some of your Holy Week building hope and confidence work.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

The Parenting Programme in the Americas has been successful in helping parents manage the roller-coaster of family relationships. Now the programme is planned for the Cree nation in Canada. May God bless all who go forward in faith, hope and love.

WOOD RAFFLE

The Fundraising Committee decided to postpone the raffle until it is safe to get out and about again, as it is difficult to distribute tickets.

PLANT SALE-

The Fundraising /Social Committee has decided to cancel our Plant Sale which is only 4 weeks away, due to the ongoing isolation restrictions that are now strictly enforced. We are hoping that the crisis will have ceased in time for our November Spring Plant Sale.

Meanwhile keep caring for your plants and putting in cuttings for Spring, take photos of plants in flower and relax in the garden. Make a Tussie-Mussie to soothe the senses --this is a small fragrant posy of scented herbs - thyme, sage, lavender, rosemary, lemon verbena and scented geraniums with a rose in the centre. These were popular from 1440 when the fragrance was believed to have the power to ward off diseases.

METAL COLLECTION

June is Metal Collection Month - As we have time to sort through sheds, gardens and under the house etc stockpile any metal bits and pieces for our fundraiser.

TESSELAAR BULB FUNDRAISING

If you would like some spectacular bulbs in spring, March to May is the perfect time for planting. Whether you are a passionate gardener or someone just discovering the joy of bulbs, you will love the exciting selection. There are 2020 catalogues and sheet for orders at the back of the church. Order them until April 17th, online at:

www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/STPAULSACBC Postage \$6.50

Ring Heather 0402262779 if you have any issues.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICE TIMES ON ZOOM

Maundy Thursday. 7pm

Good Friday. 10.30am

Easter Day. 9.30am

Please send your email address to stpaulsballarat@hotmail.com

If you would like to participate in our services.

ANGLICARE

Volunteers are required for the Community Breakfast program on a Monday and Friday morning from 8.15am to 10.15am and for Emergency Relief on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.15am to 12.15pm. If you are able to help, please contact Kim or Naomi on 5333 0600.

Items which are currently required for the Emergency Relief program are: tissues, toilet paper, pasta sauce, long life milk and any other long life food items. Please feel free to drop them in to Anglicare during opening hours (10.30am- 12.00pm Monday-Thursday).

RE FILM LUCHEON

Regent Cinema's Cancelled Film Luncheon – Miss Fisher and The Crypt of Tears. If there is anyone who would like to get a refund of their money paid for this Film Luncheon, could you please email or telephone Mark Stewart on markndee@ncable.net.au or 0488 333 481 or Heather Clinton on clinton.heatherj@gmail.com or 0402 262 779. Once this Covid-19 and our stay at home is finished, let's hope the Regent Cinema will either show this film again or something else that we can all attend together.

SHEEP MANURE is still available in \$1 and \$2 bags and is great to dig into the soil in Autumn. Contact Avis mob 0408 801 192, Noella 0418 501 382, or Deirdre 408 433 481 to order

Parish Directory

Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Garry Weatherill

Parish Priest Sr Elisa Helen, CSC

Tel. 5332 6479 [leave a message]

Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Geoffrey Tisdall

The Rev'd Malcolm Thomas

The Rev'd Deacon Bert Muysers

Parish Secretary: Lisa Smith

Organist: Ken Turner

Wardens:

Bryan Crebbin

Mark Stewart:

Heather Clinton

Treasurer: Mark Stewart

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

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