

## Reflection Matthew 21. 1-11

[to be read in conjunction with Revd Eliza's sermon]



The winding labyrinth pilgrimage is when we place one foot in front on the other wherever we find ourselves. Our companions near and far are still the ones with whom we share our bread, whether that is spiritual communion or virtual meetings or sitting at the kitchen table. We are all in this together. And Covid19 has unmasked the illusion that we were ever separate or ever in control. Jesus the servant King still leads us into Jerusalem on a humble donkey. Turning our whole world upside down.



**\*\*One of the suggestions from the Bishop is that we light a candle and put it in our windows at 7pm on Sunday evenings, as a mark of prayer and solidarity.\*\***

**NEXT SUNDAY 12th April 2020**

**SERVICES** Public worship suspended

**READINGS** OT: Jeremiah 31.1-6  
NT: Acts 10.34-43  
GOSPEL: John 20.1-18 or  
Matthew 28.1-10



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(suspended)



# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 5 April 2020**

**Palm Sunday**

I had a conversation with a friend the other day who said that all his Lenten disciplines and intentions had gone out of the window. And yet this whole experience feels very Lenten. We are living in a time of fast, unwillingly deprived of much that usually supports us—the company of wider family and friends, and little treats out to cafes, restaurants and pubs perhaps. We may be living more quietly and prayerfully if we can see through our anxiety.

So we come to Holy Week, which will truly be very different this year. There are resources here on paper and for those with internet access, almost too much to choose from. Plan how you will spend these days leading up to Easter, they may be very fruitful indeed.

One good suggestion is that we try on these next two Sundays (Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday) to be saying our prayers in some form together at 10.30 in the morning, and to be intentionally holding each other up to God, and praying for the wider community of St Thomas. I encourage you to try this. Blessings to all!

*Fr David*



## Collect

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 pa-  
tience 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 for ever. **Amen**

## Isaiah 50.4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

## Philippians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be

exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## Matthew 21.1-11 (Palm Gospel)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, '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.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!'

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

## The Passion Gospel according to St Matthew

Matthew 26.14—27.66

## Post-Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

**Fr Charles' last Sunday** is Easter Day. We were planning on a shared meal and presentation, but obviously this won't happen now. If you would like to pledge a donation for this, please speak to Ian. We can leave Charles a card and a gift outside his door, and maybe do something later on.

Message from John White: There is a regular service on **Sunday mornings on BBC1**, but the timing seems a bit variable. Archbishop of Canterbury to appear this Sunday.

The St Thomas Churches are together planning a **Community Larder** with donations of tinned goods etc, probably based at the Methodist Church. For further info, watch this space.