

Parish of Mottingham St Andrew with St Alban

Parish Pew Sheet for 5th April 2020, Palm Sunday

Introduction to worship

Dear friends in Christ, during the Season of Lent we have been preparing our souls to unite more fully with the deep meaning of our Lord Jesus Christ's passion and death, and to walk with him the way of the Cross, mindful that this leads to the celebration on Easter Sunday of His glorious Resurrection. Today, in union with the world-wide Church, we begin this holy journey, uniting with our Lord as he enters the holy city of Jerusalem to complete his work of salvation, to suffer, to die and to rise again. Let us now accompany Him in hope and faith and love, praying that, uniting with Him in his sufferings, we may know the great joy of His risen life. We offer this prayer through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 patience 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.

Gospel Reading: Mark 11: 1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden: untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this. "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said: and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it: and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Private reading and reflection on the Passion Narrative, Matthew 26 & 27, in version of one's choice.

Prayers.

Heavenly Father, as Christ entered Jerusalem, so let him enter our lives, let the King of glory come in, that he may rule in our hearts, and that we may offer our love and lives to him; through the same Christ our Lord, who offered his life for us, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Keep us Father in this pandemic emergency under the shield of your mercy, and in this time of uncertainty and distress, sustain and support the anxious, and lift up all who are affected by the Coronavirus through illness, isolation and economic hardship, that they may know your peace, comfort and support, holding fast to the hope that nothing can separate us from your love In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We pray Father for leaders and rulers of nations at this time, that they may be guided by your compassion and wisdom to seek with integrity the common good. We continue to pray for doctors, nurses, the emergency services and for key workers and volunteers, giving thanks for their great courage in the support they bring

to community life in these very difficult times. We pray that all who put themselves at risk through their service to the community may be kept safe and free from harm.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the passion and cross of our Lord and for His great gift of redemption. We pray for all troubled souls, and all who are anxious about their health or their future. We remember those separated from loved ones at this time, that they may know your presence and comfort. As we recall our Lord's Passion, we offer our prayers for all who are persecuted for their beliefs and principles, and for the gravely ill, the dying, and all suffering at this time in mind, body, emotion or spirit, especially those whose particular needs are on our hearts, and all who we name now before you...

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the recently departed, that they may rest in peace and rise in glory, and that light perpetual may shine upon them. Especially we remember Elsie Hudson, Havelock Binns, & all whose year's mind falls at this time; may they rest in peace & rise in glory. May we join with them to sing your praises and may your comfort and peace be with all who mourn.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, be with us this Palm Sunday and in this coming Holy Week as we offer ourselves to you, and seek to enter more deeply into the meaning of your road to the cross.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you wish to follow the Agape-communion, please see the communion sheet sent out last week. If you didn't receive this, please call Revd Ian (Telephone numbers below).

Blessing:

**May the Peace of God, which passes all understanding,
Keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us all and all for whom we pray,
this coming Holy Week, and for ever more. Amen.**

Notices.

Christian Aid Week. Although we will not be able to collect for this charity in the usual way this year, all ideas for fund-raising, e.g. Streaming-based sponsored events, are warmly welcome.

Due to the current pandemic, our churches and halls continue to be closed, and services and public meetings suspended. Continuing support and ongoing prayer & worship will be offered by email, mail-outs to those not on the internet and up-to-date information on the website: www.standrewandstalban.org.uk Contact Bob Lawrie at bob@standrewandstalban.org.uk or Tel: 020 8857 0685 to add items.

For pastoral support call Revd Ian 020 8851 1909/07709 827355, Revd Tim 07504 829190 or Revd Anne 020 8297 8761.