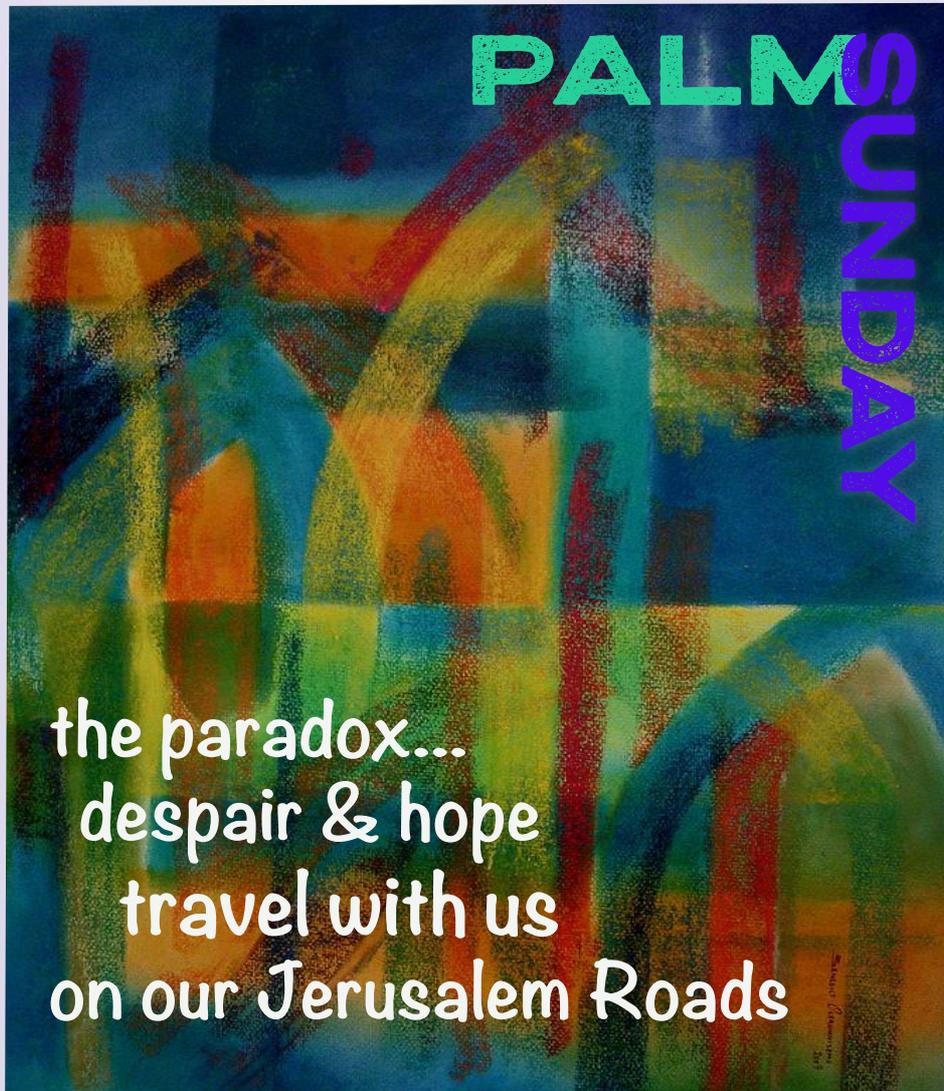




uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Parramatta City
Uniting Churches



10 April 2022

Leigh Memorial 9.30am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Uniting 9:30am

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93615534553>

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together in this space and on zoom.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

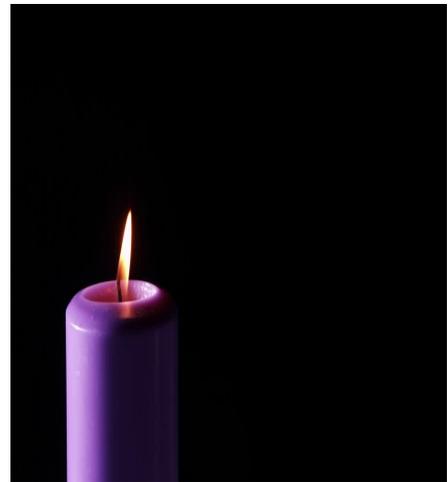
LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLE

As light is borne
from a white candle to a violet candle
and the flame remains the same;
so the Spirit of God burns in our lives
through the good times and the testing times.

The Lenten Candle is lit

We do this in remembrance of Jesus.

As an extinguished candle
waits in the darkness to be rekindled;
so the spirit of God
is forever ready to shine with hope and love.



the Lenten candle is extinguished

*As we extinguish this Lenten light,
we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world*

*And as the Christ candle remains lit,
we acknowledge **the promise of the presence** of Christ
in every wilderness experience.*

HYMN *The King of glory comes (TiS 279)*

*The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him, lift up your voices.*

Who is the King of glory:
what shall we call Him?
He is Emmanuel,
the promised of ages.

***The King of glory comes,
the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him,
lift up your voices.***

In all of Galilee, in city or village,
He goes among his people,
curing their illness.



***The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him, lift up your voices.***
Sing then of David's son, our Savior and brother,
In all of Galilee was never another.

***The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him, lift up your voices.***
He gave His life for us, the pledge of salvation,
He took upon Himself the sins of the nation.

***The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him, lift up your voices.***
He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen,
And He will share with us his heavenly vision.

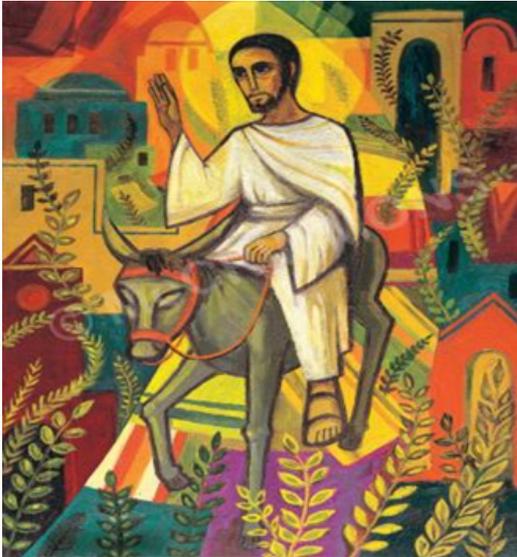
*Text: W.F. Jabusch; Melody: Israeli Folksong
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OPENING SENTENCES ***Jesus is the Un-King!***

We call you 'King', Jesus,
but you're not like any king we've ever heard of;
***You don't flaunt your power,
waving your hand dismissively
to change the lives of your subjects;***

You don't hoard your wealth,
and tax your people just to grow more comfortable
in your isolated palace;

***You don't exploit the weak and unconnected,
or use the ambition of ladder-climbers
to further your control.***



No, you are the King
who lays down his crown,
to walk among us as one of us;

***You are the King
who lays down his life,
to bring abundant,
eternal life to all who seek it;***

You are the King who draws the weak,
the rejected, the poor, the child into the centre of the conversation
and into the heart of where real power lies.

***You, Jesus, are the UnKing – the King whose Kingdom,
redefines everything we know and will continue to do so for
eternity. Amen.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus Christ, in the presence of your love,
A love that faces death, struggles with it,
We each face the paradoxes of our Jerusalem-roads.

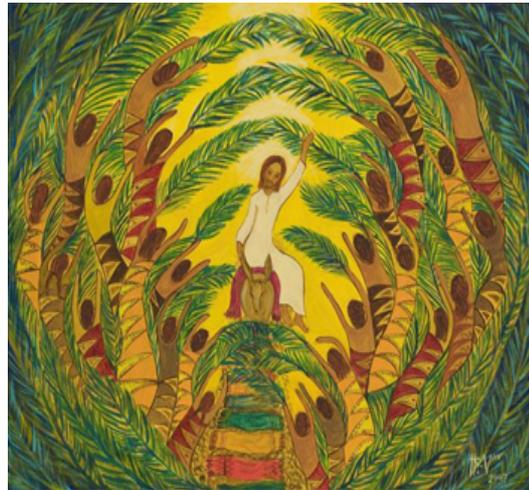
“Despair and hope.
They travel the road to Jerusalem together,
as together they travel every road we take —
despair at what in our madness
we are bringing down on our own heads
and hope in him who travels the road with us and for us
and who is the only one of us all who is not mad.”

Frederick Buechner

Welcome to Holy Week.
Here we are, and here is our God.
Here are our hosannas,
broken and earnest,
hopeful and hungry.
Here is all that is unbearable,
and all that promises to end
in light brighter than we can imagine.

***Blessed is the One who comes to die
so that we will live.***

Debie Thomas, Journey with Jesus



SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19:28-40

28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Master needs it.’” 32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” 34 They said, “The Master needs it.” 35 Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 38 saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” 40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.
And colour our living. Amen!*

REFLECTION

HYMN *The Servant King* (TiS 256)

1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2. There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear.
His heart with sorrow was torn;
"Yet not my will, but yours", he said.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

3. Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

4. So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
or it is Christ we're serving.

*This is our God, the Servant King;
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King,
of worship to the Servant King.*

Graham Kendrick

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

We offer our gifts this day with gratitude.
Through them, may hope come to those who know despair,
may love come to those who feel alone,
may healing come to those who endure pain.
May these gifts be a sign
of our commitment to serve you in the world. *Amen.*

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

We pray for peace
Peace which passes understanding
Peace in the hearts of individuals
Peace at the heart of relationships
Peace between people
Peace between communities
Peace between nations
Peace of the heart
Peace of the soul
The peace of your love
The peace of your grace
The peace of your justice
Peace which disturbs and haunts us
Peace which disrupts and unsettles us
Peace which discomforts and harasses us
Which creates a hungry desire
And awakens us in deep longing
Until we all join you in your work of peace
So that it might be shared by all.
Courageously, we pray.

Amen.

(Source: Jon Humphries, Transforming Worship Facebook page)

HYMN *When our life began again* (TiS 357)

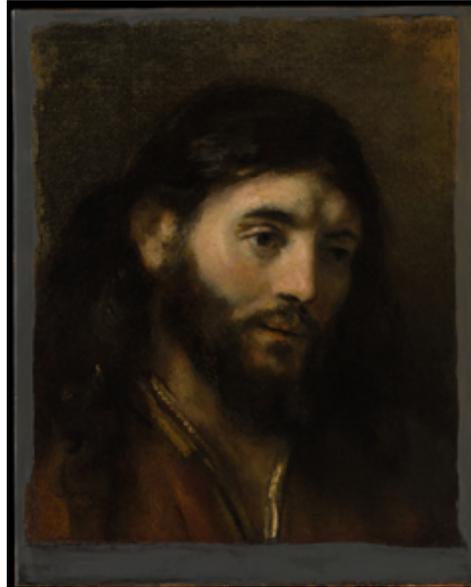
1. When his time was over,
the palms lay where they fell.
As they ate together, he told his friends farewell. Jesus, though you cried
out for some other end, love could only choose a cross
when our life began again.

Bucha, Ukraine



2. Secretly they planned it,
with money changing hands;
in the quiet garden a kiss betrayed their man.
Priests and elders tried him,
soldiers crowned him king.
We were in the crowd that day
when our life began again.

3. Women wept to see him,
he said "Don't weep for me."
Many laughed and mocked him,
"Forgive them, they don't see."
Jesus, please forgive me,
you know what I am;
I was one who nailed your hands
when our life began again.



4. There was one who asked you,
"Remember me this day."
Jesus, when I'm dying, remember me that way.
When my life is over, be with me, my friend,
like the thief upon the cross
when our life began again.

Robin Mann
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BLESSING

May God,
who comes to us
in the things of this world,
bless your eyes
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,
who looks upon you
with deepest love,
bless your eyes
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,
who perceives what is
and what may yet be,
bless your eyes
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three
bless your eyes
and cause you to see.
Amen.

*(Source: Jan L Richardson,
The Painted Prayerbook)*