PALM SUNDAY, 5th. APRIL 2020 10am.

Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing:
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King;
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for his death they thirst and cry.
(*Samuel Crossman*)

CONFESSION

Forgive us , Lord, when we praise you with our lips, but wound you with our deeds, when we put ourselves first, rather than caring for the needs of others, when we try to create you in our own image.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,9).

READINGS

Psalm 118 vv1-2,19-end, Matthew 21:1-11.

Donkey Day (*Janet Lee*)

Cross-marked beast
Bearing cross-burdened Christ
What is your message today
as you travel the palm-strewn way?
Stumbling on a stony track,
people's coats on your back,
You were chosen for faithfulness.
this is a calling we share,
as the cross-marked hill
comes closer still.
Your job is to carry him today,
yesterday's weight is forgotten,
tomorrow's burden still uncertain.
May we, his cross-marked people
Bear him just as faithfully.

MINI-REFLECTION

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, mounted on a donkey, the crowds were greeting their version of the Messiah, one who would save them from Roman oppression. They waved tree branches, a symbol of a Jewish sovereign state. However, this celebrity was short-lived – perhaps the "freedom fighter" Barabbas would be the man for the job instead? Jesus came in humility, on a donkey; he knew he was to suffer rejection and death, to be a "failure" in human terms. Are there times when we ask Jesus to solve our earthly problems, and reject him when he appears not to answer our prayers?

PRAYERS

We pray to Christ, our cornerstone, on him alone we build.

We give thanks for the beauty of the natural world, for signs of spring unfurling around us.

We give thanks for our families and friends, for those who have shown self-giving love and thoughtfulness to us. We give thanks for the many examples of generosity, of community spirit in response to this time of crisis.

We pray for our church family, that although physically separated we may support each other, united in prayer and worship.

We continue to pray for all who are sick in mind, body or spirit, including those infected with Covid 19. We bring before you the healthcare workers and others who take personal risks in caring for them. We remember those who are worried about loved ones and those who mourn.

We commit ourselves and those who are dear to us to your enfolding love.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in your chosen version).

We share the **GRACE**.

FINAL PRAYER. Dear Master, we remember that many who claimed you as King later shouted "Crucify". Confirm our faith today that our love for you will never falter or turn to hatred but will remain constant now and forever. We offer our worship to you, Lord, with all our love. Amen.
(*from Prayers for Today,Mary Batchelor*)