

Teddington Circuit Worship at Home Sheets - Sunday April 5th

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. Spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you. Thanks to John Staton, Christopher Firth, John and Liz Turner, Jill Harker and the Connexional team.

Opening Sentences.

God is with us, we are surrounded by his great love.

This is the day the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God is with us, his peace will strengthen us. This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God is with us, let us offer our worship and praise.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn:

**1 All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and Blessèd One.**

**2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.**

**3 To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.**

**4 All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,**

**to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it
here <https://youtu.be/h3a8fTTrAdE>

Let us pray together

God our Father, we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus to be our King and Saviour. We thank you that he came to his people in triumph, but also in humility, and was willing to die so that all who believe in him may be forgiven, may become your people, and may share in eternal life.

Forgive us for the times we have refused to believe, for the times when we have not listened, and the times when we have been unwilling to follow him on the way, and work in us by your Holy Spirit to make us the people you want us to be.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1: 9)

Today's Reading from the Epistle: Philippians 2: 5-11

For the past couple of weeks the coronavirus emergency has been forcing all of us to wrestle with threats outside our control. Amongst other things it's been challenging us to live with uncertainty, ambiguity and fear. But take heart; this is the kind of environment in which faith (and hope and love) really can come into their own and thrive. It was similar for the Holy Week crowds in Jerusalem and for the disciples; they couldn't be sure exactly what was happening, how it would end or what life would be like afterwards. They must have experienced a huge range of different emotions. And it changed them.

This pandemic experience will change us too. But our faith (and actions) will see us through - even though we might not know "to what" or "how". What are we going to learn from the experience? Are we wrong to envision how our post-coronavirus society needs to look and feel? Perhaps

we'll learn more to collaborate and cooperate with each other than to compete? And wouldn't it be good to get politicians to make commitments now as to what our post-corona society might be like?

Faith is vital here. Let's remember that the opposite of faith is not doubt (where you start to question God's ability or existence entirely) but self-sufficiency (it can sometimes be tempting to think we'd be better off just handling 'it' ourselves). In the end it is selfishness that could destroy us all. So this Easter can we appreciate the value and effects of *selflessness* a bit more? It is the life blood of a community and indeed of our world.

As Charles Wesley penned.....

*Faith lends its realising light,
The clouds disperse, the shadows fly;
Th'invisible appears in sight,
And God is seen by mortal eye.*

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

Try the *Palm Cross Activity* attached

Time to Reflect

A Reflection on Palm Sunday – expectation, confrontation and decision.

On Palm Sunday Jesus is on his final journey – a journey which would lead him to the Cross, but on this day things seemed to be very different. There was a note of jubilation.

The disciples had not wanted Jesus to go into Jerusalem, fearing that things might get unpleasant, but when Jesus rode in on the donkey, they were the first to lead the cheering of "Hosanna", which the crowd soon picked up with enthusiasm.

What were the crowd **expecting** – a conquering king, a military leader?

Later in the week there would be **confrontation** as Jesus came face to face with the leaders and authorities – Jews and Romans – in the cleansing of the Temple and in the final corrupt court proceedings.

For the crowds and the leaders there came **decision** time. Did they want to play safe, stay with the status quo, which they had learned to accept? Or would they risk following a new leader who had come to free them, but in a way they didn't truly understand?

How do we deal with our expectations, confrontations and decisions?

Do we know who we should really be following, hard though it may be?

This seems like the worst week in Jesus' life, and we need to travel it with Jesus, but we also know that we have something infinite precious to look forward to – Easter just a week away! May God be praised!

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

The Circuit Prayer Diary invites us to pray for Love Molesey. The plans have been slightly curtailed by the effects of covid-19. We pray for those who can still be involved with #lovemolesey and that the absence this year won't affect the project next year.

In our prayers for the world we are asked to pray for Madagascar – the rich biological diversity of rainforests is being destroyed. Many live in poverty. Cyclones, lack of clean water, poor infrastructure and careless farming techniques hinder progress. The church is very divided and in decline after revival in the 1980s. Pray for humility to replace pride and jealousy.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For Christian people, that through suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ,
Let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

Holy God, holy and strong
Holy and immortal, have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Listen to You laid aside your majesty

*You laid aside Your majesty
You laid aside Your majesty, gave up everything for me.
Suffered at the hands of those You had created.
You took away my guilt and shame,
When You died and rose again.
Now today You reign,
And heaven and earth exalt You.*

*I really want to worship You my Lord,
You have won my heart and I am Yours.
Forever and ever, I will love You.
You are the only one who died for me,
Gave Your life to set me free.
So I lift my voice to You in adoration.*

*You laid aside Your majesty
You laid aside Your majesty, gave up everything for me.
Suffered at the hands of those You had created.
You took away my guilt and shame,
When You died and rose again.
Now today You reign,*

*And heaven and earth exalt You.
I really want to worship You my Lord,
You have won my heart and I am Yours.
Forever and ever, I will love You.
You are the only one who died for me,
Gave Your life to set me free.
So I lift my voice to You in adoration.*

Noel Richards : <https://youtu.be/oVLsRopJZgk>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

Christ crucified draw us to himself that we may find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven and the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon us and remain with us always.