

Sunday April 5th – By JOHN STATON

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you

Opening Sentences.

**Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

**Hymn: (H&P) 159 Ride on, ride in
majesty**

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**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who,

though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Today's Gospel Reading:

Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the amount of Olivets, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately. " ⁴ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵ "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." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and

put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Time to Reflect.....

Read: Rev. Ken's reflections attached

A time of prayer

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

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: 160 (H&P) All glory, laud & honour

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. Amen