

North East Circuit of Independent Methodist Churches
Weekly Devotional for Sunday 5th April 2020 – Palm Sunday

Introduction

- Many of us are settling into a new way of life with new routines and different ways of doing things.
- Whilst much has changed in the last few weeks we thank God that He is “the same, yesterday, today and forever.”
- And here we are at Palm Sunday.
- In the midst of upheaval and uncertainty we enter familiar territory as we approach Holy Week.

Hymn: Make Way

Make Way, Make Way, For Christ The King
In Splendour Arrives.

Fling Wide the Gates And Welcome Him
Into Your Lives.

Make Way! Make Way! (Make Way!)
For the King of Kings!
Make Way! Make Way!
And Let His Kingdom In!

He Comes the Broken Hearts to Heal,
The Prisoners To Free.
The Deaf Shall Hear, The Lame Shall Dance,
The Blind Shall See.

And Those Who Mourn with Heavy Hearts,
Who Weep and Sigh;
With Laughter, Joy and Royal Crown
He'll Beautify.

We Call You Now to Worship Him as Lord of
All.

To Have No Other Gods but Him: their
Thrones Must Fall!

Bible Reading: Luke 19:28-31

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

Devotional:

- Today is Palm Sunday and maybe the realisation is dawning that our 2020 Easter Services will be different to what we had planned!
- But this period of enforced isolation reminds us that God is not restricted to buildings or calendars!
- The beginning of the Palm Sunday account is included here and it would be good to read the whole account up to verse 44.
- There is one little phrase that can be easy to overlook. It is found in verse 32 and reads “and found it (the colt) just as he (Jesus) had told them.”
- Did you notice, nothing was of a surprise to Jesus. He knew all along what the two disciples would find in the village ahead.
- Does that not fill us with confidence and hope?
- That Jesus knows. He knows exactly what we are going through and our situation neither shocks Him or surprises Him.
- Only Luke records that Jesus wept over Jerusalem (v 41), the “city of peace.” So here is the Prince of Peace weeping over the city of peace.
- It appears that few people in the city that day realised the peace that Jesus offered.
- Let us thank God for the peace that comes from knowing the Prince of Peace who knows our situation!

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your pow'r and reign.

Prayer:

O God our Heavenly Father, we come before you this Palm Sunday. Help us to rejoice and be glad in it. We thank You for the hope and confidence that comes from knowing that You know our circumstances. In these uncertain times we pray your protection over those we know and love as well as those working on the frontline on our behalf. We pray that the decision makers will know Your wisdom. Above all we pray that Your name will be glorified in us and through us this Holy Week.

The Lord's Prayer