

Bybrook Team Ministry

- Worshipping, Growing & Sharing the Love of Christ in North Wiltshire -

A Liturgy for Palm Sunday From Home



Please prepare your 'palm' cross from items available in your home or garden. You'll need something to represent a branch, even a picture.

You may choose to move around your house or garden as you would the church

This is our first gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

As our saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice and meditation for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the church throughout the world.

Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Holding up branches we say

**God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these branches be for us signs of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
Amen.**

We move off to our second meeting point

This is our second gathering

Christ is our peace. he has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share in his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The Reading of the Palm Gospel

a dramatized reading may be appropriate

Matthew 21: 1-11 (NIV)

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 “Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”
A prayer of intercession

Let us pray:

We give thanks for the joy and fellowship provided by the opportunity to follow in the Way of Christ; we pray for all for whom this is difficult, for those who are oppressed because of their faith. We give thanks for those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace; and we pray for the city of Jerusalem, and for all who still make it a battleground.

We pray, Lord, that you will strengthen us when we are less confident in our faith, and that you will be with us when we are weighed down by hardship, failure and sorrow and feel that you are far away:

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A song or hymn may be sung, noisily and in celebration!

We move off to our third meeting point, representing the gates of Jerusalem

This is our third gathering

Discussion and Questions

As we gather and take seats, so we open in conversation on the gathering the journey so far, the emotions, the reality, thoughts and questions.

Affirmation of Faith

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty;
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in one God the Father,
who created all things;
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come Lord Jesus!'
Amen.**

Prayers

Pray together sharing honestly your questions and concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

In deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.
Amen

Holding high the palm crosses

We have laid down our branches as a sign of our penitence. Now as we enter together the week in which we recall his suffering and his death, we take up these palm crosses as a sign of our journey with Jesus:

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these Palms be for us signs of his victory.
May we ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
who is alive and reigns now and forever.
Amen.

Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

A song or hymn may be sung

Blessing

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring us by faith to his eternal life.
Amen.

May Christ,

who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep us steadfast as you walk with him the way of the cross.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory, set our minds on life and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon us, those whom we love and for whom we pray, and remain with us now and always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England material from which is included in this service,
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000
Additional Material from *Together for a Season*, Church House Publishing 2007, and *A Wee Worship Book*, Wild Good Publications

Helpful Links and Resources

Making Palm Messy Palms

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-palm-sunday>



Hand print 3 or 4 hand prints in green paint or use coloured paper. Cut them out and stick them to a paper straw.

Making Fig Roll Bibles

Fig rolls look like a folded book. With a bit of careful decorating with icing can they look this good?

