

**Welcome to our Family Service of
Holy Communion at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Palm Sunday 29th March 2026**

Call to Worship:

Humble and riding on a donkey,
we greet you;

Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,
we cheer you;

moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,
We salute you: Christ our Lord.

You are giving the beast of burden
a new dignity;

you are giving majesty
a new face;

you are giving those who long for redemption
A new song to sing.

With them, with heart and voice, we shout:
Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessing of the palms

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
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; **Amen.**

Hymn:

*All glory, laud and honour,
to thee, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortals, joined with all things
created, make reply.

4 To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise:
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.

1 Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the king and blessed one.

3 The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went:
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

5 Thou didst accept their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious king.

*St Theodulph of Orleans (c.821)
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.
CCL Licence number: 5935*

Confession:

We stand in silence and listen to our hearts...

What are you glad of?

What is bothering you?

What are you sorry for?

Words of Assurance:

Loving God
You hear us
You know us
You sent your Son to save us.
In your love
We are forgiven
Amen

The Collect:

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. **Amen**

First Reading: *Psalm 118: 1 - 2, 19 - end*

Hymn:

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue your road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see th'approaching sacrifice.

5 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.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strive is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 21: 1 - 11*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

The Creed:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Intercessions:

The Peace: *please stand*

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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

Hymn:

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake,
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

3 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.

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might flee.

2 He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but sin made blind, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

6 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

*Samuel Crossman (c. 1624-1684) alt.
CCL Licence Number 5935*

The Invitation:

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who seek God, those who love God,
and those who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith,
and you who have little, or are questioning faith.
Come, you who have been here often,
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.
Come, you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.

Come, not because the Church invites you;
it is Christ who invites you to be known, fed, and loved here.

The Eucharistic Prayer:

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

On this day of celebration –
on this day of renewing our faith –
on this day of walking with Christ,
to Jerusalem... to Golgotha...
and beyond
we give you thanks,
great and loving God.

Thank you, loving God!

From the very beginning, you have loved us.
You created all that is, calling it into being.
With the ruach – the Spirit –
with the Wind and the Word,
you saw what you had created,
and called it, “Good!”
Thank you, loving God!

But. But? But.
Time and time again,
in history and in our story,
we have turned away from your love.
We have turned away from your hope.
We have turned away from you.
We have wandered away,
thinking we knew best.

But..
But?
But you never left us to walk by ourselves, loving God.
Even when we turned away.
Even when we turn away.
You walk the road with us.

Through prophets, Priests and storytellers,
through mothers and grandmothers,
through fathers and grandfathers,
through teens and children and infants,
you called us back to your love.
Thank you, loving God!

There came a time when you sent Jesus to speak to the world.

To speak to us.

To teach us your love.

To give abundant life.

To make us new.

Thank you, loving God!

He lived a life as one of us –

a child, a youth, an adult.

He laughed with those who laughed,

he cried with those who cried.

In all of this, he walked the hard road

the way of the Cross

and the way of the Resurrection.

On the night before he was put to death,

he gathered for a meal of celebration with his friends.

There he recommitted himself to your love,

and to his people.

He took bread, thanked You, and broke the bread,

giving it to his friends, saying,

“Take this and eat it. This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.”

We remember him.

After the meal was over, he took the cup of blessing,
thanked You, and poured the wine,
giving it to his friends, saying,
“Take this and drink it. This is my blood, given for you.
Each time you drink this, remember me.”

We remember him.

And so we do as he asked us, loving God.
We pray that your Spirit might fill these gifts,
and fill us that all might be vessels of your love,
your hope and your life in the world.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Lord's Prayer:

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 forever, Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

The tent side is open,

the table is set,

and God waits for us to come in from the desert

for a while and be refreshed ...

Communion is shared:

Prayer after Communion:

God has called us to journey
for a season through the wilderness places;
**And so, as Jesus did before us,
we will set out once more
to wander in an uncomfortable landscape
and wrestle with its challenges,
that through the tempering action of the Spirit,
we may emerge ready to do the work of the Kingdom.
Amen**

Blessings:

Notices:

Birthdays:

Hymn:

Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic Name above all other names,
the highest heaven and earth proclaim
that Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.*

Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
let all creation stand and sing
that Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.*

Jesus is the Father's splendour;
Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
and every eye at last will see
that Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
we will give Him honour and praise.*

Steve Garrett
CCL Licence Number 5935

Sending:

And now we lay down the palm branches.

**And with them we lay down our belief
that there is another way for you to be God.**

As the last echo of the final alleluia fades,
so does our hope that this journey can end in any other way.

The week stretches ahead
glory-less and pain-full

Whether we walk with all faith or none
we look towards the cross,
knowing it is both the most human and most divine of all journeys

Travel the road with courage, with love,
and with the uneasy peace that is the gift of faith
into this holiest of weeks. **Amen.**

Blessing:

May hosannas of joy sound in all the earth,
welcoming the one who looked evil in the face,
And may the presence of God
lift high your hopes for the transforming of life

And the blessing of...

Go in faith to welcome all that is of God in the world,
Knowing that Christ is moving before us
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen