

**Welcome to our Family Service of
Holy Communion at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Palm Sunday 13th April 2025**

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.**

Song:

1 Make way, make way, for Christ the King
In splendour arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him
Into your lives.

2 He comes the broken hearts to heal,
The prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
The blind shall see.

3 And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
Who weep and sigh;
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify.

4 We call you now to worship Him
As Lord of all.
To have no gods before Him,
Their thrones must fall!

*Make way! (Make way!)
Make way! (Make way!)
For the King of kings.
(For the King of kings.)
Make way! (Make way!)
Make way! (Make way!)
And let His kingdom in.*

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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: 19 - 24*

Song:

Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna hosanna,
hosanna in the highest!
Lord, we lift up Your name
with hearts full of praise;
be exalted, O Lord, my God!
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, glory,
glory to the King of kings!
Glory, glory,
glory to the King of kings!
Lord, we lift up Your name
with hearts full of praise;
be exalted, O Lord, my God!
Glory to the King of kings!

Gospel Reading: *Luke 19: 28 - 40*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
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.

Song:

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingling down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
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:

1 To God be the glory!
great things he hath done;
so loved he the world
that he gave us his Son;
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.

2 O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood!
to ev'ry believer
the promise of God;
the vilest offender
who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus
a pardon receives.

Chorus:

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
let the earth hear his voice;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
let the people rejoice:
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory;
great things he hath done.*

3 Great things he hath taught us,
great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher,
and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture,
when Jesus we see.

*Frances Jane van Alstyne
(Fanny J Crosby)
(1820-1915)
CCL Licence Number 5935*

Sending:

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...