

All Around the Altar Service

Palm Sunday, 5th April 2020

Service led by Cheryl Trice

Welcome and Introduction - Jenny Warrington

There's something very biblical about having an 'All around the Altar' service in our homes...as it says in 1 Peter Chapter 2 verses 4 & 5

"As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

And in the book of Acts believers were encouraged to meeting together in our homes... and while we are unable to physically come together while the restrictions are still in force, this is a lovely way to meet together, and thanks once again to Bruce for bringing the various elements together into a coherent service that we can share together.

Today is Palm Sunday – the beginning of Passion week. When I first heard the word passion, I actually misheard it. What I heard was 'Fashion'. Fashion week, not passion week. Now, Fashion week has a slightly different connotationbut then, at this time, Jesus **was** actually at the height of fashion, as the crowds followed him...

But today **is** the beginning of **Passion** week, Jesus's last week before he was crucified. Passion – comes from the Latin word, Passio – that means suffering. Jesus has his sight fixed on

Jerusalem, as he knows he is about to face death - Passion week is about suffering.

The week ahead is a sombre time in the Church's calendar. A time where we are called to consider the sacrifice that Jesus made for us all.

We have produced a booklet for this week, that we hope you will use, as we journey, with Jesus, towards his crucifixion.

Each day has a psalm, a reading from the book of John, some reflections and prayers and I hope most of you have already received it either electronically or by post. And if you haven't and would like one, please get in touch.

But for now, we celebrate Palm Sunday and Andrea will be opening God's word to us later, and Cheryl will be leading us through the service.

Opening words of Praise with lighting of candles

I will light a light
in the name of the Maker,
who lit the world
and gave everything life.

I will light a light
in the name of the Son
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit,
who is present everywhere in the world
and gives me strength.

**We will light three lights
for the trinity of love:
God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us;
The beginning,**

**The end
and the Everlasting one.**

Song: Come on and celebrate

Come on and celebrate
His gift of love, we will celebrate
The Son of God who loved us
And gave us life.
We'll shout Your praise, O King,
You give us joy nothing else can bring,
We'll give to You our offering
In celebration praise.

Come on and celebrate,
Celebrate,
Celebrate and sing,
Celebrate and sing to the King.x2

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Bible Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Talk Andrea Ward

Prayers: including space for personal
prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore. Amen.**

Closing Responses

From where we are
to where you need us.
Jesus, now lead on!

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you reveal.
Jesus, now lead on!

To make this world
look more like your kingdom,
Jesus, now lead on!

