



Order of Service

10th of April 2022

10.00 am

Worship led by Rev Dr André Groenewald
Music from Martin Petty and the Choir



Welcome & Announcements

Good morning and welcome to our service

Please read the Intimation sheet and be aware of all the services of worship this coming week especially on Good Friday when we will have a service in Currie Kirk.

I would also like to invite each person that has been ever involved with the Mill café to attend their 10th anniversary celebrations this afternoon from 2 to 4 pm.

You are all welcome. Next Sunday we will formally thank God for His blessings on the Mill café.

Call to worship:

Minister:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

Beloved I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

CH4 457 All hail the power of Jesus' name

Opening prayer & Lord's prayer

Let us pray:

God of all that has been and of all that is yet to be,
on this Palm Sunday we give thanks
for the generosity of the owner of the donkey,
for the joy of the crowd as they glimpsed the kingship of
Jesus,
for the humility and courage of Jesus himself.
May we give the best of all we have in your service,
may we with joy acknowledge your kingship,
and may we, like Jesus,
know when the time is right to fulfil our vocation,
whatever the risks,
whatever the opposition,
however erratic the support of others may be.

We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be THY name. THY kingdom come, THY will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For THINE is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever.
Amen.

Bible reading

Psalm 118.1-2,19-29 read by Anne Shaw

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation. The stone the builders
rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you The Lord is
God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up[b] to the horns of the altar.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures for ever.

Choir sings “A Palm Sunday Jubilation” by John Paige

Bible reading

Luke 19.28-40 read by David Booth

‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.’

CH4 459 Crown Him with many crowns

Reflection

I often think that it helps to compare a Bible reading to something similar that is contemporary and part of our world, to truly understand the meaning of the Original text and context.

This morning is no exception.... So with whom can we compare Jesus riding into capital city on a donkey?



Well, when it was the climate change conference in Glasgow, I did not hear anyone saying that Pres Biden was riding on a donkey (well maybe he should have, then at least he would have saved a lot of carbon waste!) No on the contrary everyone was talking of how he would travel to Glasgow in an elaborate display of big armoured vehicles in a convoy!

I cannot think of Boris doing it...

But ok Jesus was the King... so let us compare his entry to a modern day King or Queen...



Can you imagine our queen riding into London/Edinburgh on a donkey?

Not really... not even prince Charles or William will do it...

I mean the press will most certainly have a field day with the sensational news... with a lot of people finding it bizarre?



The same was true in Jesus' day. The Roman emperor would not enter a city on a donkey. He would normally be on a big

warhorse with a large army with all their medals and military clothing accompanied by a large band playing triumphant music....

The followers of Jesus thought of Him as a king who will deliver them from the Roman oppression. Most Jews

carried this sentiment although Jesus never admitted to it.

Now, It seems as if Jesus is giving them a glimpse of who He truly is. He is not an **earthly king**. He rides on a donkey like **officials** usually did.



He is the heavenly king of peace, glory and love. He was not interested in earthly glory or show. He came as a servant to serve others, to bring peace and reconciliation with God.

Then as Jesus came closer to Jerusalem the people started to put their outer clothing on the road as an act of reverence like the people did in the Old Testament **when Jehu was declared as king**. Luke makes no mention of the spreading of branches, perhaps due to the **nationalistic overtones of such an act**. It could have interpreted by the Roman authority as a **rebellion** because in the history of Israel after the people rebelled against the Syrian oppression and their invasion of the temple, a bloody rebellion followed.

They took back the temple and “cleansed” it to make it

holy again on the same day that it was defiled. It all happened on the 25th of Kislev or December.

During the festival that followed - people carried **Palm branches while singing praise to God** like we find Psalm 118. I can understand why Luke did not include the “palm branches” as a possible interpretation or pointer to a rebellion!

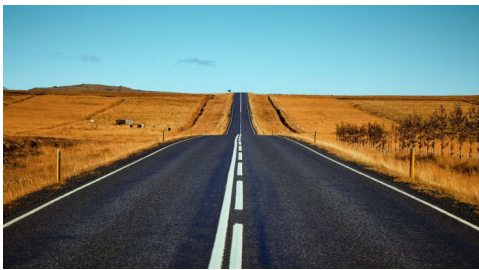
BUT Jesus stood for peace. Ironically He cries about the predicament of the city of Jerusalem who could not see Him as the bearer of peace between God and the human race.



Holy week is about Jesus on His journey to bring final peace and reconciliation between God and us.



Holy week is about God who sacrificed Himself so that we can live forever with Him in peace. We have received this peace.



Holy week is about thinking of our journeys as believers – what do we make of our journeys, the good and the not so good bits? How do we travel in faith with our anxieties, stress, troubles? How do we keep our faith in the midst of a global financial crisis? How do we answer all our why questions? And at the end of the day, do we still want to be followers of Jesus?



During this time, we need to reflect on “How do we approach life and all the trails and tribulations that so often beset us, those difficult cross sections where we have to make a choice?

Which way to go? Thinking about all the times that we get lost and find it difficult to find our way....

BUT help is not far off.....Jesus left us with his WORDS to help us to cope...

He once said that He is the ONLY way, truth and LIFE.

SO if we come at that difficult cross section, and we do not know which way to go, we need to remind ourselves that we DO know exactly what our choice should be. We should choose God because when we do, we will find our way to HIM even through trials and tribulations....

We should choose God because we will soon find out that amidst all the lies of this world's leaders, He is the ONLY truth. Jesus fulfilled God's promises one by one by redeeming us, bringing us light and peace with God.

We should choose God because when we do, we will go on life's journeys with the knowledge that once we close our eyes for the final time, we will find LIFE with HIM in all eternity.

How do we choose God?

By making sure we keep our relationship alive and well by praying, reading our Bibles, talking about HIM as often as we can... and arranging special times of worshipping him either in church or at other places in our world even at the Margins of society.

By living a life full of gratitude for what He has done for us by our examples of JOY, love and HOPE...

By loving HIM, ourselves and others ...



Holy week is about standing still and thinking about **God's calling** placed on our hearts. Is He calling me like He did with the disciples and the donkey a long time ago?

Pray and ask God what He wants you to do in His service...if the owners of the donkey did not listen to Jesus' calling – His message and image and modelling of peace would not have been so striking/touching?

May God be with us as we journey with Him this week, thinking about "Who we are and Whom we serve?"

Amen

CH4 365 Ride on ride on in majesty,

Poem for Palm Sunday ^{ites/}

Joy rising
Echoes of every-day life
Gathering

Clamoring
To see
Our coming King
Oh praise Him!
But wait do you see Him
On a donkey?
Do we still believe?
Shouldn't He be
Clothed in majesty
Crowned with gold
Accompanied by servants of old?
Our King should be noble
Full of wisdom and knowing
And we the people should know He cares
Not by hobbling into town attracting all kinds of stares ...
Some followers didn't understand

What caused them to leave town, abandon Him?
His Kingdom cannot be seen
Pointed at, named by the keen
Jesus tells us

Where He is, is the cross
Freedom from every sin
For every person since Adam and Eve in the beginning
Darkness had to take place, had to be
So we would not mistake the Light of He
Let us put one foot in front of the other
Toward Him with our sisters and our brothers
Let us bow
In reverence this moment right now
With our hearts
Thanking Jesus for saving our lives in full not in part

Prayer of thanksgiving Kay Coull

Blessing

Receive the blessing and go in peace:

May the humility of Jesus, the kingship of Jesus,
and the love of Jesus, sustain and inspire you today,
throughout this Holy Week, and always.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be with you now and always.

**Congregation sings “MP 242 Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the
highest”**

A PRAYER

Living God, we bring you our ‘hosannas’ –
for you are an almighty God.
We bring you our ‘alleluias’ –
for you are a wonderful God.
We bring you our dreams –
for you are a faithful God.
We bring you our discipleship –
for you are an encouraging God.
We bring you our hearts –
for you are a loving God
in whom we can trust.

Amen



BALERNO PARISH CHURCH
Intimations
Sunday, 10th of April 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES

14 April 2022 @ 7 pm Maundy Thursday service in Balerno

15 April 2022 @ 7 pm Good Friday service at Currie Kirk

17 April 2022 @ 10 am Easter Thanksgiving service celebrating The Mill café's 10th anniversary

24 April 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO A SPECIAL SERVICE

Easter Day is Sunday 17th April 2022 and is special for two reasons this year. It is always a wonderful celebration of Jesus' resurrection but this year it is also the 10th Anniversary of the opening of The Mill Café. The service in the church at 10.00 will be a Thanksgiving Service for 10 years of The Mill Café and I am specifically inviting all Mill volunteers, past and present, to come and help make it particularly special and to join us for coffee and cake afterwards. It will be lovely to see you all.



THE MILL CAFÉ

Open Tuesday – Friday, 9.30am – 2pm

Serving teas/coffees, home baking, snack lunches.

We are a friendly group and are always delighted to welcome new volunteers to our team. Pop in and see what we are all about.

BALERNO BANK DETAILS:

Sort code 83 - 19 - 15
Account 00119731
Balerno Church of Scotland