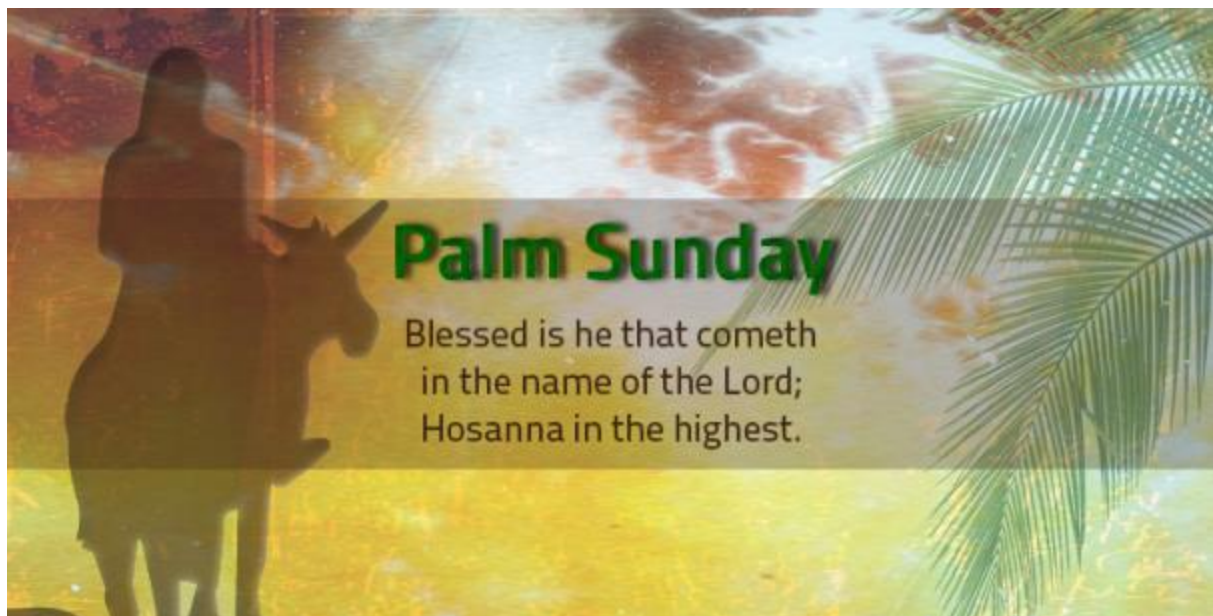


# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

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28/03/2021 — Palm Sunday

Stop, Look, Listen & REFLECT on what's to come.



Next week is our Easter zoom

“Church & Chat”

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children’s activity), prayer, “thought for the week” and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

Join us next week at 10 am:

Topic: Church and Chat

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75124173520?pwd=QVB4WUx6QXg3Y3hQc1NQYkxINmozZz09>

Meeting ID: 751 2417 3520

Passcode: Bethel2021

All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)

## Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

Our first hymn for today is: "All Glory, Laud and Honour"

[ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOUR - YouTube](#)

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

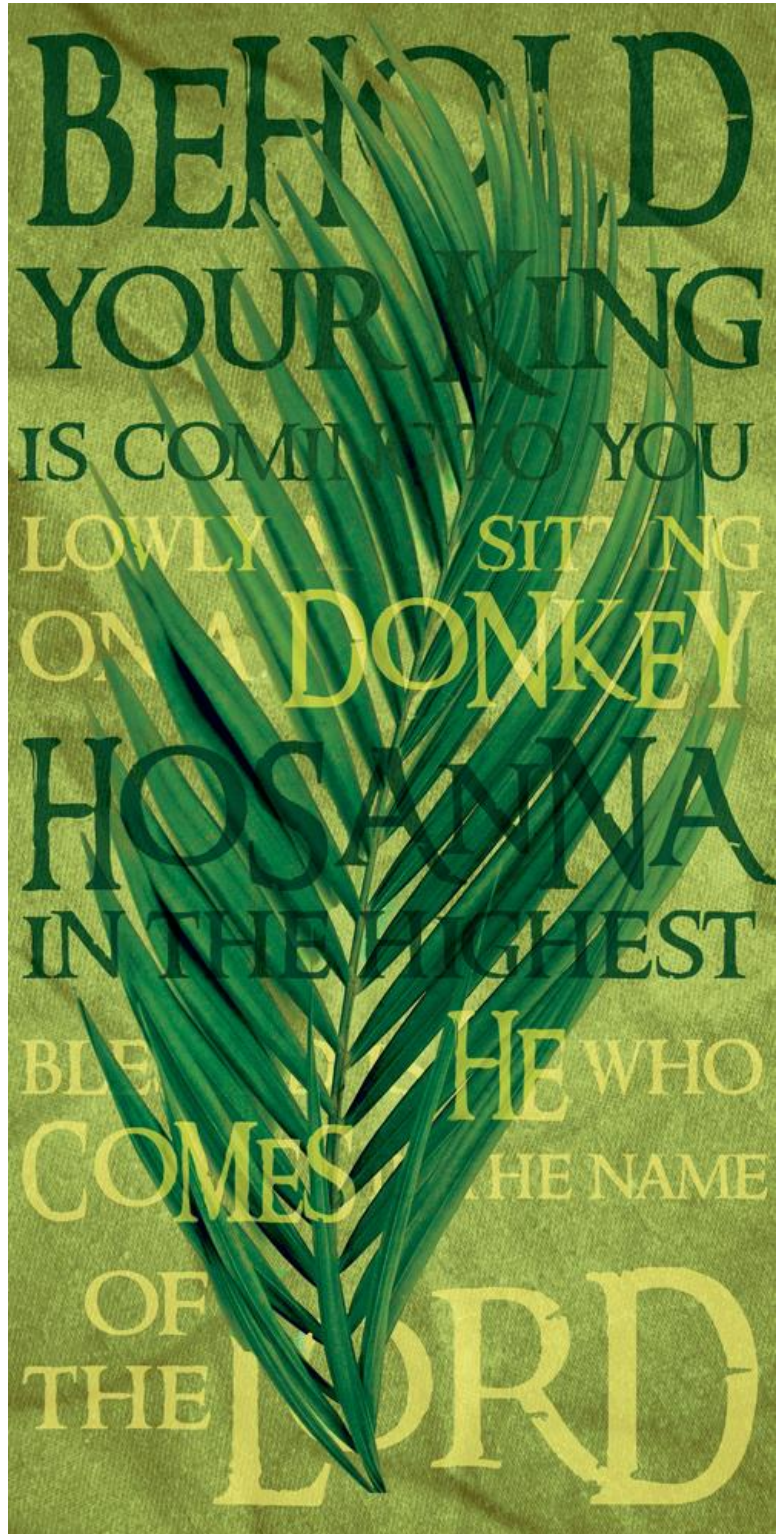
1. Thou art the King of Israel,  
thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest,  
the King and Blessed One.  
(Chorus)

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

3. The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went;  
our prayer and praise and anthems  
before thee we present.  
(Chorus)

4. To thee, before thy passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.  
(Chorus)

5. Thou didst accept their praises;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King.  
(Chorus)



## **The reading today is Matthew 20:17-19 & Matt. 21:1-17**

[Matthew 21:1-17 NIVUK - Jesus comes to Jerusalem as king - As - Bible Gateway](#)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

'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.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!'

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

The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Jesus at the temple

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves. 'It is written,' he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it "a den of robbers."'

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, 'Hosanna to the Son of David,' they were indignant.

'Do you hear what these children are saying?' they asked him.

'Yes,' replied Jesus, 'have you never read,

"'From the lips of children and infants  
you, Lord, have called forth your praise"?''

And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

## **Jesus' Amazing Death Defying Act:**

Today as we move into Holy Week, we take time to reflect. We reflect on our thoughts over the last few weeks and we consider the magnitude of this coming week and the impact it has on our lives.

Today is a very special Sunday it's Palm Sunday, the last Sunday before Easter. On this Sunday, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem and a cheering crowd of people ran to meet him. They cut palm branches from trees and waved them, they even laid their coats down on the road in front of him so he would have a beautiful, soft road to travel on with no dust to get in his eyes.

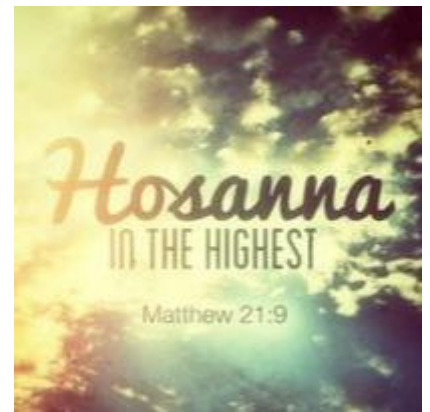
The children were especially excited and they called out, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" They shouted so loudly that some of the dignitaries, who didn't want to celebrate, told them to be quiet. But Jesus stuck up for them and said that was exactly what they were supposed to be doing. They were celebrating Jesus, the King.

## **Lets join together and sing: "Hosanna In The Highest"**

[Hosanna In The Highest - YouTube](#)

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest, (2X)  
Lord, we lift up your name, with our hearts full of praise,  
Be exalted, O Lord, my God,  
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings! (2X)  
Lord, we lift up your name, with our hearts full of praise,  
Be exalted, O Lord our God,  
Hosanna in the highest!



This procession into Jerusalem must have looked a bit like a carnival or a circus parade. Years ago, when a circus would come to town there would be a big parade through the town to show everyone the wonderful animals and performers who would be at the circus. It was a great way of advertising the circus a way to ensure people took notice and wanted to be involved and go along and see the show. Everyone would line up along the sides of the streets and watch the big elephants walk by and the clowns run along and the acrobats doing cartwheels down the street. When they saw the parade, they knew that the circus was coming to town.



Often, there would be a big sign advertising the dangerous tricks that the acrobats would perform. The sign would say, "Death-Defying Acts!" and there would be a picture of an acrobat flying through the air towards a pair of hands reaching out to catch them. If you went to the circus and looked way up to the top of the tent, you would see people leaping through the air, jumping off swings and being caught just in time before they fell. This is what we call a "death-defying act." As you watch this dangerous act, you think that the person who just leaped off the platform is going to die. Then suddenly, they are saved! They don't fall to their death. They make it to the other side and everyone is very relieved and they all clap and cheer.

Jesus' procession down Jerusalem's main street was so much more important than a circus parade, and a lot of things were, of course, different. No elephants, for example, just a donkey. No clowns either, although Jesus' disciples were walking along with him and as we know, sometimes they did and said silly things. But as Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was going right towards the most magnificent death-defying act there ever was to be. Jesus was heading towards the cross. He knew where he was going. He told his disciples what would happen. He knew that he was going to be killed on the cross. For anyone else, a trip to the cross always ended in death. Jesus, however, was different. Jesus was going to defy death once and for all. He was going to die and this death was for all people to bring them forgiveness and everlasting life.

So, did Jesus die on the cross? *Yes*, he really did die. He was dead for three days. But on the third day, on the Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. He beat death.

It was the best death-defying act that the world has ever seen. Jesus took all of our sins with him to the cross and he made sure that those sins died right along with him. He buried those sins and rose up, alive again and when Jesus came back, he was carrying eternal life for everyone in His arms. All we have to do is to accept it and give thanks to God.

So as we enter into Holy Week, let us reflect on that amazing act so that we can be saved. This year we do not know what will happen our usual certainty has gone but one thing we can be sure of as we look to that cross and as we reflect on where we have come from, where we are now and what we do in the future, is that God's astonishing death-defying act gives us the greatest freedom of all, everlasting life in Him.

### Our closing hymn for today "Make Way for Christ the King"

[Make Way - Graham Kendrick \(With lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

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

*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*

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

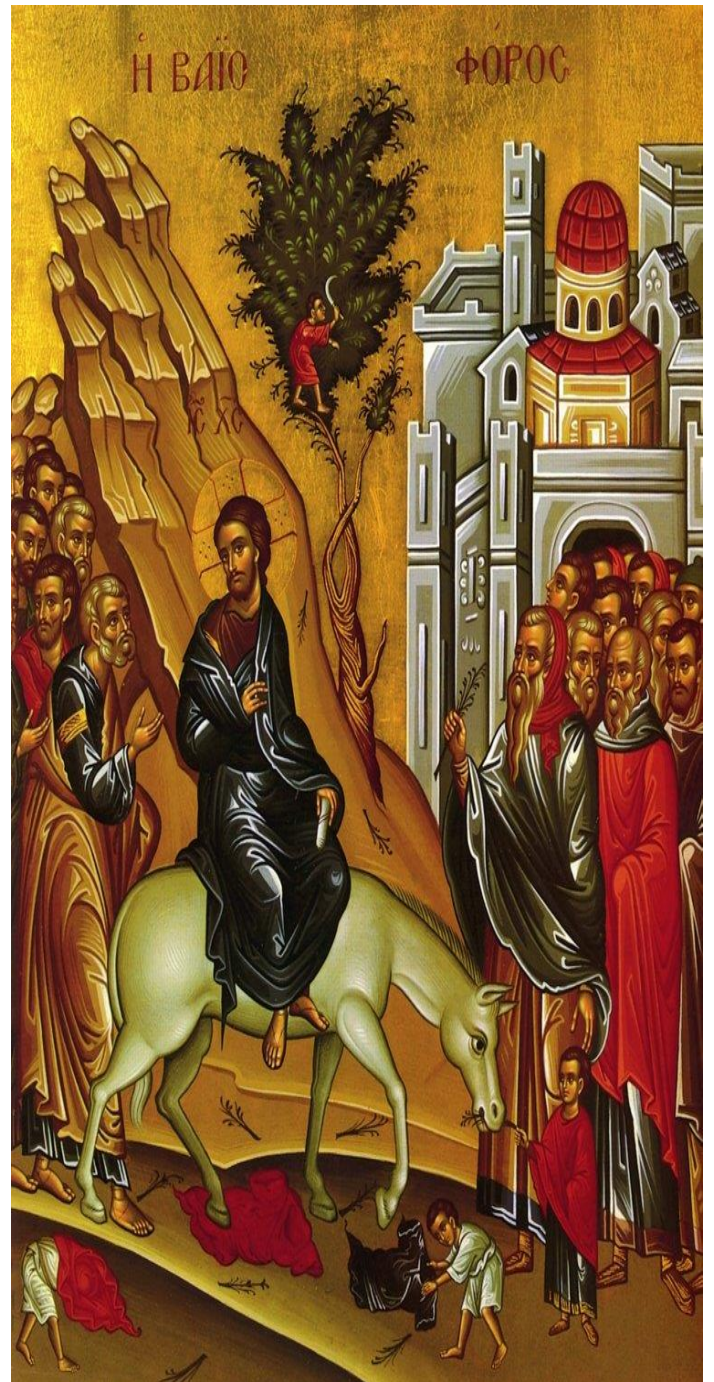
*Make way! (Make way!).....*

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

*Make way! (Make way!).....*

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

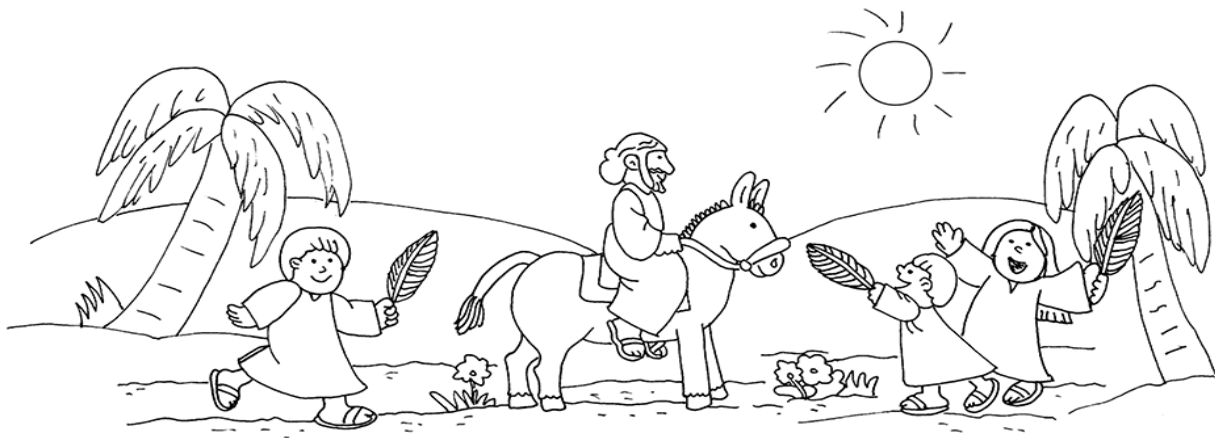
*Make way! (Make way!).....*



## Today's Pray:

***Thank you Lord Jesus, for going to Jerusalem and being brave enough and loving enough to face that last death-defying act. Help us to reflect on the opportunity You gave us when you died on the cross and you came back to life for us. Thank you for defeating death. Hosanna. Amen.***

## The Triumphal Entry



Produced by BibleQuizzes.org.uk

HOSANNA!

BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN  
THE NAME OF THE LORD!

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!



MAY GODS BLESSING SURROUND YOU  
EACH DAY  
AS YOU TRUST HIM AND WALK IN HIS WAY;  
MAY HIS PRESENCE WITHIN  
GUARD AND KEEP YOU FROM SIN.  
GO IN PEACE, GO IN JOY, GO IN LOVE!