



Benefice of the Piddle Valley, Hilton & Ansty, Melcombe Horsey and Cheselbourne

28th March 2021 – Palm Sunday
(Altar Colour Purple)

Readings: Liturgy of the Palms: Zec. 9:9-12, Psalm 118: 19-end, Mark 11:1-11

Blessing of Palms: Almighty God, we pray may you bless these branches and make them holy. Today we joyfully acclaim Jesus our Messiah and King. May we reach one day the happiness of the new and everlasting Jerusalem by faithfully following him who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Zechariah 9:9-12 (ESV) - The Coming King of Zion

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

COMMENT: Christians readily recognise this passage as the model for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in all four Gospels. Matthew and John actually quoted part of it in their records of that event. (Matthew 21:5; John 12:15) Undoubtedly, it originated as a hopeful prophetic oracle with messianic implications based on Israel's sacred covenant with The LORD. The prophecy may have modelled Solomon's entry into Jerusalem on the King's mule to be made king (1 Kings 1:38-40). The passage comes from what scholars designate as an anonymous appendix attached to the earlier chapters 1-8 of Zechariah. Modern scholarship places the prophecies of Zechariah in the early Persian period, soon after the return from the Babylonian exile (539 BC). Some Scholars place chapters 9-14 much later, but different opinions have claimed precedence for an exact date. One of the stronger claims dates it in the time of Alexander and his conquests in the late 4th Century. Verse 13 of this 9th chapter refers distinctly to Greece in the English versions. The first part of chapter from which this reading has been separated

refers to many of Israel's neighbouring city states which are under threat of invasion or already captured from an overwhelming military power. This brief passage and subsequent verses defends Jerusalem as having The LORD's protection. Ultimately The LORD will triumph as earlier prophets like Amos, Isaiah and Ezekiel prophesied. The passage also has similarities to the so-called "Enthronement" Psalms 43, 93, 96-99. The king, however, is the messianic monarch anointed by The LORD to whom Israel looked for deliverance in such desperate times.

Mark 11:1-11 (ESV) - The Triumphal Entry

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

COMMENT: One cannot help but wonder if Mark included this section of scripture with a touch of irony. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem began the final ascent to the cross. Hailed as the Messiah, he would soon be the victim of the fickle crowds' hateful cries, "Crucify him!" Behind this event is the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9; "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Which may also have in its mind the entry of the boy King Solomon riding on the King's mule to be crowned at Gihon in Jerusalem – 1 Kings 1:38-40; "So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon. There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise."

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

Post Communion: Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Solemn Blessing:

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Benefice Prayer list.

Please pray for those who are suffering, from illness, recovering from surgery or hospital treatment, for those who are grieving, anxious or lonely.

Please pray for those who have asked our prayer including: Princhie McBride, Richard Drake, Richard Mitchell, Ann Lambert, Gill Howell, Geoff Harris, Reg & Gay Hanbury, Hannah Parsons, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Julia, Anna Thomas.

Please pray for our schools, their children, parents and staff as they prepare for the Easter holiday – a time for reflection upon the Easter feast and to rest from the busyness of the Spring Term, online and at school.

For all those in care homes, and the staff, including: Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith (Warminster)



Requiescat in pace

Sarah Everard

This Week's Assembly presentation 'Palm Sunday'

- you can access it via YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjJN6ioC_VQ



Foodbank: A tin/packet a week, dropped into church while out on your exercise helps supply the Dorchester Foodbank with supplies to feed those in need in the Dorchester and surrounding areas.



Benefice Notices



When attending a service please arrive in good time to ensure you can follow the Covid safety protocols set out in church.

- *Wear a face-covering*
- *Sanitise Hands*
- *Sign in*
- *Find a seat allowing for 2m personal distancing from other households.*
- *Avoid mingling*

1st April 2021 – Maundy Thursday (Altar Colour – white/gold)

Readings: Exod 12: 1-4, 11-14, Psalm 116: 1-10, 1 Cor 11: 23-26, John 13: 1-17, 31-35
6.00pm Communion Service at Piddletrenthide (RB)

2nd April 2021 – Good Friday (Altar Colour – none)

11.00 Stations of the Cross at Hilton (RB)
12noon Devotions at Melcombe Horsey (HE)
2.00pm Stations of the Cross at Piddlehinton (RB)
ALL CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Sunday 4th April 2021 – Easter Sunday (Altar Colour – white/Gold)

Readings: Acts 10: 34-43, Psalm 118: 14-24, Mark 16: 1-8
9.30am Communion Service at Alton Pancras (RB)
11.00am Communion Service at Cheselbourne (HE)
6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton (RB)
ALL CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Live Streaming

The daily offices will continue to be streamed daily via Facebook



Monday @ 8am Morning Prayer
Tuesday @ 8am Morning Prayer & 8pm Compline
Wednesday @ 8am Morning Prayer & 6pm Evening Prayer
Thursday @ 9am Communion & 8pm Compline
Friday @ 6.00pm Compline
Saturday @ 6.00pm Devotions / Evening Prayer



Clocks change 28th March 2021 – forward 1 hr

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