

Hello everyone,

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the prelude to the world changing events of Easter. Join us during Holy Week as we look at the events of Christ's final days in our services. Pray for our ministry team as they minister to us and pray for any visitors to our churches at this season.



### Services this week:

This Sunday is Palm Sunday with 10.00am services of Holy Communion at Appleby, Donisthorpe, and Swepstone, and Palm Sunday worship at Measham and Packington.

### Looking ahead:

On Wednesday there will be:

- Midweek Communion at 10.00am in Packington Church;
- Coffee & Chat at Swepstone from 10.30am to 12.00noon;
- Activeage at 11.00am in Measham Church Hall;
- Community Lunch in Appleby Church Hall at 12.30pm.

On Maundy Thursday there is:

- the Chrism service at Leicester Cathedral at 11.00am;
- a Maundy service at Normanton at 7.00pm;
- Donisthorpe have an Agape Supper at 7.00pm;
- and there is a Maundy Supper at Swepstone at 7.30pm for which you can book with Trish Newbold.

Also on Thursday from 12.00noon to 2.00pm Packington has Toastie Thursday in church with Easter activities, cakes and biscuits to decorate and more! All ages welcome.

Good Friday there will be a family service at Appleby at 10.00am and Way of the Cross services at Measham at 10.00am, Donisthorpe at 2.00pm, Norton at 3.00pm, and Packington at 6.30pm.

On Easter Sunday (20<sup>th</sup>) at 10.00am we have Holy Communion services at Appleby, Donisthorpe, Measham, Normanton, Packington, and an Easter Egg Hunt & Family Service at Swepstone. There will also be an Easter Celebration service at Snarestone at 10.30am.

### Woodfield Team prayer

*God our Father, you long to draw all people into your love.*

*Increase in number your church throughout the Woodfield Team;*

*deepen us as followers and learners of Christ;*

*and give us courage to share the good news of your kingdom.*

*We pray this in the power of your Spirit,*

*to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Collect for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday

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**

## Reading for 13<sup>th</sup> April - Luke 19.28-40 New International Version (UK)



### Jesus comes to Jerusalem as king

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” say, “The Lord needs it.”’

<sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’

<sup>34</sup> They replied, ‘The Lord needs it.’

<sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

<sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

<sup>38</sup> ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!’

‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’

<sup>40</sup> ‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.’

## Prayers for today:

We pray:

Eternal Lord, you are our creator and sustainer. We bring before you the needs of our church, our world, our communities, and ourselves:

- Almighty God, as we approach Holy Week, hearing again the story of Christ's passion, may it help us to truly understand the sacrifice he made for us.
- Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to give us life. Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son. Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet and to stand with those condemned to die. The thief, who was crucified with Jesus, was promised a place in your kingdom. Give pardon and hope, healing and peace to all who look death in the face.
- Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes. Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims, and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.
- From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother and John his disciple to each other's care. Help us also to care for one another and fill our homes with the spirit of your love. In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross. Fill our relationships, and those of new families today, with mutual care and responsibility, and give us a secure hope for the future.
- The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified Messiah. Open the eyes of those who do not know you to see in your Son the meaning of life and death.
- Joseph of Arimathea came to take your Son's body away. Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved, and gentleness to those who minister to them.
- Simon and Joseph, Mary and John became part of your Church in Jerusalem. Bring into your Church today a varied company of people, to walk with Christ in the way of his passion and to find their salvation in the victory of his cross.
- Father God, send us out into Holy Week commending everyone we meet, all for whom Christ suffered, to your mercy and protection.

**Amen.**