



**Lent 6 Yr A – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Paradoxes? Obedient servant? Humble King? Prince of Peace?**

**Leader: Liesl Homes**

***Meditation Song: Approach my soul***

**Approach, my soul, the mercy seat,  
Where Jesus answers prayer;  
There humbly fall before His feet,  
For none can perish there.**

**Be thou my shield and hiding  
place,  
that, sheltered near thy side,  
I may my fierce accuser face  
and tell him thou hast died.**

***Welcome:***

***Greeting:***

**On this sixth Sunday of Lent,**

Palm Sunday, we remember the pilgrims streaming into Jerusalem for Passover, and Christ processing in, acclaimed as King...

May the Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

*Let us have a Moment of Stillness and be aware of the Spirit's presence within us and all around us.*

***Lent Candles:***

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy from entering the darkest and most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week.

*[Six candles are blown out]*

In our walking we know that we are not alone, for Jesus has walked this road before us, and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

**We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.**

***Call to Worship:***

*Today is a strange, even paradoxical day. It is Lent, and we are journeying to the cross. But today we also remember the celebration, joy and expectation, yearning for freedom and liberation. So let us celebrate. And I invite you to wave your branches as you respond.*

Humble and riding on a donkey,

**We greet you.**

Acclaimed by crowds and carolled by children

**We cheer you.**

Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

**We salute you, Christ our LORD.**

You are giving beasts of burden a new dignity;

You are giving majesty a new face;

You are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing.

**With them, with heart and voice, we shout “hosanna”.**

Jesus is coming

**SHOUT HOSANNA**

He’s riding on a donkey

**SHOUT HOSANNA**

Don’t be afraid

**SHOUT HOSANNA**

Wave those branches

**SHOUT HOSANNA**

Spread out your coats

**SHOUT HOSANNA**

Peace in heaven

**SHOUT HOSANNA**

Glory in highest heaven

**SHOUT HOSANNA**

**Let us worship our Holy God.**

Let us continue to worship in song:

**Hosanna.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Lord we lift up your name  
With hearts full of praise  
Be exalted, O Lord my God,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Glory, glory, glory to the king of Kings,  
Glory, glory, glory to the king of Kings.  
Lord we lift up your name  
With hearts full of praise  
Be exalted, O Lord, my God,  
Glory to the King of kings.**

***Opening Prayer:***

And we pray (parts of Psalm 118), along with those pilgrims travelling to Jerusalem each year...

**Psalm 118: 1-2, 23-29, paraphrased**

Thank you, LORD, thank you!  
Thank you for your goodness!  
Thank you for your love —  
rock solid and timeless!  
May all your people recognise  
that your love and loyalty last forever

The one who comes in your name, LORD,  
is the one who is truly blessed.  
Gathered here in your house,  
we praise you for sending him.

You, LORD, are our only God,  
and you light up our lives.  
In a great procession,  
we march to the sacred place,  
waving branches and banners;  
tossing flowers in the air.

You are our God  
and we give you thanks.  
You are our God  
and we give you our highest acclaim.  
Thank you, LORD, thank you!  
Thank you for your goodness!  
Thank you for your love —  
rock solid and timeless!

**Amen**

**Welcome to this city (but one wee word of advice): **Hilton.****

**Prayer of Confession: **Liesl****

**Amen.**

**Words of assurance:**

Friends, even when we resist change; bargain with God about which parts of our life we will submit and how much sacrifice is enough; even when we flat out say “we won’t be doing thank you very much”; God still loves us; Christ still died for us; and the resurrection life with the Holy Spirit is still available to us: So hear and believe this good news:

**We are saved by grace through faith.**

**We belong to God. We are not alone. Amen**

***Peace:***

The peace of Christ be always with you  
**And also with you.**

*Let’s share Christ’s peace with one another*

Today we hold in tension the celebration recalling the Israelites being saved from slavery in Egypt, the crowd’s delight in the coming of Christ the King, the

Prince of Peace, together with our knowledge of the cross to come, and the resurrection that follows. And we thank God for saving us from something even bigger – our own limitations and fears and personal pains. Let us remember that as we sing...

**Hymn: TIS 233 I will sing the wondrous story (5 verses)**

**1 I will sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me.  
How He left His home in glory  
For the cross of Calvary.**

**Chorus:**

**Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me,  
Sing it with the saints in glory,  
Gathered by the crystal sea.**

**2 I was lost, but Jesus found me,  
Found the sheep that went astray,  
Threw His loving arms around me,  
Drew me back into His way.**

**Chorus**

**3 I was bruised, but Jesus healed me;  
Faint was I from many a fall;  
Sight was gone, and fears possessed me,  
But He freed me from them all.**

**Chorus**

**4. Days of darkness still come o'er me,  
Sorrow's paths I often tread,  
But the Savior still is with me;  
By His hand I'm safely led.**

**Chorus**

**5 He will keep me till the river  
Rolls its waters at my feet;  
Then He'll bear me safely over,  
Where the loved ones I shall meet.**

**Chorus**

**Moment for the young at heart: **Marian****

**Introduction to the Bible readings:**

Today we hear from the gospel and then the epistle. Gospel reading asks us “who is this Jesus”? while the epistle summarises our Cristian faith, and the point of Easter.

**Bible Readings: **Christo****

**Prayer for illumination: (**Christo**)**

Loving God, give us ears tuned to hear your word, hearts open to receive your word, and spirits willing to follow your word in our lives today.

Amen.

**Matthew 21: 1-11**

**Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King**

**21** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> “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.’”

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!”

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hear the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Liesl Homes**

***Moment of Stillness:***

**Prayers of the People: David**

**The Lord’s Prayer: David**

**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.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

***Community News:***

2nd April: Maundy Thursday Service- LUC 7pm.  
3rd April: Good Friday 9.30am worship (no morning tea)  
5th April: Daylight Saving ends  
5th April: 9.30am Easter Sunday and 10.30am Kids Easter Egg Hunt & Morning Tea  
15th April: Prayer Vigil for Aboriginal Deaths in Custody- via Zoom  
29th April: Ella 50th Anniversary Morning Tea

***Offering Prayer:***

Creator God,  
Take our Lenten offerings  
and make them radical;  
Grow their actions,  
enable their impact.  
As we prepare for tomorrow,  
may your will be done.  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
***Amen.***

**Song: Hosanna**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Lord we lift up your name  
With hearts full of praise  
Be exalted, O Lord my God,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Glory, glory, glory to the king of Kings,  
Glory, glory, glory to the king of Kings.  
Lord we lift up your name  
With hearts full of praise**

**Be exalted, O Lord, my God,  
Glory to the King of kings.**

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Lord, all glory is yours.  
Hosanna.

We tell your story  
We follow in your footsteps  
**Lead us into holy week.**

We walk towards the city  
We wait in the garden  
**Lead us onto holy ground.**

We journey towards death  
We hope for resurrection  
**Lead us into holy joy.**

And as we go,  
May the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

**3-fold-Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers:**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image A Palm Sunday Message from Billy Graham*

*Acknowledgement of Country: pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au - Using words from the Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution*

*Other liturgy: Sanctified Art*

*Eggs and ashes: Burgess & Polhill, 2004, p124. Adapted.*

*Stages on the Way: Wild Goose worship group, 1998, p77.*

*Laughingbird.com.*