

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

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

<sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,<sup>l</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, <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 declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **Matthew 21:1-11**

### **Jesus' Triumphant Entry**

<sup>2</sup> As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. <sup>2</sup> "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them."

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

<sup>5</sup> "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt.'"

<sup>6</sup> The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.

<sup>8</sup> Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

"Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Praise God in highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. "Who is this?" they asked.

<sup>11</sup> And the crowds replied, "It's Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

## **Ruby Country Benefice**

*The Parishes of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott*

**Sunday 2nd April 2023**

**Palm Sunday**

**Welcome to Worship**

9.30 am Holy Communion, Ashwater

11.00 am Holy Communion and APCM, Halwill

11.00 am Palm Sunday Service, Black Torrington

6.00 pm Evening Service, Tetcott



### **Readings**

Isaiah 50: 4-9

Psalm 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 21: 1-11

### **Collect**

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

### **Interim Vicar (part time)**

Revd Stephen Skinner

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### **Benefice Administrator**

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**The Mission Community:** for all who live and work in our Mission Community, we give thanks for Revd Stephen Skinner and we pray for Revd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick as he prepares for his new role in our Benefice

**Rest in peace** all who have recently died

**All who are mourning** the death of a loved one

**Those who are ill** or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Jenny Hyslop, Stephen Bowness, Doug Genini and his wife Sue, Phil Beare

**For our Benefice Schools,** all staff, pupils and parents as they start the Easter Holiday

### Dates for your diary

<b>Monday 3rd April</b>	10.30 am	Lent Course, Black Torrington at the home of Maureen Ellis
<b>Wednesday 5th April</b>	10.00 am	Stations of the Cross Black Torrington Church
<b>Thursday 6th April</b>	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Clawton Church
<b>Friday 7th April</b>	10.00 am	Hour at the Cross Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Halwill Churches Together Walk of Witness followed by light lunch. Baptist Hall, Halwill
	2.00 pm	Hour at the Cross Beaworthy Church
	<b>Saturday 8th April</b>	7.00 pm

### Sunday 9th April

### EASTER DAY

8.00 am	Sunrise Service Halwill School
9.30 am	Easter Communion Ashwater Church
11.00 am	Easter Communion Clawton Church
11.00 am	Easter Café Church Black Torrington
6.30 pm	Easter Communion Highampton Church
6.30 pm	Easter Service Beaworthy Church



## Thought for Sunday 2nd April 2023

### PALM SUNDAY

#### “THE MOB”!

I feel that insufficient attention has been paid to the impact of the crowds (or Mob) during the last days of Jesus' life. Most notably the crowds surrounding Jesus on Palm Sunday and their dramatically changed attitudes and behaviour on Good Friday. They both acclaimed Jesus at the beginning and sealed his fate at the end! Here is the opening part of a semi-fictional Meditation by “One of the Mob” for Holy Week, as composed by Nick Fawcett:

“What got into us that day?

Can you make sense of it?

I look back now incredulous;

unable to believe we could have been so false, so fickle,

one day protesting our undying loyalty,

and the next baying for his blood like a pack of wolves.

Yet that's what we did;

our cries of “Hosanna” in just a few days turning to “Crucify”,

our shouts of welcome to jeers of rejection.”

So, it's worth reading the story of Holy Week from the standpoint of the mob! We might just learn a few home truths about our own fickle behaviour. They represent “Populism” at its most changeable – affected by how they respond to their so-called religious and political leaders.

But its fair to ask the Question: “Who was in these crowds?” One Commentator has tried to delineate two distinct groups. The first was made up of those who had experienced Jesus' ministry and companionship during his three years in Galilee and beyond. Some had been healed from sickness or disability, others had witnessed extraordinary miracles, whilst others had been enlightened by his teaching. Others had simply decided to join the pilgrimage up to Jerusalem and were what you could call ‘associates’. The second were mainly the residents of Jerusalem who were attracted by the dramatic nature of the Procession, with the donkey, palms being waved, shouting of “Hosanna” and the literal ‘red carpet treatment’. This group also included spies from the religious elite, who were assembling evidence with which to accuse Jesus of sedition against the Jewish faith and Roman state. The acclamations of Jesus as the Messiah and great Prophet provided plenty for the trial before Annas and Pilate. Matthew says that the whole city was in uproar (Matthew 21:10)! But as the week went by it seems that both types of crowd membership fell away from Jesus.

**Question:** Where would you have been positioned in the Mob that Palm Sunday? Where would you have been on Good Friday? Would your cheers have turned into jeers under pressure from others in the crowd who were baying for his blood (Matthew 27: 22/23)? Under intense pressure from others it is all too easy to become faithless to save our own skins! I hope we'll learn to do better this week, as we ask for God's strength to remain faithful, whatever the crowd around us might say!

**Stephen**