

Order of Service – Brightons

Sunday 31st March 2019 (morning)

INTROIT 'TO GOT LET US SING PRAISES'

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Call to Worship

We gather to worship our loving God and meditate upon His love. Today marks the beginning of Holy Week – that special time of the year when we trace the final steps of Jesus Christ, from His entry into Jerusalem to the Cross of Calvary and onwards to Easter Day.

Our service today will focus on the events of Palm Sunday to Good Friday, with the words of Scripture being the focus and conduit of God's message to us this morning. As such, there is no sermon, simply the testimony of God's Word.

Many of the passages will be familiar – but I encourage you to engage with them anew today: close your eyes, picture the scene, imagine yourself on the edge of the action, and let yourself encounter the passion of the Christ afresh today.

We begin the account of that first Holy Week with the visual adaptation from “The Miracle Maker” of The Triumphal Entry.

Portrayal of Mark 11:1-11 *The Triumphal Entry*

HYMN *MP-9 All glory, laud and honour*

Young People’s Message

- Before our first song, we watched a little bit of a film about the life of Jesus. Did you see what Jesus was riding? (DONKEY)
- By riding into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus reminded all the people of something God had said a long, long time ago – God had said that a new king would come to make the world a better place.
- The people who saw Jesus coming on the donkey thought Jesus would make the world a better place by getting rid of the bad people called the Romans.
- The Romans were very mean people and did lots of bad things, and the people in the crowd thought that Jesus was coming to help them with that problem.
- So, when the people saw Jesus riding that donkey, what feelings do you think they had? (HAPPY, EXCITED)

- To celebrate Jesus as their new king, the big crowd that was following Jesus into the city had something in their hands – what did they have? (PALM BRACHES)
- They were waving them in the air and shouting “Hosanna” – it’s a bit like when we support our favourite sports team...we might wave a scarf in the air and shout with excitement too.
- The people were a bit like that, they were really excited because they thought they new what was most important to Jesus and what Jesus was trying to do in our world.
- But do you remember this heart from two weeks ago? What did we talk about that week with this heart? What does Jesus most want from us? (THE THING JESUS MOST WANTS FROM US IS OUR LOVE)
- Now that crowd – you might think that they loved Jesus because they were really excited about Him. But a few days after that celebration, they all changed their minds and decided they didn’t like Jesus because He wasn’t getting rid of the Romans.
- And Jesus wasn’t getting rid of the Romans because something was more important to Him – what was more important to Him? (THAT PEOPLE LOVED HIM BECAUSE HE’S GOD AND LOVED EACH OTHER BY FOLLOWING THE THINGS JESUS TAUGHT)

- I hope that we will be different from the crowd – I hope we will be people, boys and girls, who always love Jesus, and show our love for Him by giving Him our worship and doing the things that He taught.
- Because what is most important to Jesus is for us to love Him and to love each other.

Our next hymn is one of celebration about who Jesus is and the chorus reminds us to put Him first in our lives, to love Him with everything we have.

HYMN MP-457 Make way, make way

Offering uplifted (remain seated to sing...)

Hymn *MP-750 What kind of love is this*

Prayer of Approach, Dedication and Lord's Prayer

Loving God,

we come together this day in glad and joyful praise.

We welcome You once more

as our King, Lord and Saviour –

we promise You our loyalty,

we bring our love,

we bow in worship,

we greet You with wonder,

and with one voice we declare:

***All glory, laud and honour
to You, Redeemer, King!***

Lord Jesus,

come to us again this day,

speak to us as we read familiar words,

as we sing familiar songs,

as we recall Your triumphal entry into

Jerusalem long ago,

where the welcome of Palm Sunday

gave way to the rejection of Good Friday.

**As we remember all it meant and all it cost
truly we affirm:**

***All glory, laud and honour
to You, Redeemer, King!***

Our gracious God,

like Your people long ago

we do not always see You clearly,

and so we turn inward,

with our faith becoming shallow and self-serving.

At the same time,

we do not understand You as we should,

and in our confusion,

our praise becomes short-lived and superficial.

**Lord Jesus,
forgive us for making the same mistakes
as on that first Palm Sunday.**

**Take the faith we offer,
weak though it may be,
and deepen it through our time together today,
so that we may truly welcome
You as our King,
and worship You with joyful praise,
now and always.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
You entered Jerusalem in quiet humility,
taking the form of a servant,
even to the point of death on a cross,
emptying Yourself so that we might be filled.
As Your disciples,
we are called to follow Your example,
and to embody Your love.
Receive these offerings
as an expression of our discipleship,
that they might further Your kingdom
and reveal Your love to our neighbour,
both near and far,
that one and all might unite in saying**

**that You are worthy of
all glory, laud and honour
*You, Redeemer, King!***

**Recognising our need to depend on You for all of
this, we unite our voices in the prayer
that You taught Your disciples, saying:**

**Our Father who art in heaven
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever, Amen.**

The Passion Narrative:

Mark 14: 1 – 11; 17 – 21; 26 – 46; 53 – 72

**We continue to meditate upon the passion of the Christ
as we sing together...**

Hymn *MP-478 My song is love unknown (v1-4, 7)*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of self-giving love,

**we thank You for the world You have given us
and all within it that speaks of You.**

**We thank You for all that is beautiful,
all that causes us to catch our breath in wonder
and which points to Your hand in creation.**

**We thank You for the gift of love,
given and received,
speaking of Your own great love for us.**

**We thank You for family life,
reminding us of the great family of Your people
to which we belong.**

**We thank You for this new morning,
that in the richness of life and the possibilities that lie
ahead, we have a foretaste of Your gift of eternal life.**

God of all love,

**too often we do not see You as we should,
nor understand You as we ought.**

**Open our eyes to Your presence around us,
to Your love that surrounds us each day.**

Speak to us through both the ordinary

**and the special things of life,
that in every way possible
we may grow in knowledge of Your love
and so more fully embody that love to others.**

**Living God,
as You come afresh into our lives,
come once more into the midst of this troubled world
with all its needs,
its tensions, its problems and its evil.
Come Redeemer King and establish Your kingdom.**

**Bring healing where this is division,
love where there is hatred,
hope where there is despair,
joy where there is sorrow,
confidence where there is fear,
strength where there is weakness,
healing where there is sickness,
life eternal where there is death.
Come Redeemer King and establish Your kingdom.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Passion, which we focus on during Holy Week,
reminds us that You have not given up on our world,
and though You knew You would be rejected,**

**still You came in love and gave Your life.
And so, we have confidence
that despite the weakness of our faith
and the rejection of so many,
You continue to reach out to Your Church and world,
offering the love and life of Your kingdom to all.
Come Redeemer King and establish Your kingdom.
For we ask all this in Your name,
Amen.**

Anthem 'O Perfect Love, O Perfect Sacrifice'

The Passion Narrative: Mark 15: 1 – 41

Hymn MP-738 We sing the praise of Him who died

The Passion Narrative: Mark 15: 42 - 47

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he

granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

Benediction

Go now in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who never faltered in His love for us.

**And as you go
the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and abide with you,
now and for evermore.**

Threefold Amen