



**28th March 2021**

Dear friends,

If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from Sunday morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel.

Our prayers are with you all,  
Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

**Pray the Breakthrough Prayer**

God of love, God for all,  
your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly imagine.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Help us let go of all that holds us back.  
Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility and faith, of change and growth.  
Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show us the way.  
Amen

**Find a Bible and read Psalm 118, verses 1-2 and 19-29**

If you do not have a Bible at home, ask your local minister who will gladly source one for you.

**Hymn: All glory, laud and honour**

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

1 All glory, laud, and honor  
to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.  
Thou art the King of Israel  
thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest,  
the King and Blessed One.

2 The company of angels  
is praising thee on high;  
and mortal men and all things  
created make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present.

3 To thee before thy passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.  
Thou didst accept their praises,  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,,  
Thou good and gracious King!

4 All glory, laud, and honor  
to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

St. Theodulph of Orleans (d.821)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words  
Edition, number 262

**Pray these words and then say the Lord's Prayer**

Lord, open the gates of righteousness,  
so that through our prayer we might enter and give thanks  
to the Lord.

We pray for the nations of the world,  
praying for justice and freedom...

We pray for our own nation,  
praying for unity and generosity...

We pray for our community,  
praying for perception and openness...

We pray for our church,  
praying for kindness and truth...

We pray for ourselves,  
praying for grace and humility...

Lord, open the gates of righteousness,  
that we might follow the King who rides on a donkey into  
the kingdom of God.

Amen.

**Read John 12:12-16**

**A time of reflection**

Other than during a couple of two-week periods during the year, we're not much used to the gathering of large crowds in the Isle of Man, and perhaps are less aware of being swept along by a great tide of enthusiasm.

According to John's account of the events on the day that we now call Palm Sunday, the crowd was in Jerusalem for the Passover feast, but when they heard that Jesus was coming, they went out to meet him.

As Jesus and the people who were accompanying him from Bethany, and the crowd from Jerusalem merged, it brought together his friends, the curious, the militant and no doubt the opposition. There must have been many people in the crowd who were wondering 'where is all this going?'

This huge gathering of people joined together to acclaim Jesus, caught up in the excitement of the moment, but only a few days later they were shouting for his death. His strongest and most outspoken supporters had melted away. The journey through Holy week turned into anything but a celebration of victory and deliverance. The exuberant mood of the crowd on Palm Sunday soon dissipated, and many must have been very disappointed, if not in despair. It did not end well. Or did it?

Edward Burns wrote:

Tell of his death at Calvary,  
Hated by those he came to save;  
In lonely suffering on the cross:  
For all he loved, his life he gave.

The execution of Jesus is absolutely central to what Christianity is all about.

But the message of Holy week is transformational. It is as much about, or rather, for us, as it is about Jesus. It ends in apparent weakness and defeat, but within it lies the source of unimaginable power. Are you perhaps feeling, particularly in current circumstances, that your life is not going in the way that you expected it to?

Jesus is alongside us in our disappointment, our despair, our loneliness and alongside all the suffering in the world:

In every insult, rift and war,  
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, though ever crucified. (Brian Wren).

Will you let Jesus, who was crucified, transform you, and will you work with him to transform the hearts and minds of others so that the lives of our families, our friends, our communities, our nation and the world will be changed?

Come back in a week's time for the next instalment!

### **Hymn: Have you heard God's voice?**

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below

1 Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?  
Are you still prepared to follow?  
Have you made a choice to remain and serve,  
though the way be rough and narrow?

Refrain (except the last time)  
*Will you walk the path that will cost you much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow?  
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you  
the disciples of tomorrow?*

2 Will you use your voice; will you not sit down  
when the multitudes are silent?  
Will you make a choice to stand your ground  
when the crowds are turning violent?

3 In your city streets will you be God's heart?  
Will you listen to the voiceless?  
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,  
will you share your faith with the faithless?

4 Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith  
and believe it could be different?  
Will you share your views using words of grace?  
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

*We will walk the path that will cost us much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow.  
We will trust in One who entrusts to us  
the disciples of tomorrow.*

Jacqueline G Jones

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words  
Edition, number 662

### **Prayers of confession and commitment**

*Have you heard God's voice today?*

*Has your heart been stirred by the Holy Spirit.  
Let us draw close to our loving God in prayer now .  
We begin our prayers with a time of silence when we can  
bring our personal confessions to the God of Grace.*

Be still for a moment, then pray these words:

Loving God, there are times when we struggle to believe that Your love and grace could possibly include us. Lord give us the assurance we need now as we pray.

Forgive us that we have strayed from your will and purposes for our lives and have failed to be the people we long to be, often hurting others through our selfishness and thoughtlessness. Lord forgive.

Thank you ,that the light you shine on our lives, challenging us, is the same light that illuminates the way back to you, and that Way is through Your Son Jesus.  
Thank you Jesus, that your life, death, and resurrection reveal God's love for us and Your outstretched arms on the cross invite us to receive forgiveness and New Life through the Holy Spirit.

Thank You Holy Spirit, for your work of transformation in us day by day

Loving God, we offer our lives to you now.  
Lord Jesus ,we say "Yes" to your invitation and welcome you into our hearts and lives.  
Holy Spirit, we submit to you as you mould us and make us new.

Send us out in Your name to bring Your light and hope to those who need to hear the Good News and give us the courage to point them to Jesus.  
Amen

### **Blessing**

As we go on with our day, may we all know the Blessing of God Almighty, as His Spirit leads us on in the power of His wonderful love. Amen