

## **Bangor & Holyhead Methodist Circuit**

### **Sunday Worship Sheet, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Our worship for this week is written by Keith Alexander, Retired Visiting Preacher, Ordained Elder of the URC and member of Amlwch Methodist Church

You may wish to have your Bible to hand. Please note that the hymns are now at the back of the sheet for ease of printing. CCLI licence 556292

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#### **Call to worship**

Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. As the crowds spread their cloaks and waved palm branches, they proclaimed Him King and Saviour. We gather now in that same spirit of praise, to lift our hearts in thanksgiving and to honour the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Grant that as we remember His humble entry, we may also follow Him in the way of obedience and self-giving love. Prepare our hearts for the journey of this Holy Week, that we may walk with Christ in faithfulness, share in His suffering, and rejoice in His victory. Come, let us worship the Lord with gladness, for Christ our King draws near.

**Hymn 677** Christ is made the firm foundation

#### **Prayers of Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving:**

##### **Adoration**

Jesus, Lamb of God, when you walked this earth you did not consider heavenly equality, though it was yours to choose, but took the role of servant and in humility and obedience allowed the rough nails of our sin to be hammered into your flesh for the sake of our salvation. And so it is that we acknowledge you as Lord of our lives, and Lord of all, to the glory of God the Father Son and Spirit, three in one.

##### **Confession**

May we be listening always for your familiar voice and obedient to your call, whether quiet whisper in a sacred space or thunder's roar cutting through the bustle of a city street. Forgive us those times when you ask us to stay alert for your sake and, eyes heavy, like your disciples we fall asleep. Forgive our Gethsemane moments. May we be listening always for your familiar voice and obedient to your call.

##### **Thanksgiving**

Some may mock and others conspire against us for the faith we profess and the lives that we live, but we shall praise and thank you, our Lord and Saviour, the rock upon which we stand, the strength that we rely on, our firm foundation in a world that bills on sand. Amen

**Hymn 262** All glory, laud and honour

**Readings: Psalm 118: 1 & 2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11**

## Reflection

The crowds who waved tree branches and shouted welcome to Jesus were people who came out each year to see the processions of pilgrims going up to Jerusalem. I well remember the crowds who came out to see our Whit Sunday joint churches procession in my hometown of Nelson, Lancashire. It reminds one of the Palm Sunday scenes in the Gospels.

Happiness was the prominent mood of the people as Jesus passed by. I doubt it was the same for Jesus who knew full well what he was eventually to face. But the scene was acted out correctly with him riding a donkey, a sign of a king coming in peace. This was a day of celebration as the people followed their tradition of welcoming a hero with palm branches and cloaks thrown onto the road. It was a sign of hope for the people who had suffered so much under the harsh Roman rule. They would be thinking this was a time of change coming to them. This was true, but it played out in a very different way to their expectations.

Today is a time for us too to welcome our Lord. For us Jesus is always welcome, but we know how the story continues with that cruel crucifixion. But life is like that. It has a habit of throwing us a curveball. We cannot see the future but have to live in hope and faith. It was not a curveball as far as Jesus was concerned. He knew what he was facing. He would be arrested and flogged. He would be made to carry the instrument of his death. He would be crucified to atone for the sins of the world.

As Jesus processed up the road to Jerusalem his disciples followed him. But they were weak human beings who still had to learn what their destination was to be. Even after 3 years with Jesus there was still much to learn and it would be hard as they carried on this great mission. Of course the crowd was friendly, but there would be another different crowd who would be baying for death as Pilate brought Jesus before them. The roadside crowd would be made up of people who heard about the miracles and teaching of Jesus. They were expecting great things. The second crowd were fired up by pressure from the Pharisees and Scribes who wanted only to stick to the status quo. Jesus stood in their way and there they were in great numbers. They would win the day without a doubt.

So, although we welcome Jesus on Palm Sunday, we have mixed feelings about it all. Knowing what was to come we cannot be comfortable. The whole period of Lent is a sombre time because we are walking to a cross with Jesus. But take heart, for Easter Day comes and we celebrate his resurrection that changed the world forever. **Amen**

## Prayer of Intercession

### God of grace and peace,

As we remember the crowds who welcomed Jesus with palms and shouts of joy, we turn to you with our prayers for the world he came to save.

### For your Church:

Strengthen all who follow Christ, that we may walk his path of humility, courage, and compassion. Help us to bear witness to your love in places of division, doubt, and weariness.

**For the world you created:**

Where nations are torn by conflict, bring justice and reconciliation. Where people live in fear, bring safety and hope. Where creation groans under strain, inspire us to be faithful stewards of the earth.

**For our communities:**

Bless those who work for the good of others—carers, volunteers, leaders, and neighbours. Be close to those who feel forgotten, isolated, or overwhelmed. May we recognise Christ in every person we meet.

**For those who suffer:**

Hold in your gentle care all who are ill, grieving, anxious, or in pain. Surround them with your healing presence and guide those who support them with wisdom and compassion.

**For ourselves:**

As we journey toward the cross this Holy Week, deepen our understanding of your love. Give us the courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads, trusting that your mercy is stronger than any darkness.

**God of all hope,**

Receive these prayers, spoken and unspoken, and make us instruments of your peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn 265** Ride on, ride on in majesty

**Blessing:**

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.**

**Amen**

**Hymn 677**

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and corner-stone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the Church in one,  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call thee,  
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
with thy constant loving-kindness  
hear thy servants as they pray;  
and thy fullest benediction  
shed within its walls away.
- 3 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
what they ask of thee to gain,  
what they gain from thee for ever  
with the blessed to retain,

and hereafter in thy glory  
evermore with thee to reign.

- 4 Praise and honour to the Father,  
praise and honour to the Son,  
praise and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three, and ever One,  
consubstantial, co-eternal,  
while unending ages run.

7th or 8th century

John Mason Neale (1811–1866) (*alt.*)

### **Hymn 262**

- 1 All glory, laud, and honour  
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 Blessèd One.
- 2 The company of angels  
are 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 honour  
to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring !

St Theodulph of Orleans (*d.* 821)

*translated by* John Mason Neale (1811–1866)

### **Hymn 265**

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty !  
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna !' cry ;

your humble beast pursues its road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty !  
In lowly pomp ride on to die :  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty !  
The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty !  
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh ;  
the Father, on his sapphire throne,  
expects his own anointed Son.
- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty !  
In lowly pomp ride on to die ;  
bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, your power, and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791–1868)

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