



Worship at Home—28 March 2021

Gathering Prayer

We gather in the presence of God who is Love
We gather as pilgrims on our own journey of faith
We come seeking light for our darkness, strength for our weakness.
We gather in the shadow of the cross, the sign of God's faithful love
Come and let us worship our God, Our Creator and Saviour

Opening Prayer—Jim Webber

Father

We gather together—yet apart, but still in Fellowship with each other from a distance.

As your Son entered Jerusalem, let him enter our lives, let the King of Glory come in, that He may rule in our hearts and minds, and that we may offer our love and lives to him, through the same Christ our Lord, who offered his life for us and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Christ broken on the cross, we draw near to you, we come with broken promises and broken dreams, we come as a church divided and not at unity in itself. Yet we seek through you to share in salvation, and to bring others to your saving love.

Lord, as you give yourself to us, may we give ourselves for others.

Lord of the cross we come to you—You can make us whole.

Jesus spent much of his time in prayer. In the Gospel of Luke we read that on one occasion Jesus was asked by His disciples how to Pray. Let us all pray now with the words He taught them and as we now know.



It is with great sadness
that we have to
intimate the death of

Mrs Maria Robertson
4/3 Slaeside, Balerno

Please pray for the
family.

The funeral of
Mrs Irene Eunson will
take place in the Kirk
on Thursday 8 April at
12.30 pm and
thereafter to the
cemetery at 1 pm.

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen

Mark 11:1-11—Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem



When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Philippians 2: 5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

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



Palm Sunday Sermon

The narrative of the triumphant, beautiful entry of Jesus is a picture as it should be . . . a happy picture of Jesus worshipped and adored, praised with shouts of Hosanna. There was such an air of celebration, a sense that a true divine presence had come to be a blessing among the people. Jesus was like no other. He lived a life of pure self-giving love to his fellow human beings. He taught another way. A heavenly way—a way of healing, a way of love.

In response when they see him coming to Jerusalem, men, women and children bow down, cheer, wave and lay their coats on the ground like a huge carpet of honour to the king of kings. They Shout, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord”.

There is a beauty to the story and also a hope. A hope of divine promise that things are somehow as they should be. But as we know, that hope was not to last.

Around the world, just about every Christian community or church will have read or dramatised the story. On Palm Sunday the crowd is shouting and yelling and praising Jesus. They are all euphoric. We know from watching the news lately that it doesn't take a lot to drum up a crowd—especially when a football team wins or a President loses an election or young people are protesting a grave injustice.

But as we know, the crowd is sometimes not good at judging what is holy, significant and lasting and what is not.

I heard a story of a very wealthy man who particularly loved collecting expensive cars. His favourite was a top of the range Cadillac and so he instructed the executors of his estate to follow his instructions directly. He explained that when he died he wanted to be buried within his favourite Cadillac. So the executors of his will followed his directions and had an enormous hole dug and had the dead man placed in his Cadillac and the Cadillac lowered into the ground. Two grave diggers were standing over at the side. They watched in admiration. Then one of them said to the other, “Boy some people really know how to live!”

Jesus had the praise and adulation of the crowd. Yet as we all know the crowd can be fickle. The crowd believed that Jesus was the Messiah . . . but the problem was that they wanted the Messiah to be a mighty Military King to overthrow Rome. Instead Jesus rode in, as the prophets had foretold, on a donkey.

They say that in politics, a week is a long time. In the intensity of the story we will follow over the next few days, we will see that each day, each hour brings change.

Into the last three days of this week towards Thursday and Friday it will be hard to believe that the mood of the story shifts so intensely away from what it was on Palm Sunday.

People carrying palms will soon carry swords and sticks.

Shouts of Hosannah and Halleluiah will give way to shouts of crucify him.

Having just seen cloaks thrown down on the ground in honour of Jesus, we will soon see guards gambling for his cloak.

Followers, proud to walk beside him today will be frightened, betraying him and denying they knew him.

Jesus surrounded by friends, followers, an adulating crowd will be bound, dying in excruciating pain and alone upon a criminal's cross.

The truth is that we can only celebrate or understand Palm Sunday in light of the cross.

We reflect on the words of St Paul in Phillippians Chapter 2. *“Jesus Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of humanity. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.”*

Jesus had power, Divine power and yet he emptied himself to become human and to humble himself, obedient even to death. We remember that Satan had tempted Jesus taking him to the top of the temple and asking him to throw himself off, telling him,

“I will give you all the kingdoms of the world if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus had power, but not an earthly power not the kind of military, technological economic or political power that seems to cause so much strife in the world. Jesus had an eternal power and yet, and yet, he took the form of a servant and humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Jesus had power and he was a King, but not the kind of earthly king people might have assumed him to be. He is the servant King who humbles himself for us, to serve us and not only to serve us but to reconcile us to God.

He had the power of God and yet he gave it all and by his death on the cross he changed everything. By his willingness to give himself, he has changed our world. He has changed our relationship with God and with one another.

There is a story of a social worker who went into a home of people who just didn't care about their surroundings, about their cleanliness or habits or the shabbiness of their lives. So one day she bought the most beautiful potted plant she could find and she placed it on the table in the centre of the living room. Gradually as they pondered the beauty of the plant, they decided that the conditions in their home weren't quite fit for the beauty of the plant, so they started fixing it up, cleaning the living room, then the house, then their lives.

Something like that happened when Jesus gave himself upon the cross. He changed people's hearts and minds, he changed their attitudes, their lifestyles, and far more importantly their relationship with God and with each other. He has changed our relationships in ways that might be invisible to us now, but we are all touched by the love Jesus showed on the cross.

He had so much power and yet he gave it up. He could have taken and grasped that power and yet he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. He had it all and he gave it all and that changed everything.

Jesus is the one now with heavenly power to love us, to forgive us, to accompany us through our human journey. He is always pouring himself out, offering himself to us. He gave it all Paul says.

George Fallen tells of visiting an artist's studio in Dallas. One picture that the artist painted was a picture of Jesus on the cross. They discussed the painting and the artist said that the hardest part was putting the scars in Jesus' hands and his feet because he could not paint without weeping. Sometimes it is devastating to realise what he did for us and because of us. Rembrandt, when he came to paint the scene of the crucifixion penitently painted his own face into the mob.

And yet, we will get through the passion narrative this week and the week ahead. And we will find that the love poured out will conquer. Death will not win. He gave it all and still offers it all to us. He who is truly the divine King, but whose King is not of this world is not only a power in heaven but someone who meets us each day, offering to walk beside us, to be present with us, to care for us and love us.

AMEN

PRAYER

Seated in heaven in glory
And on earth, seated on a little donkey
You have accepted the praise of the angels
And the songs of the children who cried out to you
Blessed are you who came among us
And died and rose again to life among us now.

You call us out to be in the world but not of the world
To be first citizens of heaven and then citizens of earth
You call us in baptism to be new creations
To know a life of purity and light
Bathed in the life of your Spirit .

This week we ask ourselves if we dare follow you this Holy week
To make the trip to Jerusalem with you Jesus
Help us to recommit ourselves because
You never fail in your commitment to us.

We praise you Loving Jesus
For the ways you love us
With a love which is more wonderful than human love
Given freely to us
We praise you for the impulse to love
Planted within us by Your Spirit.

In that spirit of love you call us to bring our cares to you
You call us in love to pray for the wider world
For those with heavy burdens and hungry souls

We pray for parents raising children, for nurseries, play groups, Sunday schools and our University where we yearn hope to teach the young not only knowledge but character, values, love and faith.

May we understand the importance of contributing good
To each individual life.

We remember today those who are in hospital
Who have received a diagnosis

Those who are ill or have Covid or
Those who feel their bodies growing week before due time
We pray for the relatives whose love is as strong as ever but who can only watch in love.

We pray for those who are stifled or unfulfilled during lockdown unable to use their gifts
And an ability to heal and transform, renew and energise

We ask that you bless those suffering from war and violence
Those caught up in ecological disaster or despair
Those saddened by loneliness and grief

You are our source of peace and comforting strength
It may be in our deepest need that we meet Christ
May we be channels of his love
Showing acts of kindness and love to others

Strengthen us in your love
Forgive us in your mercy
Challenge us with your story
Surround us on this journey with your grace.

AMEN.



Palm Sunday

Currie Kirk Lenten Appeal—St Luke’s Leprosarium, Tamil Nadu, South India



In February, Hamish Leal launched our Currie Kirk Lenten Appeal. We are now entering the last week of Lent and if you have already donated towards St Luke’s Leprosarium, we are most grateful. If you haven’t, and feel able to support them in these difficult times, then donations are still welcome. The 125 lepers that are currently inpatients at St Luke’s are very much in need of our ongoing support. Our funds help to supplement their rice rations with chicken to help in their recovery from the devastating effects of leprosy as well as support the ongoing work of the mission.



In India it is customary to eat with one’s hand but for those whose fingers are missing, or non-functional, then a spoon can be held onto their limb by a Velcro strap, as I’ve explained previously.

St Luke’s offers the lepers free treatment and also rehabilitation, for those able to be discharged from the hospital. A large proportion of the leprosy patients are of the shepherd caste—a very backward community, socially, educationally and economically. Most would need to resort to begging but training in modern goat and cattle farming is given. In addition, whilst in hospital they may be given a kitten which, as a fully grown cat, will be able to discourage rats in their home. Rats can nibble at their insensitive toes and fingers, when they’re asleep, if they’ve not lost them prior to admission!



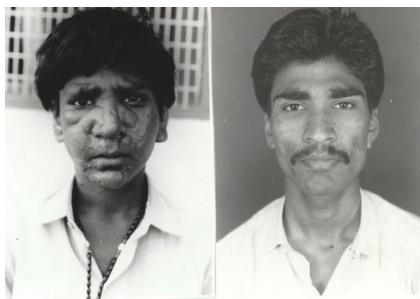
If the plight of the leprosy patient in general is pathetic, that of the female leprosy patient is tragic. If a husband is affected by leprosy, then his wife remains with him. If a wife contracts leprosy, then she and her children are usually abandoned. St Luke’s gives refuge to such children. In the Leprosarium the female patients are cured and taught skills such as weaving or tailoring.

Eeshwari

Eeshwari accidentally stubbed her toe against a stone, sustaining a minor injury. As she had no sensation in her foot, due to the disease, she felt no need to dress the toe or go to a doctor. The wound became infected. The infection spread back to her heel and upward to her ankle. As it climbed up to her knee, septicaemia set in. It was only when she developed a high fever and rigors that she went to a doctor. By then it was too late, and to save her life she underwent a below-knee amputation.

Eeshwari didn’t give up. She was given training in sewing and was gifted with a sewing machine. She went on to earn a reasonable livelihood as a tailor. She is happily married to a fellow leprosy patient, also cured and rehabilitated.





Jesuraj, before and after treatment

Jesuraj had infectious leprosy when he arrived at St Luke's in 1991 (left hand photo). After treatment, with modern multi-drug therapy, he was cured. He remained at the Leprosarium and when we visited in 2003 he was working there as the physiotherapist.

He went on to marry Gemila, a teacher and they have two children, Johanna and Jerrick. He went on to further training in Public Health and is now a Multi-Purpose Health Worker in Anandapuram, about 15km from Peikulam.



Jerrick, Jesuraj, Johanna and Gemila

These are a few illustrations of some of the work that is ongoing in St Luke's. Currie Kirk supported them generously in 2003. The funds that we donated then, are invested to supply annual meals for the lepers on the anniversary of our donation. Falling interest rates and the current pandemic has led to a reduction in their funds and a request by them, once more, for support.

Please donate what/if you can. Please put your donation in an envelope, address it to Eddie Pigott, mark it 'St Luke's' and put it through the letterbox of the Church Office. If you would like it to be gift aided add a dated note saying this. Cheques should be made payable to 'Currie Kirk'. Alternatively you can make a direct transfer into the Currie Kirk bank account by sending it to Sort Code: 80-06-20; Account No: 00336407 and marking it 'St Luke's'. It would help if you could then email Eddie at: pigottsef@icloud.com letting him know that you have sent a donation and saying if you wish it gift aided.

Thank you on their behalf.

Gordon MacKinlay



For those who have been homeless, they have no belongings. When they move into a flat, they cannot make a cup of tea, light a lamp, shut their curtains or snuggle up under their duvet. **YOU** can help.

Below is a list of household items that can help make a house a home.

-  **Dishes and Cutlery** • Dinner Plates • Side Plates • Bowls • Cutlery • Glass Tumblers • Mugs • Tea-Towels
-  **Cleaning Items** • Washing Up Liquid • Toilet Cleaner • Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Hand Soap • Toilet Rolls • Bin Bags & Liners • Dustpan & Brushes • All Purpose Cleaners • Laundry Tablets • J-Cloths
-  **Pots and Pans** • Soup Pots • Frying Pans • Milk Pans • Cooking Utensils • Can Openers • Potato Peelers • Wooden Spoons
-  **Bed Linen and Towels** • Single, Double & King • Sheets • Duvet Covers • Pillow Cases • Blankets • Towels • Curtains • Face Cloths
-  **Small Household Electric Items** • Kettles • Toasters • Lamps • Irons • Vacuum Cleaners • Radios • DVD Player • Microwaves • Music Systems
-  **Long Lasting Food Products** • Tins & Jars of: Beans / Spaghetti / Soup / Vegetables / Meat / Fish • Cooking Sauces • Packets of Pasta • Rice • Cereal • Porridge • Biscuits • Sugar • Tea Bags • Instant Coffee • UHT Milk

We are an accredited Reuse organisation, meaning that the goods that we re-use must meet the required standard set out by Zero Waste Scotland. In order to reduce waste, please can all donated items be in a clean, reusable condition as we do not have the facilities available to wash items. We are charged for the disposal of all items that we are unable to use, which impacts on the services we are able to provide. Please can you also avoid hard plastics, such as buckets, as they cannot be used in our packs and end up in landfill.

If you can help with items for Fresh Start please contact Nina at the church office.



FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 0131 476 7741
OR EMAIL: ADMIN@FRESHSTARTWEB.ORG.UK



Currie Kirk Guild

I hope you remembered to put your clocks forward last night although time is very elastic at the moment. It is bad enough trying to remember what day of the week it is. Another successful coffee morning was held last Tuesday, but we finished early in order to join in the minute's silence at 12 noon. Hard to believe it has been a year of lockdown of some description or other.

It was heartening to learn that many of our members have had their second vaccination and others have the date for theirs. Eventually we will be able to meet in person. Irene Hendry celebrated her 90th birthday on Wednesday—her second lockdown birthday!

There will be no meeting next Tuesday as it is Holy Week, but I will have a trip to the foodbank with loads of chocolate Easter eggs. You have all been incredibly generous so many, many thanks.

Last day for delivering to me is Monday 29th March.

Our next formal meeting will be on Tuesday 6th April at 10 am when Derek Blyth will be giving us an insight into the life of Ella Fitzgerald.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and look after each other.

Louise Lamont Guild President



Lenten Studies

Easter will be holding a series of Lenten Studies every **Wednesday at 1pm**. Each session should last about an hour and will be conducted via Zoom. If you are interested in taking part, please email Louise:
elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk

by Tuesday morning and she will send you the link.

Kirk Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Easter Smart—Tel: 449 4719 email: esmart@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Hamish Leal—Tel: 449 3288 email: hamish@hamishleal.co.uk

Family worker: Heather Merriman email: Familyworker_JVP@outlook.com

Please get in touch with Nina at the Kirk Office—451 5141

email currie_kirk@btconnect.com> if you need anything.

We have friends willing to listen, shop, walk a dog, fix a garden.

Website: //www.curriekirk.org/ or //www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/

All sermons from Currie Kirk can be found on the Kirk's website and on YouTube—search Currie Kirk

Celebration

These resources are designed to help you explore the Bible as a family together at home while we can't go to church. Be as creative as you want to be and enjoy spending time with each other and with God.

Prepare yourself...

Let us come with enthusiasm to meet the Lord today.
Let us pour out our love and our praise
and bring the best we can offer to our generous God.
Amen.



Question...



Have you ever met anyone famous?
What was it like?

Challenge

Give each person some sticky notes or small pieces of paper.
Write a compliment for each person present on individual notes and give it to them.



Read the Bible...

Today's verses are found in Mark 11:1-1. You can read them in a Bible or find them here.

You could try reading the verses in different versions to see if it adds to your understanding of the passage. Have fun reenacting the story in your home or garden. This is a good animation of the story too: [The Story of Easter \(The Triumphal Entry\)](#)



Talk together...

- * Can you think of a time when you had a visit from somebody important or exciting? What happened and how did it make you feel?
- * How does it feel to be celebrated? How does it feel to celebrate someone else?
- * What makes a gift special? Is it the amount it cost? The brilliant skill it took to make it? Who it came from?
- * In Jesus' day, a cloak was a treasured possession. By throwing their cloaks over the donkey's back and laying them on the road, people were extravagantly showing their appreciation and rejoicing at God's rescue plan in action.
- * Think about if this story was taking place in the modern day (though you might want to imagine a restriction free setting!) How would Jesus have been welcomed? How would people show their appreciation? What things of value might people lay down? What would you be willing to give up?
- * How do you see Jesus? Is he a good person from history? A celebrity from the past? Or something else? In our life, how do we show that Jesus is someone who has meaning for us?
- * Can you think of one way you could be extravagant this week (in terms of money, time, possessions or anything that comes to mind)

Play together...

Island game: find some old clothing/pillowcases/towels that you don't mind standing on.

Using just two or three pieces can you get your whole family from one side of the room/garden to the other?

You can only stand on the fabric and not touch the floor. You will need to work as a team standing on one piece while you move the other.

Pray together...

Sometimes when life is hard or things are difficult, we feel sad or worried, it can be a struggle to be glad. But every day there are things we can be thankful for.

Make a list of all the things you can be grateful for and say a big thank you to God for all He has provided for you and your family today.

Make something...

In your garden or if you go for a walk collect some leaves to make into a collage at home.

The people in the story were so excited to welcome Jesus that they grabbed whatever they could find to worship him.

What other items could you find to make some worship art from? Arrange what you find into a picture of celebration.



Praise together...

[Give thanks to God](#) by Allan McKinlay

[Make way, make way](#) by Graham Kendrick

[We have a king who rides a donkey](#)

[Hosanna in the highest](#)

An Easter Quiz for Children and Adults

