

## KEY VERSE:

*Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna!'*  
*'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'*

Mark 11: 8,9



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

20th March, 2016

*Palm Sunday*

Hosanna To The King of Kings



CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today is the last Sunday in Lent and we start to think of the events that led up to Easter.
- We call today 'Palm Sunday' because we think of when Jesus made a special entry into Jerusalem.
- Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. This fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament; it also showed that Jesus was coming in humility, not in military power.
- Many in the crowd spread their cloaks on the ground, whilst others spread branches they had cut from the fields. They shouted Hosanna which means 'save us' or 'deliver us'.

## SO WHAT:

- Jesus knew this was a significant event. It was rich in imagery, with echoes of actions in the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. It made clear again that Jesus was the promised 'Son of David' who would come to deliver God's people. It was a key event leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection.
- The crowds sensed this was important, although perhaps they didn't understand why at this time.
- The crowd, who were fascinated by Jesus, were possibly the same people who cried out for his death less than a week later.

## NOW WHAT:

- As we approach Easter let us reflect on all the events. Had we been in the crowd, what would have been our response?
- Let us each take home a palm cross and put it in our car or home.

## JIM'S JOTTINGS

### Hope or Despair

We all dream dreams, some for wealth, others for fame, or a happy marriage, Nearly 2000 years ago the people of Israel dreamed of freedom from brutal Roman rule, from corrupt political and religious leadership, from grinding poverty, disease and hopelessness. Many rebels had tried to lead the people to freedom; all had failed. But now there was new hope, a man from an obscure village in Galilee who confronted evil rulers, healed the sick, raised the dead and told of good news for the poor. For three years he had commanded the agenda and the authorities hated him so much that they had decided to murder him at the first opportunity. It was all about to come to a head at Passover in Jerusalem. Would Jesus lead a mass movement to overthrow the Romans and start a new government? On the Sunday morning before Passover, the news spread like wildfire. Jesus was on his way. The people rushed out in crowds and tore down palm branches to greet him as a king entering Jerusalem, shouting Hosanna as he rode in on a donkey.

Five days later he was dead, deserted by his closest followers, mocked and humiliated, brutally beaten and nailed on cross. Palm Sunday brought hope: Good Friday despair.

Join us this week as we examine again the events of the most important week in human history.