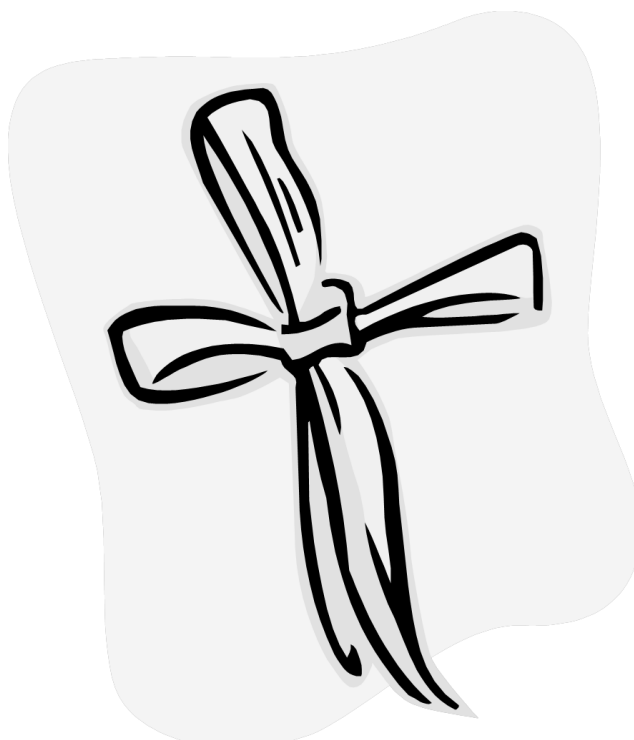




Order of Service Palm Sunday



1 April 2012
East Calder 11:15



Worship led by:
Rev Dr André Groenewald
Musicians:
Jean Gilchrist & Praise Band

Gathering of God's People

Time when we greet one another and prepare for worship.
Those who are able please stand for the entry of the Bible.
Words of welcome and announcements.

Good morning! Welcome to our family orientated service.
I want to extend my sincere thanks to Andy and his social committee for the great Easter fayre yesterday. I was proud to say that I am the minister. So many people from the community came and supported us! I am so grateful.

Three intimations: Tonight in Focus, no lunch club this coming week and the Holy week services. Please attend each different night. It makes my week to see so many of you turn up in a time when other colleagues speak of a decline in church attendance. So please do come!

A minister in the South African parliament once said: 50% of the members of Parliament reason like donkeys. When he was reprimanded he said: sorry, 50% of you do not reason like donkeys!

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship

Minister: Rejoice greatly. O Daughter of Zion!

Women and children: Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

Minister: See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation,

Men and children: gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord!**

Minister: Hosanna in the highest!

JP264 We have a king who rides a donkey

Opening prayer & Lord's prayer

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.

Reflecting on God's Word

Reading: Luke 19:37-42 (NT page 1054)

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"^a "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

^a Psalm 118:26

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

Reader: Robert Alexander

Children’s Talk: Ann Dunlop

MP 242 Hosanna, Hosanna

Contemporary lesson

Can you imagine queen Elizabeth entering each city during her diamond jubilee on a donkey?

What do you think would the press make of that? Well I can almost put my head on a block saying: they will most certainly have a field day with the sensational news and yes I think a lot of people would find it quite humorous!

The same was true of Jesus’ day. The Roman emperor would not enter a city on a donkey. It would be with a large army on horseback with all their medals and military clothing accompanied by a large band playing triumphant music.

But now the followers of Jesus who didnae realise his true identity till the end and some other Jews thought of Him as a king who will deliver them from the Roman oppression. It seems as if Jesus is giving them a glimpse of who He truly is. He is not an earthly king. He rides on a donkey like officials usually did. He is the heavenly king of peace, glory and love. He was nae interested in earthly glory or show. He came as a servant to serve others, to bring peace and reconciliation with God.

Then as Jesus came closer to Jerusalem the people started to put their outer clothing on the road as an act of reverence like the people did in the Old Testament when Jehu was declared as king. Luke makes no mention of the spreading of branches, perhaps due to the nationalistic overtones of such an act. It could have interpreted by the Roman authority as a rebellion because in the history of Israel when the people rebelled against the Syrian oppression and their invasion of the temple, a bloody rebellion followed. After they took back the temple they “cleansed” it and made it holy again on the

same day that is was defiled. It all happened on the 25th of Kislev or December. During the festival that followed - people carried Palm branches while singing praise to God. I can understand why Luke did nae include the “palm branches” as a possible interpretation or pointer to a rebellion! Jesus stood for peace. Ironically He cries about the predicament of the city of Jerusalem who could nae see Him as the bringer of peace between God and the human race.

Holy week is about Jesus on His journey to bring final peace and reconciliation between God and us. Holy week is about God who sacrificed Himself so that we can live forever with Him in peace. You and have received this peace. Let us live it and share it with everyone around us. Holy week is about the donkeys that we sometimes become in the modern day church because no one else is interested to help.

May God be with us as we journey with Him this week. And to all those who feel that they are real donkeys doing everything in the Church, rejoice and be happy. The Lord has called you for His special service. Amen.

Responding to God's word

Our offerings are given for the ministry and mission of the church while we listen to the organ.

Prayer of thanksgiving and dedication: Andrew Coutts

MP 237 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

Benediction receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

**May the blessing of God,
who resides in our hopes and our dreams, grant us peace.**

**May the blessing of Jesus,
who rides to wild acclaim and waving palm branches,
grant us peace.**

**May the blessing of the Spirit,
who holds us through fears and nightmares,
grant us peace, and the hopes and dreams
of the dawning of an Easter Morning.**

Amen.

MP 25 All to Jesus I surrender

Please remain standing as The Bible is removed.

Poem: The cross

'This is my gift,' he said,

'The cross on which I bled.

Its weight you cannot bear,

Unless I'm also there

As in my steps you tread.

Once an emblem of shame,

This is transformed by my name.

Its curse I've lifted,

Its glory I've gifted
To kindle in you love's flame.
I carried this cross before you,
On it willingly bore you,
For your life I pleaded,
Abba my prayer heeded.
Carry it now I implore you.
Take this sign of my reign,

Do not shrink from its pain.
Love's wounds bring healing,
Mercy and grace revealing,
Losing your life becomes gain.'

(from <http://www.rootsontheweb.com>)

You are invited to stay for tea and coffee which are served in the hall.