

Taizé for Palm Sunday



A reflective service with candlelight and the music of
the Taizé community

Saturday 1 April 7.30pm

Singers and musicians welcome 6.45pm

Supper follows this service

Welcome to this service of reflective prayer. The words and songs of this service move in and out of an underlying silence. There will be a period of silence between each section of the service.

Opening Song

Laudate Omnes Gentes, Laudate Dominum

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(Praise the Lord all you people)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2zssxke6qU>

The Lighting of the Candles

L. Come to us this night O God,

R. Come to us with light.

L. Speak to us this night O God,

R. Speak to us your truth

L. Dwell with us this night O God,

R. Dwell with us in Love.

We cannot be certain of all the expectations the crowd held that day as they spread their shawls and coats on the path that wound down from the Mt of Olives to the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was filled with anticipation of the Passover, the feast which celebrated their emancipation from slavery in Egypt. At such a time, Israel stood on tiptoe. Hearts and heart-desires beat in heightened anticipation that this, this would be the time when God would deliver them again. Certainly, Pilate and the Romans were wary, fearful of anything that might spark a rebellion. Certainly, many who ran alongside welcoming Jesus, hailing Jesus, expected that he would bring revolution and drive from them those who pillaged them and laughed at their God. Zealots infiltrated among them, ready to rise up in armed rebellion.

**The Kingdom of God
Is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord
And open in us
the gates of your kingdom.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dTofKnGplc>

Others had far different motives. They had encountered Jesus as a healer whose compassion countered the harsh, merciless legalism of the Pharisees. I imagined, Bartimaeus recently healed of his blindness running before him shouting, “Prepare the way of the Lord,” the woman healed of a flow of blood, standing by the way, exclaiming only one word over and over, blessed, blessed, blessed.” Lazarus recently restored to life led the donkey through the throng, A man joined by the friends who had once torn off a roof to lower him into Jesus presence, now tore off palms from trees along the way to throw before him. Two lepers who had felt his healing touch and uttered not one word of thanks, now shouted their praises, “Hosanna, hosanna.”

Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Godspell)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSkIz4Xm09U

Others who once were shunned but were embraced by him, reached out from the crowds to touch him as he passed by – a woman forgiven by him and saved from stoning, Zaccheus the tax collector, the Samaritan woman he met at the well, Mary and Martha, little children he had held on his lap – all welcoming him who had dared welcome them.

Perhaps even a Roman centurion whose servant Jesus had healed lifted a silent word of praise as he and his cohort nervously watched the crowd from their station.

Whatever their motivation, joy and anticipation filled their hearts as they welcomed the Messiah and cried out, “Hosanna. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

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Mounted on a donkey, a burro, an ass, he comes. Gentle yet strong, merciful yet just, loving yet capable of righteous anger he rides not to establish empire but to open the gates of God’s kingdom to all; ...not to condemn but to save. He comes, the Good Shepherd, seeking the lost sheep. He comes, the Light of the world entering the darkest recesses of the human heart to bring pardon and hope. He comes, the Resurrection and the life, to die that we and all creation might be made alive in him. Hosanna. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

My soul is at rest in Christ alone, My salvation comes from God.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=my+soul+is+at+rest+in+god+alone+taize&oq=My+soul+is+at+rest&aqs=chrome.3.0j69i57j0l4.11297j0j7>

Few anticipate the confrontations he will face in the coming week. Few see the powers of evil swirling like a storm front gathering upon him and Jerusalem. Few understand the suffering he will willingly endure and the glory he shall receive from God's hand as he prays, "Not my will but thine be done," and is brought to the time of trial.

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison 10 (Lord have mercy)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgY0jQykj8E

But on this day, the crowd dances with mirth and joyful anticipation. God's reign is opening before them in this One who is son of Mary, Son of God. God's reign foretold by prophets and hoped for by Anna and Simeon has arrived.

God's reign where lion and lamb lie together, vipers are fangless, and nothing harms on all God's holy mountain is breaking in. And in the hosannas can be heard the echoes of an earlier angel chorus, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth."

<https://www.abc-usa.org/2021/03/2021-lent-a-time-to-get-ready-a-palm-sunday-meditation/>

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Homily: The Rev'd Joan Claring-Bould

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Songs for reflection

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est

(Where charity and love are found, God is there)

Concluding Prayer

Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you,

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you

Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you:

Deep peace of Christ. (Scots Celtic Prayer)

Final Song.

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,

My love is stronger than your fear

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,

And I have promised, promised to be always near. (John Bell)

Notices:

Thank you for coming tonight.

Thanks to those who have filled in for our regular caretakers!

We wish you a blessed Easter.

The Cathedral runs at a deficit at present. If you can help us maintain this beautiful building and its ministry there is a collection bag at the back of the church. Any contribution would be gratefully received. Thankyou!

Next Taizé service will be Sat. 6 May at 7.30pm.

Please spread the good news of what these services have to offer, and advertise them in your local parishes etc. Thank you.

Joan