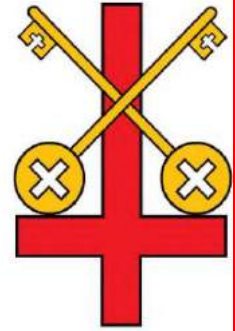


Welcome

To the Anglican Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst
**The Year of
Integration, Restoration and Education**

**St Peter's
&
St Luke's**

**5 April 2020
Palm Sunday**



The whole city was crowded; rowdy with people sweating in their long thick robes, gathering for the Passover. The sun scorched the land in its midday heat. It was dusty, hot and jostling. In a corner, struggling to find comfort in the shadows of a building, cowered a young donkey. Hungry, hot and bored, this lonely colt had no idea that in a couple of hours he would be the one chosen to carry Jesus into Jerusalem.

Never mind that there was no fanfare. Never mind that the entry started off as subdued and lacked the fuss and glory of royalty. Never mind that cloaks and palm branches formed the only red carpet that kings of this hot, dusty era, enjoyed. What mattered was that the humble young donkey, alone and forlorn in the midst of all the celebrations, was called to bear our Lord!

As this ugly beast of a virus continues to sweep through our nation and our world, are WE worthy to carry Jesus? Do we allow Him to reenter our Jerusalem; our lives, during these tumultuous times? Are we looking out for the hungry and the lonely around us?

When the government closed down all non-essential services, churches were included in that list. Today, those very same people are realising that above any other, Christ's Body, His Church, is at the forefront of care and continuity. May we always be that colt that carries Christ through our city and nation. May we remain strong enough to be Christ's presence in our world. And may our hearts continue to be the palm branches that hail our Lord and Saviour.



~Kofe

Web address to watch Sunday's service:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaV6CL18TXIVfhsobuKDFRw>

**** There will be a Good Friday service at 10am and one on Easter day at 10am ****

St Peter's & St Luke's Churches

10:00am

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 181:1-2,19-29
Phil 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-12



Sentence

The crowds that went ahead of him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David.' (Matthew 21.19)

Collect

God of kings and criminals,
your ways are not our ways:
on the way to Jerusalem,
with shouts we acclaimed you;
on the way to Calvary,
with shouts we condemned you;
mercifully grant us the way that leads to life;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Versicle and Response for Intercessions

O Lord hear our prayer
and let our cry come unto you.

Next Sunday's Reading Acts 10.34-43
Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3.1-4
John 20.1-9

Pastoral Care / Funeral / Weddings

Unfortunately the Health Department has told clergy that we are not able to visit or take funerals or weddings at this time. We could very easily become carriers of the Virus. We can of course pray for you over the phone, have a memorial service at later date, and you can ask your sweetheart to hold off a bit longer!



A Prayer for Hard Times

Heavenly Father, we come to you knowing that we are coming to a God of mercy and a God who loves us. We pray, heavenly Father, for New Zealand. We pray for our leaders, Jacinda and her advisers – that you will grant them wisdom as they make decisions that guide us as a nation.

We pray for our loved ones and the various communities in which we exist. We pray for those who are working on the front line. We ask Lord that, you will guide us through these challenging times, and in the way that only you can, that you will cause many things that will before our good to come out of what is a bad situation.

We pray for those who have caught the virus, Father; that you will step in.

We believe in a God who heals. We pray, Lord, that as Aotearoa New Zealand, you will give us the grace to come together, stand together with each other and that acts of kindness will multiply up and down the length and breadth of this land. We pray Almighty God because we do believe in a miraculous God; in a God who can do the impossible – that this virus will stop, that its spread will be stemmed and reversed.

We ask this in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by Agu Irukwu, from UKs Churches Together and published in Anglican e-Life 01 Apr 2020)

*Pray for the sick, especially Elizabeth, Fiona, Helen, Leni, Wendy, and others on our minds.

*Pray for our Vicar and Vestry as they discern processes and make decisions so that we can continue to do God's work and serve His people.



Palm Sunday

Blessed is the king
who comes in the
name of the Lord
Luke 19:38



Contact us...

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