



# Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 5 April:*

*Palm Sunday*

*The Sunday next before Easter*

**DURHAM  
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

*During this time of great anxiety and uncertainty, we want to stay in touch with our regular worshippers and indeed with everyone who is associated with the Cathedral family.*

*This is particularly important to us at a time when, following the Church of England's instructions, public worship at the Cathedral has been suspended. The residential clergy are still saying the Daily Offices at home and they are being live-streamed via the cathedral website where there is a link that takes you to the Cathedral's Facebook page (you don't need a Facebook account).*

*We hope that this pamphlet will provide you with important worship and prayer resources for use at home as well as a reminder of how to keep in touch with us, especially if you have particularly needs. Please be assured that you are firmly in our thoughts and prayers, and please pray for us at this very difficult and worrying time.*

## **Gospel for Palm Sunday**

**Matthew 21. 1 - 11**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olive, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and other cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who come in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

## Holy Week Message from The Dean

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I bring you greetings from Durham Cathedral, the Shrine of St Cuthbert and the seat of the Bishop of Durham. Those of you who have joined us regularly for prayers in the last fortnight will know that we have been supporting the public campaign to 'Stay at Home: Protect the NHS: Save lives' and have been leading worship from within our homes. So I am standing in the back garden of the Deanery – as close as I can get to the Shrine of St Cuthbert without leaving home. These are extraordinary times both for the United Kingdom as well as for the global community, when events on the other side of the world have been shown to impact our daily lives in a matter of months. This is true for every household, every community, every business and every school. So we have prayed regularly and faithfully for those who are sick with Covid-19; those who have lost their lives, for the grieving, and those who suffer financial hardship. We have also given thanks for all those who are working in the National Health Service and associated medical care professions; those who run power stations and keep water flowing; those who collect our refuse; shop-workers and public servants. We are immensely grateful for the generosity and good-neighbourliness shown in this time of national and international crisis. And alongside those blessings for which we give thanks to God, we are also aware that our Christian faith, and this great Cathedral, speak of the enduring love of God, shown to us in Christ Jesus. The very presence of a worshipping community on this site for over 1,000 years; their travails in arriving here from Lindisfarne and the building of this Norman Cathedral-Shrine – all these point us towards a love which overcomes. St Paul wrote to Christians in Rome: 'Who will separate us from the love of Christ?' And he then answers his own question: 'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' This is not a glib message of wishful thinking – the challenges we are facing are very real, and it is our individual responsibility to play our part in 'Staying at Home to Save Lives'. But as we enter this Holy Week in this holy place, in the company of Cuthbert and Bede, Hild and Margaret, together with a great cloud of witnesses including so many who are joining us for worship in the Diocese of Durham and the four corners of the world, we make our earthly pilgrimage in these days in the hope and expectation and faith of our citizenship in heaven.

May God bless you in the days to come.

Andrew Tremlett, Dean of Durham

# Prayers and Readings for use in Holy Week

*Maundy Thursday—Easter Day (for Palm Sunday to the Wednesday of Holy Week, see the previous issue of Praying Together)*

**Maundy Thursday**

**Thursday 9 April**

*For nearly forty days we have kept the Lenten fast as a period of penitence and preparation for our Saviour Christ's hour of glory in which, with him, we pass from death to life. Therefore, let us come and celebrate the Passover, for once we were slaves to sin but now, sharing Christ's victory, we are heirs to the kingdom of God. We prepare to celebrate the Supper of the Lamb, trusting in his Cross and in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.*

**Reading**

**1 Corinthians 11. 23—26**

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Prayer**

God our Father,  
you invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

When the disciples had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me'. He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners. Come, let us go.'

The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.

*John 16. 32*

*Many of us associate Good Friday with the Jesuit-inspired Three Hours Devotion, or the Stations of the Cross popularised by the Franciscans. Both of these concentrate on us identifying with the suffering of Christ. The Liturgy of Good Friday however emphasises, and indeed celebrates, the triumph of the cross—as seen in the Passion narrative of John, where the cross is seen as the moment when God’s glory is revealed, and the whole world is drawn to worship at its foot—as Jesus said,*

I, if I am lifted up, will draw all people to myself.

**Reading**

**Philippians 2. 7–8**

Christ Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness; and being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Prayer**

Almighty Father,  
look with mercy on this your family  
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed  
and given up into the hands of sinners  
and to suffer death upon the Cross;  
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:  
because by your holy and life-giving cross  
You have redeemed the world.

May the life-giving cross be the source of all our joy and peace,  
and may some fruit from the Tree of thy Passion  
fall on us, O Lord, this day. **Amen.**

*Today is a non-day, a time of silent waiting. For many churches, today is the only day in the year where it remains silent. At this time, with our church buildings silent, we pray and long for the kindling of the new fire tomorrow—the light shining in darkness—that will return to our buildings soon, but remains alight and kindled within each and every one of us as the body of Christ at work in the world.*

**Reading***from Jonah 2*

I called to you, O God, out of my distress and you answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me, all your waves and billows passed over me. Then I said, I am driven away from your sight; how shall I ever look again upon your holy temple. The waters closed in over me, the deep was round about me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for ever, yet you brought up my life from the depths, O God. As my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, O God, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. With the voice of thanksgiving, I will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay; deliverance belongs to God!

**Prayer**

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptised  
into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
may continually put to death our evil desires  
and be buried with him;  
and that through the grave and gate of death  
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;  
through his merits,  
who died and was buried and rose again for us,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Christ humbled himself for us and, in obedience, accepted death, even death on a cross: therefore God raised him to the heights and gave him the name which is above every name.

*We held our silence— and, in joy we greet the Risen Christ. From the darkness of the tomb, where that crucial conflict between life and death took place, Christ emerges triumphant, stepping over the broken bars and shattered locks. The experience of meeting the risen Christ takes place in a garden. Jesus, the second Adam, come to rescue us and reverses our loss of immortality and of being cast out of paradise. Where life was lost, now life has been restored. The new creation begins, like the first, in a garden.*

**Reading****Matthew 28. 1—10**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

**Reflection***I saw him standing*

Under the dark trees, there he stands,  
there he stands; shall he not draw my eyes?  
I thought I knew a little  
how he compels, beyond all things, but now  
he stands there in the shadows. It will be  
Oh, such a daybreak, such bright morning,  
when I shall wake to see him  
as he is.

He is called Rose of Sharon, for his skin  
is clear, his skin is flushed with blood,  
his body lovely and exact; how he compels  
beyond ten thousand rivals. There he stands,  
my friend, the friend of guilt and helplessness,  
to steer my hollow body  
over the sea.

The earth is full of masks and fetishes,  
what is there here for me? are these like him?  
Keep company with him and you will know:  
no kin, no likeness to those empty eyes.  
He is a stranger to them all, great Jesus.  
What is there here for me? I know  
what I have longed for. Him to hold  
me always.

*Rowan Williams,  
from the Welsh of Ann Griffiths' Yr Arglwydd Iesu'*

## Prayer

Lord of all life and power;  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory:  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**The next issue of *Praying Together*  
will be published on or before Monday 13 April**

# Holy Week and Easter Services

*All our services will be available to view at [www.durhamcathedral.co.uk](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk), or through our Facebook page.*

## Holy Monday to Holy Wednesday

- 8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 5.15 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 7.30 p.m. Meditation and Compline

## Maundy Thursday

- 8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 11.00 a.m. The Renewal of Ordination Vows and Blessing of the Oils  
*President and Preacher: The Bishop of Durham*
- 5.15 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 7.30 p.m. The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday  
*President and Preacher: The Dean of Durham*

## Good Friday

- 8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 12.00 p.m. The Three Hours  
including, at 2.30 p.m., Evening Prayer of the Burial of Our Lord

## Easter Eve

- 8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 5.15 p.m. Evening Prayer

## EASTER DAY

- 5.00 a.m. The First Eucharist of Easter  
*President and Preacher: The Reverend Canon Michael Hampel*
- 10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer incorporating  
SING RESURRECTION: a national Church initiative
- 11.15 a.m. Easter Service  
*President and Preacher: The Bishop of Durham*
- 3.30 p.m. Choral Evensong (audio) compiled from previous recordings  
of music from Durham Cathedral

### Contact details for

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