

St. Margaret's Mooroolbark Uniting Church

Palm Sunday

24th March 2024

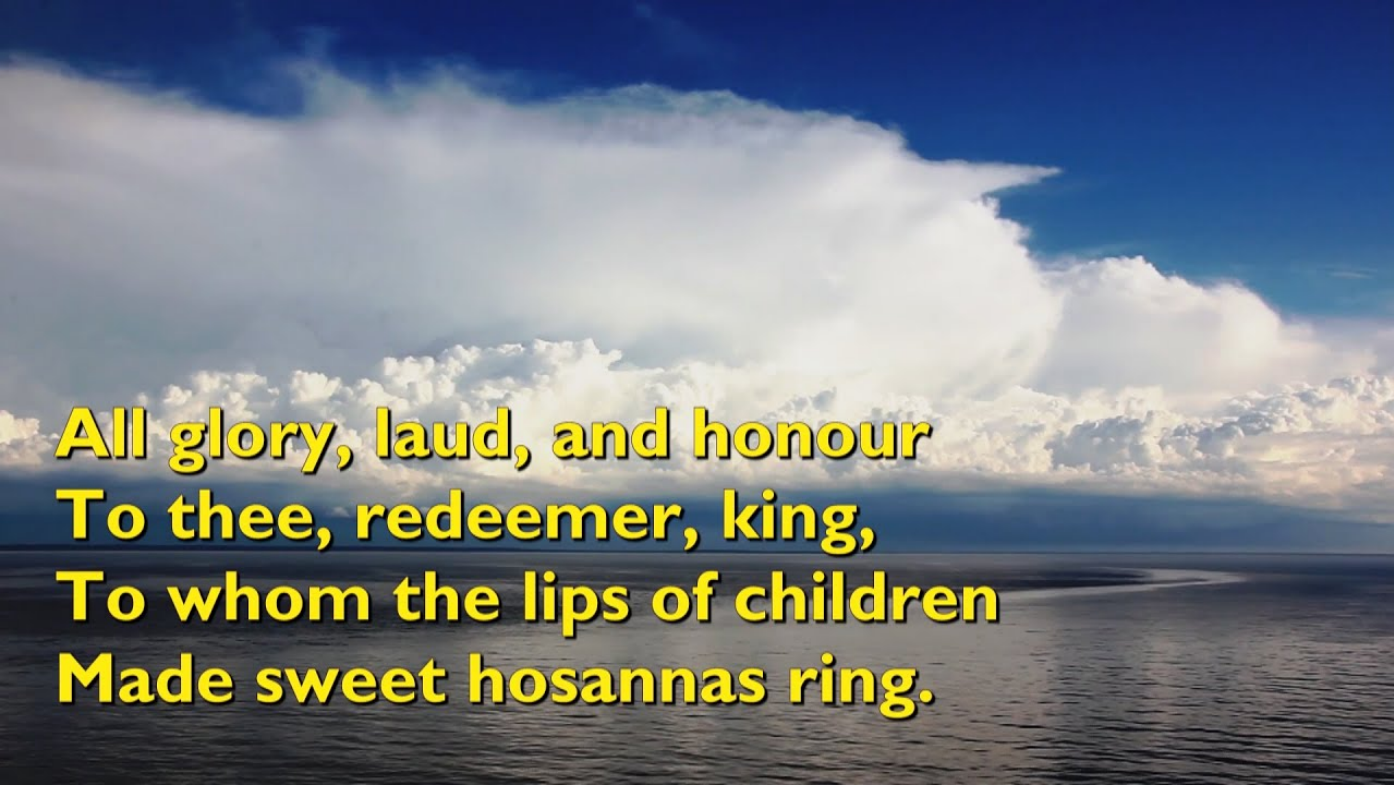
Rev. Howard Wallace & Jinseon Park



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

God's Spirit brought life to this land and blessed your Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, traditional custodians of this land. Before explorers and settlers came to this land, your Spirit was in this place. Your life-giving Spirit connects us to one another. May we, in community, celebrate your Spirit within and among us.

Introit Hymn TIS 333 All glory, praise and honour



**All glory, laud, and honour
To thee, redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.**

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you

Call to Worship

The stone which the builders rejected,
has become the keystone of the corner.

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

This is the day which the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Mighty and merciful God,
You are our rock, our shelter, our light,
our shepherd, our comfort, and our judge.

In these long, Lenten days
when we have searched our souls,
readying ourselves for the call to follow
our crucified and risen Lord,
make us sensitive, we pray,
in this final part of the journey,
to the sayings and searchings of Christ
as He feels His way to the Cross,
seeking to embrace all
that You ask of Him,
so that we in our turn
may learn and engage
with all You are asking of us.
Hosanna! Blessed is He
who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen.

Confession

In this long Lenten pilgrimage,
as we have searched our souls,
readying ourselves for the call to follow
our crucified and risen Lord,
we have had many stumbles,
and groped along many a wrong turning.
We confess the unheeding way
we manoeuvre round the wounded on our Jericho roads,
play deaf to the Samaritan woman full of questions,
shake off the Bartimeuses plucking our sleeve,
dismiss the Zaccheuses as beneath our notice,
hardly break our table conversation
as a Mary Magdalene offers us riches without price.
Help us at this time to face who we are,
but also all we might become.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Hymn TIS 240 All go to God

We turn to God when he is sorely pressed,
and find him poor, scorned, without roof and
bread,
bowed under weight of weakness, sin, and
death:
faith stands by God in his dark hour of grief.

■ Hearing God's Word

A word about the Word

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet,
and a light to our path.

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a 'The Lord God has opened my ear'

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-26 (Read responsively)

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰***This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.***

²¹***I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.***

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵***Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!***

²⁶***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.***

Gospel reading: Mark 11:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." ' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then

those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

*Lord, may your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.*

Prayer with the children

Proclamation of the word Rev. Dr. Howard Wallace [Go to Home Menu then click "SERMONS"](#)



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn TIS 348 Ride on, ride on in majesty



Offering Prayer

Notices and Sharing

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

"Ashkelon shall see it and be afraid; Gaza too, and shall writhe in anguish; Ekron also, because its hopes are withered. ... He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations" (*Zechariah 9:5,10*)

Loving and Holy Spirit of God, hear our prayers. We believe that You want us not just to serve but to pray for the world to whose service You have called us, in all its longing for peace, for justice, for reconciliation.

Hear our prayers today for those who struggle against tyrannies, those damaged by natural disasters or blight caused by others' greed, those forced out from their communities to seek refuge elsewhere; for aid agencies, peace-keeping forces, rescue services at sea, world organisations and alliances, national governments, and those offering a welcome to asylum seekers in our towns.

If statistics are tears, the world weeps for release for so many: the dispossessed, the falsely imprisoned, the undervalued, the cruelly undernourished, the exploited, and the sick; the deeply anxious who have everything and yet nothing, miserable in their comfort, longing for love, to feel of value.

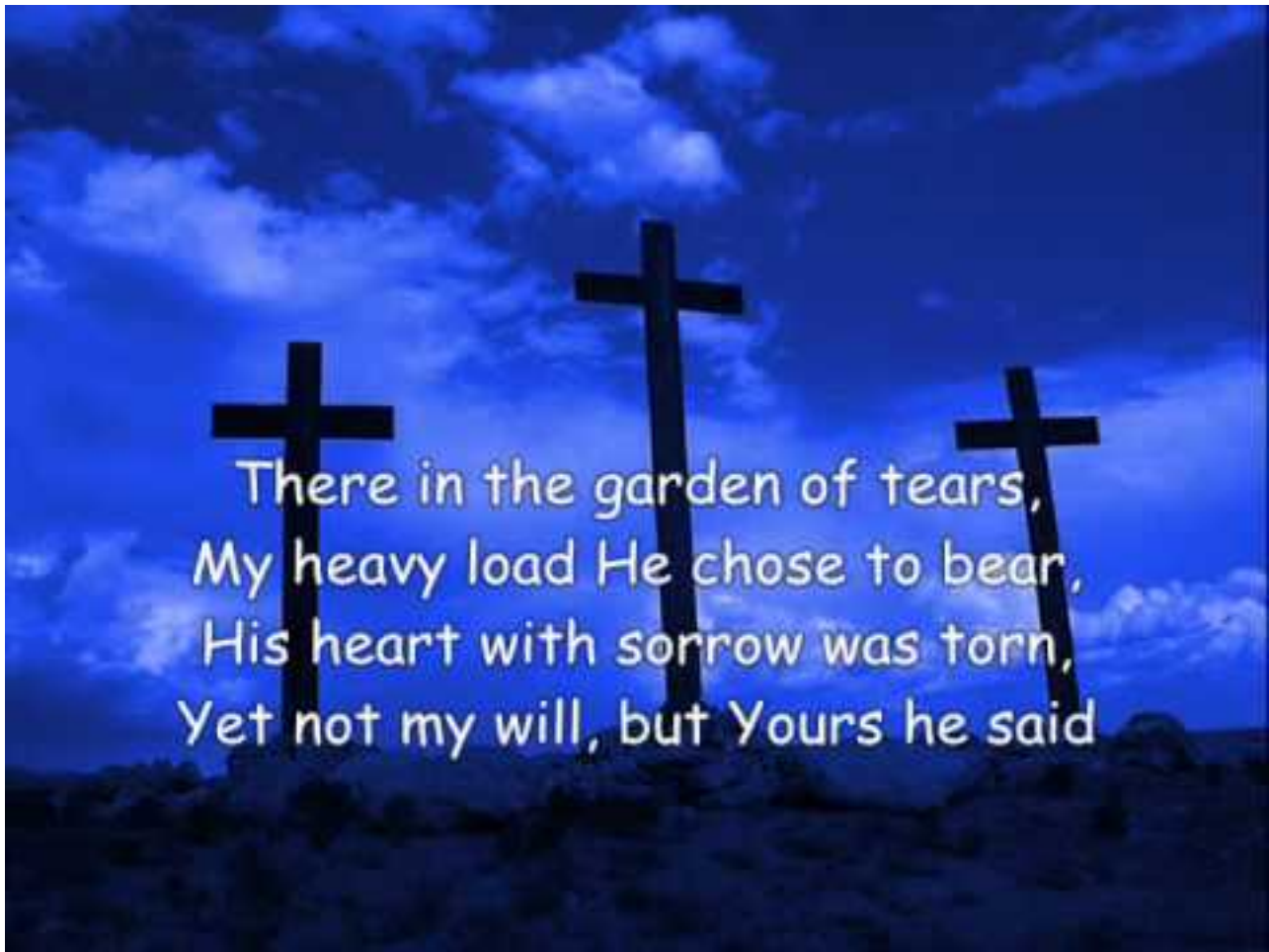
May they and we travel with You to Easter, finding strength and hope in the journey towards renewal and redemption. Grant us the courage to face the challenges ahead and the compassion to support one another along the way.

We also lift up to You our local community, praying for those in need of comfort, healing, and assistance. May we extend a helping hand to our neighbors, showing kindness and solidarity in times of hardship.

With these petitions, we give thanks for saints and martyrs through the centuries, and the many people forgotten by us but known to You, who have challenged injustice and discrimination, given voice to those unnoticed and unheard, and helped to create communities where all are valued. Glory to you, God in Community, Holy and One. Hear us as we pray as Jesus teaches us the Lord's prayer...

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

Hymn TIS 256 From heaven you came



There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load He chose to bear,
His heart with sorrow was torn,
Yet not my will, but Yours he said

Sharing Children's activity & Prayer



THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Benediction

The peace of God,
which is beyond all understanding,
guard your thoughts and your hearts in Jesus Christ.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be with you and those you love,
this day and always. Amen.

Hymn "Make way, make way, for Christ the king"

MAKE WAY, MAKE WAY FOR CHRIST THE KING

