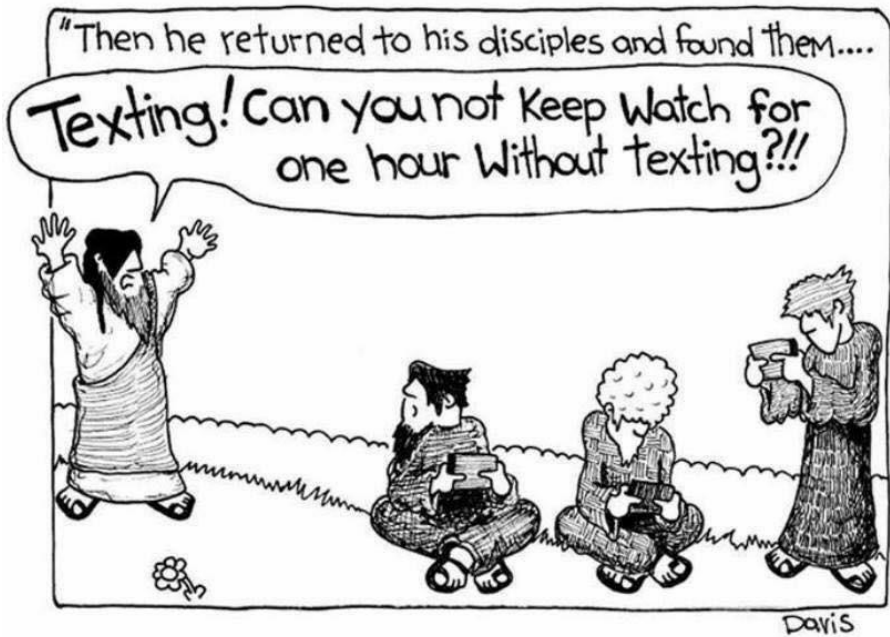


GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

*Matawhero Church – Church Lane
St Andrew's Church and Community Centre:
176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

March 25 2018

Passion Sunday



Ministers:

All the people

Minister: *Rev Petra Barber*

Reader: *Jean Robinson*

Director of Music: *Catherine Macdonald*

Organist: *David Russell*

Choir

We welcome all visitors to our service this morning.

Please sign the Visitors' Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who stand at the back of the church.

A toilet is located in the foyer.

In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes, especially in the hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language with which you are most comfortable.

BOLDED WORDS are for congregational response.

Where there is an asterisk * please stand.

Welcome, Introduction and Notices

Meditation for Palm Sunday

Lenten Meditation

After the candle is extinguished

All: Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbours; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen

Introit & Entry of Bible

CH4 364

*All glory, praise, and honour,
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!*

Thou art the King of Israel
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest
the King and blessed One.

Refrain

The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.

Refrain

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went:
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

Refrain

To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise:
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.

Refrain

Thou didst accept their praises:
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious king.

Theodulph of Orleans

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grief and joy are about to be mixed.

Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, ushers in the most poignant week in the church calendar.

It begins with shouts of praise as Jesus of Nazareth, hero of the common people, enters the Holy City, yet in so doing, marches inexorably towards his bloody death.

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.

*HYMN

CH4 366

**Come into the streets with me!
Come to where the crowds will be,
See a strange and gentle king
On a donkey travelling**

Refrain

*Come and follow my leader,
Come and follow my leader,
Jesus Christ is riding by,
Come and follow my leader!*

**All the people shout his name,
Waving branches, sing his fame,
Throw their coats upon his road,
Glad to praise the Son of God**
Refrain

**If the soldiers draw their swords,
Will we dare to sing these words,
Be his friends for just a day,
Cheer him on, then run away?**
Refrain

**Jesus goes where things are rough,
Jesus knows when life is tough,
Always comes to us, his friends,
So his story never ends.....**

Shirley Murray

PRAYER

Loving God, present in both sunshine and shadow, we watch the drama of salvation with wonder. As we follow Jesus during this holy week, each day drawing nearer to his inevitable suffering and death, we are thankful for every moment of sunshine that fell on his path. We thank you for the common folk and the little children, who sensed a glory that the proud and learned could not see. We thank you for each waving palm frond and every shout of Hosanna. Like latecomers, at the rear of the crowd, we add our praise and pledge our love. Hosanna in the highest!

Amen!

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Repentance is one of the sanest things we can engage in.
Let us pray.

If we have entered this house, fully content with our own goodness and respectability, and feeling superior to others;

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

If we are unaware of the ambiguity of our motives and of the cunning self interest that has crept into our best thoughts and deeds:

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

If we have measured our loving by odious comparisons with those around us, rather than by the exquisite self-giving of the cross;

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Please God, may we have the grace of sincere repentance, and find our true selves gathered up in your healing and freedom. Then having been forgiven, enable us to live as a forgiving people, breaking into the vicious circle of the world's weary blame and counter blame. Let us be a redemptive community, sharing the love with which you have loved us. Through Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Amen!

God does not ask us to wallow in our mistakes, or deny ourselves the grace that abounds in human weakness. Let us take Christ at his word, and live the life of the forgiven and the forgiving.

Amen!

FAMILY/CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Dear Lord Jesus,

we are happy when people cheer you,
and shout Hosanna!

But we are sad when people sneer at you,
and shout bad things.

We want to love God better,
so that the things we say and do

will not add to your hurt
but help make both you and us
as happy as can possibly be.
Amen!

***HYMN**

WOV 203 (i)

**Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to let the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying
were precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down, like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing**

**and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever,
that name to us is Love.**

James Montgomery

Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9

Jean Robinson

ANTHEM

CH4 371

Lay down your head, Lord Jesus Christ,
fast falls the night.
Close follow those who crave your end,
blinded by sight.
God give you rest, strength for your task,
light for our way.
Lay down your head and, by your side,
We'll sleep and stay.

Lay down your head, Lord Jesus Christ,
fast falls the night.
Close follow those who crave your end,
blinded by sight.
God give you rest, strength for your task,
light for our way.
Lay down your head and, by your side,
we'll sleep and stay.

Gospel: Mark 14: 32-42

Rev Petra Barber

*(Dear Parishoners, please read, at your leisure, at home Mark 14 & Mark 15
in one go!)*

SERMON: Passion 35AD vs Passion 2018AD

***HYMN**

CH4 365

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;
hark! All the tribes hosanna cry!
O Saviour meek, pursue your road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;
in lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;
your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty,
in lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your power, and reign!**

Henry Milman

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

***HYMN**

AA 156

**Where the road runs out and the signposts end,
Where we come to the edge of today,
Be the God of Abraham for us,
Send us out upon our way.**

*Lord, you were our beginning,
The faith that gave us birth.
We look to you, our ending,
Our hope for heaven and earth.*

**When the coast is left and we journey on
To the rim of the sky and the sea,
Be the sailor's friend, be the dolphin Christ,
Lead us on to eternity.**

Refrain

**When the clouds are low and the wind is strong,
When tomorrow's storm draws near,
Be the spirit bird hovering overhead
Who will take away our fear.**

Colin Gibson

BLESSING

Exit of Bible

Postlude

*Please join us for a time of fellowship and friendship in the lounge of the Community
Centre next door for a cup of tea or coffee*

****7PM COMBINED SERVICE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH TONIGHT****