

**GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH
WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S GISBORNE**

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

5 April 2020

Lent 6



Ministers: *All the people in Christ*

Minister: *Rev Jin Sook Kim* **Readers:** *Val Hall & Catherine Macdonald*

Director of Music: *Catherine Macdonald*

We gather together as the people of God

Welcome & Notices <https://youtu.be/s6MpZ07YHY0>

(click on link to watch & listen to Rev Jin Sook Kim Welcome & Notices)

We take a few moments of silence to prepare ourselves to worship God

Now close your eyes. Imagine that you see the Bible and Candle, representing the Light of Christ among us is being carried into the Church during the singing of the Introit.

Introit – Nothing, nothing in all creation (HoS #102) v1

Refrain

*Nothing, nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.*

*Nothing, nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.*

**This is our faith:
trouble may break us,
grief overtake us,
sickness and death,
this is our creed:
no place so distant
that God is not present,
knowing our need,**

Call to worship

The way has been prepared.

For the crowds it is the way of celebration.

For Jesus it is the way of completion

Amid shouts and waving palm branches,

he comes into the Holy City.

Open your hearts this day to receive the Saviour.

We open wide our hearts and spirits to receive Jesus the Christ.

AMEN.

We sing – My song is love unknown (CH4 #399, verses 1-5)

My song is love unknown,

my Saviour's love to me,

love to the loveless shown,

that they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I, that for my sake

my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne,

salvation to bestow:

But people scorned,

and none the longed-for Christ would know.

But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,

who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way,

And his sweet praises sing;

Resounding all the day

**Hosannas to their King.
Then ‘Crucify!’ is all their breath,
And for his death they thirst and cry.**

**Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and ‘gainst him rise.**

**They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord done away;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.**

Prayer of praise and confession

O Lord God, whose Son followed your will, both as Servant and Saviour, and now rules in the hearts of those who accept him as King: Open our hearts to his rule, that we may rejoice in the blessings of his kingdom and share with those who honour him with their lives. In his name, we pray. **AMEN.**

Now, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour.
We pray together.

**O God,
we stand at the gate,
hesitant and uncertain;
we are reluctant to answer your invitation;**

**we are slow to embark on the journey
toward your reign.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Grant us the help we need to be your people -
the courage to join you in the procession;
the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you;
the freedom to lift our palms to your glory;
and the knowledge that by your grace we are forgiven. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear this good news!

The procession is ever moving forward.

We can join at any moment.

The invitation still stands!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen!

Story time

Question: What made the Happy Prince happy in the end?

The Happy Prince by Oscar Wilde

**We sing – Will you come and follow me (The Summons),
verses 1-2 & 5**

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

***Readings* (Val Hall)**

Click on the link to watch and listen to Val reading from the bible today

<https://youtu.be/VXXYlMerbuY>

First reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (NRSV)

A Song of Victory

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

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Psalm 118:19-29

- ¹⁹ Open 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.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This 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.
- ²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
- ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God*

Gospel reading: Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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.

³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ “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.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

*This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise to Christ the Word*

Sermon – Whose triumph - the crowd's or God's?

We'll have a moment of silence for reflection while listening to the choir

Anthem - Jesus walked this lonesome valley

Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
He had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
He had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley;
We have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;
We have to walk it by ourselves.

Prayers of Intercession -

written by Jill Wallis and read by Catherine Macdonald

Prayers for Palm Sunday 5th April 2020

As the people spread their coats and palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him into our lives this morning. King of Glory, King of Peace, Servant King, reign in our hearts and live this day and all days. Hear our prayers and even though we are apart, we are one in the body of Christ.

Dear God, we pray for our people who are now in situations that are unknown. Watch over them; comfort and guide them through this time. We pray for all the workers who are looking after us, many of them who have put their own safety at risk.

Counsel those who find it difficult to understand why it is necessary to conform, by opening their hearts and minds.

We pray for those that are finding life difficult whether it be health or emotional. May we be there to nurture and comfort them. Keep them in your care. We pray for the government officials, health workers, and all who are working hard to give us the best possible outcomes for us. We acknowledge the unknown gifts of kindness that are being made by many people and but are known only to you.

We pray for the St Andrew's Parish. We are grateful for the phone and internet to keep the channels of communication. In the days ahead we strive to maintain this vital contact with our parishioners.

We pray for ourselves. Give us strength to love our families, to be kind even when we are tired, and to give our community even when we feel we have nothing to give. We come to you in humility because we are not a perfect people. We know what's right and we would like to do it, but we feel that the road is too hard and too costly. Forgive us for cheering you on your lonely road while we take the easy way.

Let us pray a prayer of faith

*“We believe in the tough, tender, tenacious love of God.
We believe in the persistent, persuasive, passionate proclamation
of Jesus.*

*We believe in the silent, subversive work of God's Spirit.
We believe that we are called to embrace the love of God,
to walk in the way of Jesus and to be open to the Spirit of God.”*

Terry Wall AMEN

Offering

We pray together

**From your hands, O God,
come the blessings that make life possible,
even the very gift of life itself.
In gratitude and thanks,
receive from our hands this portion of our labours.
By your Spirit's leading,
may we use these gifts to bless the life of others
with the assurance of love,
the promise of hope,
and the course of justice.
This we do to your glory. Amen.**

We sing – We are marching in the light of God

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching,
O-o,
we are marching in the light of God,
we are marching,
O-o
we are marching in the light of God.**

Sending

Benediction (Together)

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all now and forever.**

Sing: AMEN x 3 CH4 #819

Korero with Jesus this week



*While strolling around in your garden, collect three objects. One of them will be a pebble that represents our sins; another the cross and the other will represent the love of God in Christ - any object will do – be creative! Keep them till Easter for your personal reflection.

The pebble will be used on Good Friday. 😊

*You might like to share some of this worship and reflection with someone who hasn't got email. If you would like to keep up your freewill offering during this time, the church bank account is:

GPP: 03 0638 0462917 00

Thank you.