

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Palm Sunday – 28th March 2021

Read Mark 11.1-11

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.



Today is a special celebration when we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem with large crowds of people cheering him and celebrating. It was like a big noisy party. The people cut branches of palms and waved them in the air. Then they put their cloaks on the ground in front of Jesus, and the donkey that he was riding walked all over them. The cloaks must have got very dusty and dirty – they may even have been torn. This was an amazing and generous thing to do because many people were poor and only had one set of clothes. Their cloaks were very precious.

Have you ever given someone a special gift, something precious to you? What makes a gift special? Did it make you feel happy to give away something special?

What do we put on the ground now if members of the royal family or celebrities visit? Think about the entrance to Buckingham Palace when there is a special visitor from another country or film stars attending the Oscars.

If the Queen came to visit us we would come out onto the pavements to welcome her but what would we wave instead of leaves or branches?

The Jewish people had been waiting for a Messiah – someone to save them – for centuries. They had definite ideas of what he would be like, and Jesus didn't quite fit those ideas. He said and did some fascinating things, but this procession into Jerusalem seemed all wrong to some Jewish people. A king should be on a horse – a show of power and strength – not on a donkey. Yet the crowd that were there with him were convinced that he was their saviour, and they were celebrating. They shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!"

Activities

- Make a palm tree out of paper.



You will need: a sheet of green A4 paper; sticky tape; scissors.

Roll up the paper, starting at the shorter end. Roll it fairly tightly to create a short tube. Secure the tube with sticky tape at the bottom and about halfway up. Press the non-taped end of the tube flat. Cut it along the centre until you reach the tape in the middle. Cut each of the strips you've created in half again. Separate all the strips to make "branches". If you are careful, you can pull up the middle section of the tube to make the palm tree "grow".

You could use the You Tube "How to make a growing paper tree"

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- Give away something small but precious this week (it could be an actual present or it could be using your time to do something nice for another person). Notice things that other people do for you that are generous.

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for the joy of Palm Sunday when we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem and the crowds cheering him. Today we join in that praise and celebration.

Help us to be full of love, joy and hope throughout this most holy week.

Let our enthusiasm be infectious to those we meet, so that they may feel the warmth of your love in their lives. Amen.