



Palms, sticks, hot cross buns and hallelujahs!

This Sunday, 29 March, is the start of Holy Week – a week in which we journey with Jesus into Jerusalem, mark his final Passover with his disciples, reflect on his arrest, crucifixion, and death, and celebrate the resurrection.

To help us navigate this week, you are welcome to participate in different ways:

- For our *Palm Sunday service (10am, 29 March)* please bring a **palm branch** (or any greenery from your garden!) For those joining our church group for the *Palm Sunday Rally (meeting 12:30pm at the merry-go-round in Petrie Plaza)* you will also need your walking shoes – and a hat!
- For our *Maundy Thursday Service (6pm, 2 April)* you are invited to bring a **stick** to lay it down as you walk the Labyrinth that will be constructed on the church grounds. You can walk the Labyrinth at any time over the Easter weekend, but on Thursday at 6pm we'll be having a brief 'introduction' to the concept of 'walking the Labyrinth' as a form of meditation.
- For our *Good Friday Service (9am, 3 April)* please bring some **hot cross buns** to share. After the service there will be morning tea and hot cross buns served in the courtyard. (You are welcome to drop off hot cross buns this Sunday or during the week, Monday to Thursday, from 9am to 2pm.)
- On *Easter Sunday (5 April)* there is an egg hunt for the whole community at 9am. And at 10am we gather to celebrate Christ's resurrection – bringing nothing but our **hallelujahs!**

You might also, during Holy Week, like to join in our *Zoom morning prayers, Monday to Thursday (30 March to 2 April) from 8am to 8:30am*. The link to morning prayers is here - [Zoom link HERE](#) (and the password is 'Currie'). Everyone is welcome!

This Sunday, as part of our Palm Sunday service, we are reflecting on a poem by Steve Garnaas-Holmes (below). As I thought about the conflicts taking place in our world now, at the way power is being expressed and used, I found these words – reflecting on the contrast of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem – deeply moving. As we lift our troubled world to God at this time, may our hearts and our lives also ‘belong to love’.

Palm Sunday Reflection (Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

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

Psalm 118:22

*The king enters the city
on his war horse
while across town
love rides a donkey.*

*Guns and towers, vast machines,
engines. Generals boast
of victory over the child,
the hard edge over soft flesh.*

*The powerful strut and shamble,
loudspeakers announce their lies.
If there were money in darkness
they'd dismiss the sun.*

*God slips in through
the locked gate, the high wall.
In their high offices the light
is invisible to them.*

*The judge, the warden, the guards
believe you're nothing.
You'll never convince them otherwise.
But the stars know. The air knows.*

*Your peasant heart
rides a donkey, small and tender.
Honor the Royal Majesty
of the heart that belongs to love.*

Grace and peace be with you as we continue this journey with this Jesus.

Belinda