

Canvas Palm Sunday Liturgy

As you circle up, take a few moments to reiterate names so everyone is acquainted.

If you have time for convo, as you go around, people could share a memory, feeling, or idea they associate with Palm Sunday.

Texts:

Triumphal entry: Mark 11:1-11

Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9

Philippians 2:3-11

Optional Song: Thank you for loving me

Collects / call & response:

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Jesus, when you rode into Jerusalem

the people waved palms

with shouts of praise

When the shouting dies

May we still walk beside you even to the cross

Discuss the text:

In the unfolding of the events in this story we see Jesus, our savior, who moves forward with a humble courage. In our day those are two words that so often seem at odds with each other. Why do you think it's so rare to see a combination of humility and courage?

We see a vivid demonstration of crowds of people longing for a leader and hoping for a good future. What issue or cause would bring you forward into a crowd like this? In what ways do you see things like this happening in our day?

People sure are in need of hope AND people sure are fickle. If you could place yourself in the story for a moment, how would it feel to you to go from the high point of celebration of Palm Sunday to the difficulty of the days ahead? How much do we all associate being on the right side with things working out well for us?

Poem: **Palm Sunday** by Malcolm Guite

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,

The seething holy city of my heart,

The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?

Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;

They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,

And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

Discuss the poem / What questions or feelings does this poem raise for you? Is there a particular word, line or section you'd like to take with you for further reflection?

Prayer requests / Take a few moments to see if there are any joys or sorrows the group might hold together in solidarity and prayer. Have one person pray at the end.

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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.