

# St. Peter's Church, Swettenham



## Palm Sunday Family Service

*A very warm welcome to the community here at St. Peter's where worship has been offered on this site since Saxon times. The present Church building has its origins in the late 13<sup>th</sup> Century and has been the place of worship for the village of Swettenham since then. An induction loop system operates here. If you make use of a hearing aid please switch to "T" for enhanced sound. Please ensure that mobile phones, cellular phones and pagers are switched off.*

Today the Church remembers Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Six days later he was to be betrayed and to die. In this liturgy we find the mix of joy at his triumphal arrival and distress at what was to come. This is announced in the receiving and waving of Palm Crosses and in the Passion Gospel.

Today is the first action of Holy Week. We carry palms to remind us of the first Palm Sunday. We sing the praises of Christ the King who will reign on the cross. We join with him, ready to take up our cross and follow, as we walk with him to suffering and death. We also recall that those who cry 'Hosanna' today may shout 'Crucify' on Good Friday.

The Passion Gospel introduces us to Holy Week. The week's services are shaped by the story of the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. But they are also a reflective celebration of the victory over sin and death that he won for all humankind.

### **The Donkey's Tale**

If only I could speak! I have a tale  
to tell that would encourage all whose lot  
it is to bear another's burden. Hot  
and weary worn-out patiently I trail  
along the long and dreary thoroughfares  
of money-making men. Some years ago  
it happened in the dead of night. The snow  
lay thick and silent yet these hairy ears  
so crude and clumsy heard within the stall  
an infant's cry, and gazing round I saw

where beasts should lie a baby in the straw –  
a crossroad child, I thought (I now recall).  
Today I bear Him burdened to a tree.  
I am His coach that rides to victory.

*Harry Wiggett*  
*from Collected Poem 1970-2006*

*Welcome and introduction*

## *THE BLESSING OF PALMS*

*The Presider says:*

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing ourselves to celebrate our Lord's death and resurrection. Today, we come together to begin this solemn celebration. With these palms we recall how Christ entered his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us now go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

**All hold up their palm crosses.**

*The Presider says THE BLESSING:*

O God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, bless these palms to be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 19.28–40

Reader Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this, "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people

kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop'. He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out'.

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Remain standing to sing the Hymn Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising*

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray,  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Keep me praising 'till the break of day.

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King.*

Give me peace in my heart, keep me praying,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray,  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me praying,  
Keep me praying 'till the end of day.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray,  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Keep me praising 'till the break of day.

Give my oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray,  
Give my oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Keep me burning 'till the end of day.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
Keep me resting 'till the end of day.

*Please kneel or sit the INTRODUCTION and INVITATION to CONFESSION*

*Presider* And now we have a chance to say sorry for the things that we have done wrong and all the good things we have forgotten to do. We ask God to forgive us and help us to be better in the future.

**All** **Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We are especially sorry for the many times when we have taken our homes and family for granted and made life more difficult by our selfishness and thoughtlessness. Have mercy upon us, cleanse us from our sins and help us to overcome our faults; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Presider* May God our Father forgive you your sins, and bring you to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever. **Amen.**

*All remain kneeling or sitting for THE COLLECT:*

Almighty and everlasting God, who, in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand to sing the GRADUAL HYMN: There is a green hill far away*

1 There is a green hill far away,  
Without a city wall,  
Where the dear Lord was crucified  
Who died to save us all.

2 We may not know, we cannot tell,  
What pains he had to bear,  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.

4 There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heaven, and let us in.

3 He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good;  
That we might go at last to heaven,  
Saved by his precious blood.

5 O, dearly, dearly has he loved,  
And we must love him too,  
And trust in his redeeming blood,  
And try his works to do.

*Please sit* The Presider and Congregation say **THE PASSION ACCORDING TO  
ST. LUKE 23.1 - 49**

This is the Passion of the Lord.

**Evangelist** Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate.  
They began to accuse him, saying,

**All** 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.'

**Evangelist** Then Pilate asked him,

**Pilate** 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

**Evangelist** He answered,

**Jesus** 'You say so.'

**Evangelist** Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

**Pilate** 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.'

**Evangelist** But they were insistent and said,

**All** 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

**Evangelist** When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

**Pilate** 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has

Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

**Evangelist** Now he was obliged to release someone for them at the festival. Then they all shouted out together,

**All** 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!'

**Evangelist** (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

**All** 'Crucify, crucify him!'

**Evangelist** A third time he said to them,

**Pilate** 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.'

**Evangelist** But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

*Please stand*

**Evangelist** As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

**Jesus** 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

**Evangelist** Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The

Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

**Jesus** 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.'

**Evangelist** And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

**All** '**He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!**'

**Evangelist** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

**All** '**If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!**'

**Evangelist** There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

**One** 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'

**Evangelist** But the other rebuked him, saying,

**Other** 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.'

**Evangelist** Then he said,

**Other** 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

**Evangelist** Jesus replied,

**Jesus** 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

**Evangelist** It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

**Jesus** 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'

**Evangelist** Having said this, he breathed his last (*a moment of silence follows*)

**Evangelist** When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said:

**Centurion** 'Certainly this man was innocent.'

**Evangelist** And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

*All remain standing for a short period of silence after the recitation of the Passion.*

ADDRESS

*The Choir will sing Steal Away*

*All stand to say THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:*

*Presider:* Let us declare our faith in God

**All:**        **We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The Presider says:*

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

*Please kneel or sit for THE INTERCESSION*

**Response**

Lord in Your mercy

**All**    **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father

**All**    **Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*All stand to sing THE OFFERTORY HYMN My song is love unknown, during which a collection is taken. If you use one of the Gift Aid envelopes you add 25% to the value of your offering.*

1. My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
O, who am I,  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take  
frail flesh, and die?

2. He came from his blest throne,  
salvation to bestow:  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O, my friend,  
my friend indeed,  
who at my need  
his life did spend!

3. 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.

*Presider:* The Lord be with you  
**All And also with you**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts  
**All We lift them to the Lord**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our  
**All It is meet and right so to do**

*The Presider continues:*

4. They rise, and needs will have  
my dear Lord made 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.

5. In life no house, no home,  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb,  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was his home;  
but mine the tomb  
wherein he lay.

6. Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine!  
this is my friend,  
in whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
could gladly spend.

And now we give you thanks because, for our salvation, he was obedient even to death on the cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Presider* Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.

**All Jesus Christ has died.**

*Presider* Jesus Christ is risen.

**All Jesus Christ is risen.**

*Presider* Jesus Christ will come again.

**All Jesus Christ will come again.**

*Presider* Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory. For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All remain kneeling or seated. The Presider says:*

As we join our prayers with those of the Church Universal, so we say the prayer our Saviour Christ has taught us,

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All remain kneeling or seated for THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD:*

*The Presider says:*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**All We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*The Presider continues:*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Those wishing to receive Communion come forward, if you receive Communion in your own church you are welcome to do so here. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come for a blessing. Please carry this booklet with you to indicate to the priest that you are asking for a blessing. During Communion the Choir will sing This is the Day.*

*Please Kneel or sit to say THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:*

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

**All Almighty God, whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Presider says THE BLESSING:*

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in Him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Please stand to sing hymn Ride on, ride on in majesty!*

1. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
in lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

2. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
the wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

3. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed son.

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

*All remain standing. The Presider says THE DISMISSAL:*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

### **Services at St. Peter's**

#### **Good Friday March 25th**

11.30 am Devotional Service

#### **Easter Day Sunday March 27th**

11.15 am Family Communion

6.30 pm Evensong

### **SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S, GOOSTREY**

Monday 21st	7.30 pm	Night Prayer
Tuesday 22nd	7.30 pm	Night Prayer
Wednesday 23rd	9.45 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	The Stations of the Cross
Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Parish Communion & Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday	10.00 am	Children's Workshop in Old School Hall followed by egg-rolling and a short Service
	2.00 pm	The Last Hour
Saturday 26th	7.30 pm	Easter Vigil, Lighting of the Paschal Candle & renewal of Baptism vows