

Dear Ipswich City Church family

Palm Sunday - Church Decorated

Although we could not be together in the church for our Palm Sunday celebration today. Ruth & Gordon went out to the church yesterday and decorated it as a witness to Jesus. Hopefully it will also be a sign of hope for the community.



Daily Reflection



THIS IS THE DAY

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24, NRSV)

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. We also celebrate the new day. For the psalm writer, it was a day after being delivered from some trouble. It was also a day of going to the Temple in worship in one of the great festivals. It will be a great day when we are again able to enter our churches, gather for sporting events, family events and in social and community groups.

But even this day when we have gathered virtually is still a day that the Lord has made. Even Palm Sunday as Jesus rode toward his death was a day the Lord had made, as was Good Friday. In the midst of it, we cannot always make much sense of the day. We celebrate in faith and invite others to celebrate, to "give thanks in every circumstance". We give thanks and rejoice, not in the suffering and loss but in the things we can. We give thanks for the lives, loves and contribution of those who have died. We give and express thanks for those who serve us at some risk to themselves. (For instance, doctors, nurses, retailers, teachers and many others.)

So give thanks today and share that thanks with others. We may not be able to make sense of these days but we believe on this Day about two thousand years ago, God as one of us rode into Jerusalem toward death, and on that day and in that week also give thanks and rejoiced.

Lord we give thanks for and rejoice in this Day, even though we do not fully understand it. We give special thanks that in Jesus you share this day with us. Help us to share our joy and thanksgiving with others. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Yours in Jesus

Andrew

Rev. Andrew Gillies