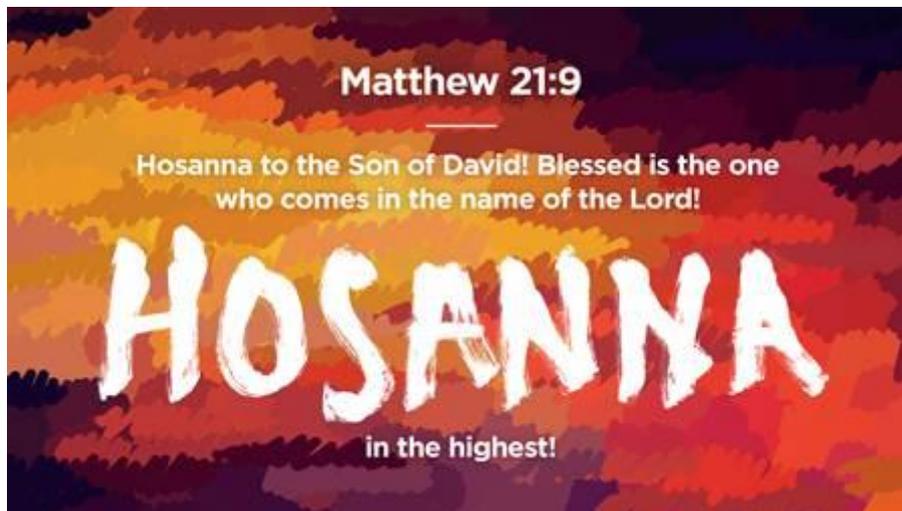


Dear Ipswich City Church family

Daily Reflection

Today's Daily reflection is a reprint of the Newslink reflection plus a short prayer and an image. I will send a fresh reflection for Sunday.



"The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
(Matthew 21:9, NRSV)

Palm Sunday - A failed King?

In the way that the media, a political party, or an economist would measure it, Jesus in his lifetime was a failure. He didn't make the most of his success as a healer and preacher. He did not surround himself with the "right" people. He was hailed as a king not riding a great white horse but a donkey. At the end of his life he was hailed as "The King" in a bitter irony, with a crown of thorns. He died naked, publically shamed and humiliated on a Roman cross. Yet no-one else has been more influential on history.

Care for the marginalised, compassion for the needy, the division of time into BC and AD, inspiration for the arts, comfort for the grieving, food and healing for the needy, and hope and strength and light for those in darkness. Why do it this way, in what seemed to be a failure?

Most importantly so God in Jesus could fix your sin and broken-ness from inside the human condition and share with you, his unbroken relationship with the one he called Father. Secondly so you

could know that God can use and include anything and anyone, even YOU, though you may not be great, and in spite of your failures and imperfections.

At this time of isolation you may not feel that you can do very much, but already I am hearing many stories of people encouraging and supporting others. We cannot know how God will use our modest actions. Like Jesus God will use your lives to do significant things even beyond your mortal life.

Questions for thought and discussion

What failures have you experienced in life?

In what ways is God asking you to persevere and step out in faith, even if you do not see the final outcome of your obedience? What kind of legacy will you leave behind?

Prayer

Lord we thank you that in Jesus you came among us as a humble carpenter and as the lord of all. Help us to recognise that if you can use carpenters, fishermen, donkeys, young and old, men and women, you can certainly use us. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Rev. Andrew Gillies