**The Churches of St Mary, Haxby and St Nicholas, Wigginton**

The United Benefice of Haxby and Wigginton

*Stepping out … with God … with each other … with our local community and wider world*

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**Worship and Notice Sheet: 5th April 2020**

**Palm Sunday**

*You may like to use this form of worship, possibly at the time you normally attend church.*

‘Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.’ (*Psalm 103:1)*

**Opening Sentences**

God’s grace, mercy and peace be with you. We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise his presence with us where we are.

*You may like to light a candle, if safe to do so.*

Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus Christ who rode into Jerusalem on a humble colt, not a King but a servant; forgive us when we think too much of ourselves and not enough of our neighbours. As we pray through this coming week, may we be reminded of your purpose for walking among us, and be alive to your call for us to live lives of service. Amen

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

**Collect for Palm Sunday (The Sixth Sunday of Lent)**

Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

**Palm Sunday Gospel.**

*There is a reading by Revd Nigel Benson of the ‘Palm Gospel’ on the website.*

**Psalm verses**

‘Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget his benefits-

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.’ *(Ps. 103: 2-4)*

**Bible Reading** (*Particularly for those who feel lonely and isolated)*

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. *(Ephesians 2:19-22 NRSV)*

[*The Readings set for the Eucharist today are:*

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a; Philippians 2: 5 - 11; Matthew 21: 1 – 11]

**Reflection**

*There is a reflection for the day provided by the Rector on the benefice website. You may like to listen to it now, or later.*

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ*

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;

he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. *Amen.*

**Intercessions** *(prepared by Bev Crapper)*

**“Thank the Lord for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.”** (Psalm 118)

Heavenly Father, receive our prayers as we face our fragility against the invisible enemy encircling the earth. Our churches are locked but, we thank you for the work of the clergy and laity (of all faiths and denominations), calm voices in the face of wide-spread anxiety.

**“Thank the Lord for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.”**

Heavenly Father, this Palm Sunday we cannot meet to shout our praise to Christ. Yet no matter what happens, Christ is with us. Let our ‘Hosannas’ be in prayer and thanks for the joys we receive from neighbours and friends, for a smile or a wave across the street. Strengthen those who govern the nations of the world, offer stamina and expertise to those seeking ways to combat this virus.

**“Thank the Lord for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.”**

Heavenly Father, we lay not palms and cloaks, but our worries and fears, our anguish and despair, our anger and our weeping as we acknowledge the challenges posed by Covid19. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the selflessness, skills, resilience and compassion of NHS staff. We offer thanks for all who work to feed the nation and to maintain our way of life irrespective of the risks. Together we can show we are not people of fear: but are people of God. Help us to reveal our courage and generosity of spirit.

**“Thank the Lord for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.”**

Heavenly Father, we bring before you all who are ill at this time: weakened in body, mind and spirit. In quietness, we pray for all in need of care: most we will never know and those known to us.

 **“Thank the Lord for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.”**

Heavenly Father, Your Son shared life on earth to show us death is not an end, but a new beginning. Help all who grieve to know their loved ones are in Your safe keeping. Comfort those unable to say goodbye.

**“Thank the Lord for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.” Merciful Father, accept these prayers in the name of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

‘May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Jesus Christ, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ *(Romans 15: 5-6)*

**The Conclusion**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the peace of the Lord be with us.

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| **Pastoral support**Please be assured of our thoughts and prayers at this anxious time, and please also pray for those who are dealing with this difficult and rapidly changing situation.  Please contact us if you need: |
| Rector: The Revd Kathryn Jackson 765155Curate: The Revd Nigel Benson 07484 646470 |
| Churchwardens - Haxby | Churchwardens - Wigginton |
| Jane Ashby 07949 012694 | Rob Calvert 07854 419612 |
| Wendy Fogerty 490606 | Mary Lister 07751 885571 |

**Notices for the week beginning Sunday 5th April**

There are a number of resources on the ‘Palm Sunday Worship’ page of the benefice website.

Palm crosses: We have been advised that we should not distribute palm crosses, for hygiene reasons. One suggestion is that you might like to make a cross out of paper or card and place it in your window.

We continue to hear lovely stories of ways in which you are all looking after each other and our local community. Please continue to do this especially while we cannot meet in our churches for worship.

We are trying to send round updates, news and resources on email.

Many have said they are happy for their email address to be shown and a small number are included in the circulation list, but their email addresses are not visible (bcc). If you are aware of others who are on email but are not yet included please do let me know or ask them to contact me by email at rectorkathryn@btinternet.com or by phone at 01904 765155.

We are also trying to keep in touch by phone with those not on email.

If you think there is a member of the congregation who is not on

e-mail but would like to receive this service sheet please let Kathryn know.

A special thank you to our Pastoral Support Teams for all their hard work.

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