

Easter 2020 - Palm Sunday

O Come O Come Immanuel

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MD-jBLZSZNU>

Lyrics

For thousands of years they had waited. Through exile and famine and slavery they had waited. One day a Messiah would come. The Messiah would save them, freeing them and bringing peace to their people. Generations of young people learned the stories of their people, the promises of the Messiah, what to look for. They knew the prophecies off by heart.

Jesus had been with them for about 3 years. Time and time again, they had witnessed God working miracles, had listened to stories for hours and sat quietly in awe of what was unfolding in front of them. This was it! The Messiah was really here! Any day now, he'd make his move. They'd already started to discuss amongst themselves who would be in positions of power when his kingdom came to be. Some were growing impatient and trying to look for ways to hurry the process along a little. He was clearly the Son of God and would make a far more wise and compassionate leadership than they had already. He was giving them hope where there had for so long been none.

So when Jesus sent two of his disciples on ahead to arrange for a donkey, the disciples started exchanging eager glances. They knew the prophecies, they knew what this meant. Jesus seemed more thoughtful and quiet, but no one really noticed in all the excitement.

Jer 23:5, 6 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'	
Jer. 33:16 (NET) 33:16 Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety and Jerusalem will live in security. At that time Jerusalem will be called "The Lord has provided us with justice."	
	The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

	<p>Because he has annointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blund, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour Luke 4:18-19</p>
<p>Micah 5:2 (NET) 5:2 (5:1) As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah – from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf, one whose origins are in the distant past.</p>	
<p>Isaiah 9:6–7 English Standard Version 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this</p>	

All glory laud and honor -

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plc0cpQA2k>

The two disciples hurried into the next town, eager to play their part in bringing on the new kingdom. As they were approaching the edge of town, everything was as Jesus said it would be. There was a young donkey, standing with its mother, tied near a doorway. Some people were standing chatting around the front of the house and understandably were a little bewildered as to why these two young strangers were wandering off with a donkey. They told them that the Lord needed it and would send it back shortly, as they had been told to do. The owners nodded their permission, watching them leave with some curiosity, perhaps calling the family and wandering out to see the spectacle. The young donkey had never been ridden - unbroken animals were of particular religious significance - and it was a little restless at these two strangers leading it away, but with a little coaxing and some gentle scratching behind the ears, it was happy to follow its new friends off for an adventure, even if it did get a little distracted on the way. When they finally got it to Jesus, he bent down to look in its beautiful big eyes and stroke its nose gently. It sensed the weight his heart was carrying, shook its head restlessly, then relaxed and nuzzled in for a hug, and Jesus laughed.

<p>Zec 9:9, 10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.</p>	<p>Php 2:4-8 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.</p>
	<p>Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world Jn 1:29</p>

Many of the people in Jerusalem for the Passover, recognised Jesus. He'd been through their town, they'd heard him teach, they knew someone he'd healed. They heard that he was heading for Jerusalem and they came out to welcome him. Like the disciples, they too were hoping that maybe, finally, Jesus would make his move. As he got onto the donkey, a symbol of peace and the kind of animal princes rode on their way to their coronation, you could feel the excitement growing and a few people started cheering. Their ancestors had longed for this day. Already a few people were laying their cloaks down on the road, a symbol of royal homage. Children were hoisted onto shoulders so they could see, a few

were waving palm branches, celebrating victory. If anyone noticed the silence of Jesus, they didn't say anything. There was a party to be had.

All hail the power of Jesus name

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpQ6KTZmXgY>

Hosanna to the son of David	Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord	Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
Hosanna in the highest	If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David	I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for

	the morning.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest	Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.
Blessed is the king of Israel	He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Days of Elijah -

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca9LnzJnpjQ>

Proudly the disciples walked on, singing and waving and joyful. They were at the forefront of a revolution. Walking in the footsteps of their ancestors, living in the future they could only hope for. Wrongs would be made right, the oppressed would be set free. The flaming bush that began their march of freedom out of slavery, the pillar of fire that had been the presence of God by night during the exodus... it had been a long dark night, but the flame of God-with-us was burning brighter than ever, and they were a part of this kingdom. Even the mumbling Pharisees could not dim their spirit, they were on fire for their God. With hearts full of zeal and enthusiasm for building God's kingdom on earth, on they went like a mighty river of people and palm branches and right at the centre of it sat Jesus, jolting along on a donkey. Recognising faces he loved and reminding himself why he had to be here, but feeling so alone.

Let the flame burn brighter -

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLsdgfAvluw>

Lyrics:

<https://www.grahamkendrick.co.uk/songs/graham-kendrick-songs/make-way-for-the-cross-let-the-flame-burn-brighter/we-worship-at-your-feet-come-and-see>

As the crowd neared the top of the hill overlooking Jerusalem, Jesus seemed lost in his thoughts. He stopped, and the crowd looked around in confusion, not understanding the tears falling from his face.

	Luke 19: 42 If you, even you had only known on this day what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from your eyes
	Luke 13:34 Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate.

Ride on to Die - Michael Card

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dI9M6iClw90>