**Palm Sunday Praise**

Welcome:

Opening Prayer:

God of times and seasons, who gives and sustains all life, we gather in your name and seek your blessing on our community. May we celebrate and sing of the knowledge of your love. May we offer ourselves to you in joy and thanksgiving. May we share with one another the blessings of your goodness. **Amen.**

As you call us to worship,

Lift up our voices to sing your praise,

**Lift up our hearts in joyful worship**

Open our ears to hear your word

**Open our eyes to behold your glory**

For you are our promised King

**The God of our salvation. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: 10,000 reasons

*Bless the Lord*

*O my soul, O my soul*

*Worship His holy name*

*Sing like never before*

*O my soul*

*I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Chorus*

You’re rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

10,000 reasons for my heart to find

*Chorus*

And on that day when my strength is failing

the end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

10,000 years and then forever more

*Chorus*

Confession:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**Almighty God, long suffering and of great goodness.**

**I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart**

**My neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,**

**My wrongdoing, thinking and speaking,**

**The hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone.**

**O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;**

**And raise me up to newness of life**

**Through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

Who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins

To all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him;

Have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all, your sins,

Confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;

And bring you to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: Psalm 118:18-29

Spotlight:

Palm cross prayer:

God our Saviour,

whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;

let these palms 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. **Amen.**

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Address:

Prayers:

Lord Jesus, who alone is worthy,

who alone has redeemed all creation

by the shedding of your precious blood;

You alone give and sustain all life by your word

You alone raise up the weak and give hope to the despairing

You alone behold our suffering and carry our tears in the palm of your hand.

Look upon us in our great need and have mercy,

Forgive us and draw us back to yourself,

Heal us that we may live again and restore us that we may rejoice in you.

For you alone are our King and our Saviour. **Amen.**

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. Amen.

We give thanks for all our doctors and nurses

who are fighting on the frontline against Coronavirus.

We pray for their protection and well-being,

for your power to sustain them and your love to enfold them

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the many workers and volunteers

in our emergency and essential services,

our businesses and government agencies.

We pray for endurance and encouragement

As they work to protect us and provide for us.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves,

for situations where our faith burns dim

and our strength grows weak;

where our hopes are dashed

and our hearts are broken

We bring all to our Lord in the silence...  
Lord in you mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our churches, our homes

and our neighbourhoods that God’s love may be known

in the care we show to one another,

through acts of kindness and thoughtful deeds  
We bring to the Lord the situations and concerns for those we cherish…

Lord in you mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are alone,

who suffer pain or distress,

who are fearful of days to come,

and unsure of where to turn.

Lord we entrust them to your faithful love...  
Lord in you mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**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.**

Closing Hymn: In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,

He is my light, my strength, my song;

This cornerstone, this solid ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,

When fears are stilled, and strivings cease!

My comforter, my all in all,

Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone – who took on flesh,

Fullness of God in helpless Babe!

This gift of love and righteousness,

Scorned by the ones he came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied,

For every sin on Him was laid;

Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,

Light of the world by darkness slain,

Then, bursting forth in glorious day,

Up from the grave he rose again!

And as He stands in victory

Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am His and He is mine –

Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,

This is the power of Christ in me;

From life’s first cry to final breath,

Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand;

Till he returns or calls me home,

Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!

Blessing:

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement

Grant us a spirit of unity and solidarity. **Amen.**

May the God who loves us as his children,

Grant us grace to serve one another with fervour and zeal. **Amen.**

May the God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him,

That our lives may overflow with hope by the power of God’s Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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