



# Kaurihohore Historic Church

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## Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

### Sunday 13 April 2025 – Palm Sunday

Today's service has been prepared by Rosalie Gwilliam,  
one of our Lay Preachers

#### **Welcome to our service this morning.**

In working together on our shared mission, we commit to seven core values:

***Togetherness, Humility, Curiosity, Love, Inclusiveness, Justice, Sustainability.***

**Justice:** we hope for a better world for all and work together to be part of making that happen.

#### **Welcome**

#### **Introduction to Theme**

This morning we join with the crowds and shout our praises as we follow Jesus on the path of living God's way of self-giving love and wonder what courage is needed to stay on this path with Jesus.

#### **Hymn 48 WH&V: [The Children Sing Hosanna](#)**

*Lyrics: Jan Chamberlin*

*Tune: Penlan*

1. The children sing hosanna in voices strong and sweet.  
They cut the green palm branches and strew them in the street.  
Upon a humble donkey he rides into the town  
with none of earthly trappings; a king without a crown.

2. The crowd grows large and noisy. 'Praise to the King', they shout.  
The man has such a presence, how can there be a doubt?  
They throw their coats before him and claim him as their own;  
a ruler of his people, a king without a throne.

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Mission Statement: Sharing God's love, creating hope, working for justice.

3. So now we celebrate him and praise his holy name.  
The language may be different: the message is the same.  
Without an earthly kingdom or costly treasure hoard,  
Our Saviour still has countless confessing him as Lord.

### **Candle Lighting**

We have gathered here, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine. I invite you now to close your eyes and let go of the things that distract and concern you. Listen! The time is drawing near. Jesus is preparing to enter Jerusalem. How will we greet him? Will we follow him all the way to the cross? The power of Jesus is that he lived what he taught, even when it led to his death. He lived with an abiding awareness of God, radiating the light of God in all he said and did. But that light was too much for the world. There are forces today, as there were in ancient Judea, that conspire to put it out. Where are we in this drama? What are we willing to risk to follow Jesus?

*Silence*

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

*The candle is extinguished*

*Let us pray*

Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbours; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen

### **Call to Worship (Psalm 118, Luke 19)**

When they came near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead, saying

‘Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord has need of it.’

**This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Chime or gong sounds. Cover the table with a purple cloth.*

After bringing the colt to Jesus and throwing their cloaks on its back, the disciples set Jesus upon it. As he rode along, the people spread their cloaks upon the road.

**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing. It is marvelous in our eyes.**

*Chime or gong sounds*

Open the gates of righteousness, O God, that we may enter through them.

**This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Begin light joyful music underneath. Light a candle*

The Lord is God, and God has given us light as a lamp to our feet.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

*Chime or gong sounds as music continues to play.*

Bind the festival procession with palm branches. Enter the gates of righteousness with shouts of thanksgiving.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. peace in heaven, and glory to God in the highest heaven!**

Hearing the crowd's shouts of praise, some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop'.

*Music stops abruptly on the word 'stop'*

But Jesus answered

'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

*Play music that evokes the sound of stones*

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **Prayer**

Gracious God, foundation of our faith, your Son humbles himself on the back of a donkey. Then he entered Jerusalem in lowly estate to bring joy to the hearts of children. Forsaking his place at your side, Jesus emptied himself of prestige and power to become a servant to all. Of this day of joy and remembrance, sing in our hearts once more, that we too may dance with the children – for to such belong, the kingdom of heaven. Amen

**Hymn 836 MHB: [Hosanna, Loud Hosanna](#)**

*Tune Aurelia*

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple, the lovely anthem rang;  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
The children sang his praises, the simplest and the best.

2. From Olivet they followed, midst an exultant crowd,  
Waving the victor palm branch, and shouting clear and loud.  
Bright angels joined the chorus, beyond the cloudless sky;  
Hosanna in the highest, glory to God on high.

3. Fair leaves of silvery olive they strewed upon the ground,  
Whilst Salem's circling mountains echoed the joyful sound.  
The Lord of all and angels rode on in lowly state'  
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

4. Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song we sing;  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King:  
O may we ever praise him, with heart and life and voice,  
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

### **Prayer of Yearning** (*Luke 22-23*)

**God of righteousness, draw near to us, in this coming week. We yearn to keep singing our hosannas, but fear that we too may lose our convictions, in the face of an angry mob. We long to see ourselves, as your champions, but fear that we too might deny you, or betray you with a kiss. Strengthen our resolve, during Holy Week, that we may remain, your faithful disciples. Amen.**

Christ has opened the gates of righteousness and beckons us to walk through.  
The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone of our salvation.

### **Hymn 219 TIS:** [Jesus Comes With All His Grace](#)

*Tune: Buckland*

1. Jesus comes with all his grace, comes to save a fallen race,  
object of our glorious hope, Jesus comes to lift us up.

2. Let the living stones cry out, every child of Abraham shout;  
Praise we all our lowly king, give him thanks, rejoice and sing.

3. He has our salvation wrought, he our captive souls has bought,  
he has reconciled to God, he has washed us in his blood.

4. We are now his lawful right, walk as children of the light;  
we shall soon obtain the grace, pure in heart, to see his grace.

5. We shall gain our calling's prize; after God we all shall rise,  
filled with joy, and love, and peace, perfected in holiness.

**Reading:** Luke 19: 28-40

(p1633)

## Reflection: The Donkey's Owner

Snaffled my donkey, he did ... good luck to him!  
rode him astride, feet dangling, near scraping the ground.  
Gave me the laugh of my life when I first saw him,  
remembering yesterday ... you know, how Pilate came  
bouncing the same road, on that horse of his.  
Big as a house and the armour shining,  
and half of Rome trotting behind him. Tight mouthed he was  
looking as if he owned the world.

Then today,  
him on my little donkey! Ha! Laugh?  
I thought I'd kill myself when he first started.  
So did the rest of them. Gave him a cheer  
like he was Caesar himself, only more hearty:  
tore off some palm twigs and followed shouting,  
whacking the donkey's behind ..... then suddenly  
we see his face.  
The smile was gone, and somehow the way he sat  
was different .... Like he was much older ... you know ...  
didn't want to laugh no more.

Powerful stuff. At first the donkeys' owner thinks it's just a laugh, but when he sees the face of Jesus, something profound spears his heart. 'didn't want to laugh no more'.

The story of Jesus entering Jerusalem turns the notion of a kingly authority on its head. While Jesus, riding on a donkey was fulfilling a prophecy about how the Messiah would come (Zechariah 9:9) *Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter, Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* This mode of entry into Jerusalem was also very different from the expectations of those who had real political clout.

It was riding a horse that showed that you had status. Horses were rare and only available to the upper classes. They were symbols of military might. Every ruler had to have them – they went with the job. (Like a car sometimes now goes with our countries leaders)

By riding a donkey, borrowed as well, Jesus turned the notion of kingly authority on its head. In this act his statement to those who trusted in chariots and warhorses were 'my way is very different.'

If his actions were a statement to those who trusted the sword to secure their future, they also speak today to those who trust in the military might of tanks and warplanes, drones and laser-guided missiles. It's not the way of the borrowed donkey. Might means nothing.

The donkey also speaks to our hunger for status. We seek status by so many means. Be it the technology we own, the position we hold, the house we live in, the clothes we wear or the car we drive. But it's not the way of the borrowed donkey. Status means nothing.

The donkey story also speaks to our desire to be accepted with the right people. The old saying goes 'it's not what you know, but who you know'. But Jesus makes no attempt to be with the right people. All the powerful people lined up against him. The Jewish religious leaders and the Roman political leaders. His palm-waving procession was made up of peasants and paupers. Sidling up to the rich and powerful is not the way of the borrowed donkey.

Until this time, there had been little opportunity to voice praises to Jesus. Any suggestion of proclaiming him to be king would have been politically dangerous. But at this time, on this day, the crowds shout out 'blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord' –and comes on a borrowed donkey, no less!

God must be worshipped. Not because God is vain and likes to have everyone acknowledge his greatness, but because it puts everything into the right perspective. When we acknowledge the greatness of God we have a better view of ourselves and all creation.

Realising the implications of the crowd's shouts of praise, the religious leaders try to shut them up. 'Teacher, get your disciples to stop shouting!' to which Jesus replied 'If they kept quiet the stones would shout out!

God must be worshipped – whether it be by our shouting, or by our silence; by our singing or by our actions.

We can so easily turn the simple act of praise and giving ourselves to God, into a self-centred exercise:

I only like singing the new choruses'

or, I only like the old hymns.

I only like quiet worship

or, I only like loud worship.

And so we could go on.

When we want to stamp corporate worship with our own preferences, we make ourselves the centre of worship .... And the stones are ready to rebuke us. By whatever means we are to praise God. Offer praise to him because of who he is and because of what he has done.

On Palm Sunday, the crowds shouted 'long live the King.' It was a black joke, for within a week the king was dead, condemned by the crowds. Did the mouths that shouted 'hosanna' also shout 'crucify him?'

The risks of joining with Jesus on this day were unknown for the adoring crowd.

But we know what was in the week ahead. The crowds that worshipped on Palm Sunday were nowhere to be seen on Good Friday. Some turned against him, some denied that they knew him, and some ran away. Only one of Jesus 12 special friends was to be found at the foot of the cross.

So do we dare to follow him, follow the way of the donkey, when we know there is a price to pay? What is our choice when our commitment to Christ means we can't go with the crowd? How do I react when God's will conflicts with my own? What will I choose when serving others ceases to be fun and becomes costly? How will I react when I get no recognition for what I do?

These are hard questions that bring into focus the reality of being a follower of Jesus. Like so many of those first disciples who were determined to follow Christ, we stumble and fall. The good news is that God is the God of the second chance.

Those deserting followers of Jesus were re-grouped, given the Holy Spirit's power and sent out to give it another go.

Do we follow the way of the borrowed donkey?

Let us dare to follow him.

## **Hymn 22 AA [Come Into The Streets With Me](#)**

1. Come into the streets with me!

Come to where the crowds will be,  
See a strange and gentle king  
on a donkey travelling -

*Come and follow my leader,  
come and follow my leader,  
Jesus Christ is riding by,  
come and follow my leader.*

2. All the people shout his name,  
waving branches, sing his fame,  
throw their coats upon his road,  
glad to praise the Son of God –

*Come and follow ....*

3. If the soldiers draw their swords,  
will we dare to sing these words,  
be his friends for just a day,  
cheer him on, then run away?

*Come and follow ....*

4. Jesus goes where things are rough,  
Jesus knows when life is tough,  
always comes to us, his friends,  
so his story never ends .....

*Come and follow ....*

## Offering Dedication

**We thank you, O God, for your generous Spirit.**

**We praise you for Christ's gift of self, and your never-failing love.**

**For your many gifts, we thank you.**

**Receive these gifts in token and thanks for the love you offer us – a love that makes us well and whole. Amen**

## Prayer of Intercession

*To the bidding; May your kingdom come*

*The response is: **And your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.***

Give us the grace, loving God, to pray with our hearts as well as our lips, and to serve you with our deeds as well as our prayers.

### Let us pray

In places where the church celebrates with joy today, where it laughs with little children, and praises with elderly saints, till hosanna's overflow from every loving heart; may your kingdom come... **And your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.**

In places where the church gathers in sorrow or fear today, weeping with Christ Jesus for the cross that must be carried in the face of misunderstanding and abuse; may your kingdom come .... **And your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.**

In places where ordinary people are disillusioned with the greed and injustice that wants the poor and weak blamed for the deprivation that afflicts them; may your kingdom come ... **And your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.**

In places where people are at their wits end, angry and frightened, ready to hit out violently at those around them, or falling into despair and planning to take their own lives; may your kingdom come ..... **And your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.**

In places where there are small hopes begging to be kept alive, programmes of compassion needing support, and the beginnings of faith requiring recognition and encouragement; may your kingdom come .... **And your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.**

God of Christ Jesus, and our God, enable each of us to enter fellowship with the Spirit of Christ, that our personal happiness and suffering may not be wasted, but dedicated to your infinite purposes which are baffling but always loving. In your name we pray. Amen



Hymn 120 HFTC: [All Glory Praise and Honour](#)

**Benediction**

On the back of a donkey

**Jesus came to bless us.**

With the light of his love,

**Jesus came to illumine our way.**

From the power of aimlessness and sin,

**Jesus came to set us free.**

With the power of the Holy Spirit,

**Jesus came to save us.**

This is the day that the Lord has made. As we go forth from this place, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**

**Amen**