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**Weekly Letter – 24 March 2024**



**John 12.12-16, and Psalm 118.1-2 and 19-29**

Jesus says “Yes, I am a King, but keep watching to see what kind of King I am”, John 12.14-15. You know only too well that Palm Sunday is a truly significant event in the journey of Christ and all his followers – that’s you, I and all who seek God’s truth.

Verse 16 is something that we are now used to, i.e. the disciples do not know what is going on. It’s often the same for all of us as well. People often assume ministers know the answers. Well, and of course I speak for myself, I am involved in a continual search for ‘The Truth’, meaning sometimes I feel I make a little bit of progress, then I sense there is so much more to discover. So, like the disciples we all, step by step, are longing to understand, so that our relationship with Christ is warmer – for we know, ‘you cannot love what you do not know’.

Jesus confirms that we all need to keep ‘looking to him/searching/discussing, when he says in verse 14-15 “Yes, I am a King, but keep watching to see what kind of King I am”.

You will also notice how the crowd see Jesus as King, for they will have heard about Lazarus being raised (11-1-44), and so they were in wonder by his powers. They grab at what they think is glorious, immediate, and will change their material lives, but it won’t be long before they realise they are holding nothing. They thought it was their good luck to have, to hold, and to use Jesus and that is why they shout out “Blessed be the King of Israel”. Psalm 118.25-26. How close they were to the truth, but their cries of “save us” point to their desire for something immediate, rather than ‘divine life’, glory and eternal life. We too (for I know I do) can fall into the same pattern as the pilgrims who cry out “Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”.

As Holy Week begins, perhaps you would like to pray, that God will continue to open your eyes to see the truth of what kind of King Jesus is.

**Stephen**

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling**  
**Bible Readings: Mark 11.1-11: Psalm 118.1-2 and 19-29**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Hall Street, Llanelli**

**Beyond false humility to true humility** (Lectionary Readings: Liturgy of the Psalms 118.1-2, 19-29: Mark 11:1-11.  
Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50.4-9a: Psalm 31.9-16: Philippians 2.5-11: or Mark 15.1-39, (40-47)

Lord Jesus, we come before you in humble reference, we acknowledge that true humility begins by surrendering our prideful tendencies at your feet.

Lord, we confess to you the times when our thoughts, words, and actions have been tainted by pride. We humbly ask for your forgiveness. Strip away our egos and instil in us a spirit of genuine humility.

We ask you to guard us against false humility, which masquerades in an outward display of humility, instead, let us direct all praise to you, acknowledging that every good thing in us reflects your grace and goodness.

Lord, remind us that true greatness does not lie in positions of power but resides in a heart that seeks to serve and uplift others. So help us to move beyond false humility to true humility.

We offer this prayer in the precious name of Jesus, our Saviour and the ultimate example of humility.  
Amen

Joseph Amoah (URC Prayer Handbook 2024)

## **Holy Week Services**

**Maundy Thursday – 6pm – Communion at Wesley, Eaton Road – Rev Howard Long**

**Good Friday – 10.30 am – Rev Simon Walkling**



## The journey through Holy Week

### Monday – John 12.1-11

We can see the huge gulf between Judas and Jesus. Here Jesus enjoys a terrific meal and the pleasures of an aromatic foot rub, while Judas complains about self-indulgence. For Jesus, life is about participating in this God-created world, and not seeing it as a prelude to another kind of life. Jesus seems content with life, and is ready to do 'whatever it takes' to create life, while Judas, the sticky-fingered treasurer complains, schemes and demands change.

**Prayer:** May I immerse myself in all that is good today.

### Tuesday – John 12.20-36

Today as we take another step towards Good Friday, Jesus reminds us that trusting the Father is often not easy. Like Jesus, we want to say yes, but we can so easily fall short of what we believe we should and can do. Jesus continues this passage by saying, "you have the light, trust it. Become children of light".

**Prayer:** Today, grant me the courage and the desire to do what you show me to be right.

### Wednesday – John 13.21-32

Jesus was moved to tears at the thought of Lazarus entering death's darkness (11.35). Here he faces the reality that one of his friends will hand him over to people who will be determined to kill him, and of course he is troubled. Jesus' distress doesn't lead to him to complain, rather he sees it as another opportunity to confront the truth.

**Prayer:** If life is difficult for you, do pray with courage that God will help you to face and confront the truth within your suffering.

### **Maundy Thursday – John 13.1-17**

Jesus washes his disciples feet. It won't be long before Jesus will be physically absent and so this famous scene is a request from Jesus' life that as we have received love from him, which he received from the Father, we too must love one another.

**Prayer:** Help me to be humble, kind and loving, for you have washed me clean to do your work within your creation.

### **Good Friday – John 18, and 19-1-37**

They took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place of the skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him... 19.17-18. The place is called 'The Skull', a place of violence, human agony, perpetual humiliation, and here the Christ is crucified.

**Prayer:** May your dying change me, and bring me back to you.

### **Holy Saturday – John 19.38-42**

After all the momentous events of the week, the King lives in his royal tomb, until he takes up again the life that, of his own accord, he has laid down, "for the life of the world".

**Prayer:** As you lie in your tomb, may we stand with you, and remember your love for the world.

### ***Stephen***

