

Call to Prayer: Sunday 28th March 2021
Prayer @ 7pm

As we stand at the threshold of the final journey of Jesus into Jerusalem and on towards the Cross, we find ourselves in the company of those who have gone before us on that journey. The 'great crowd' who enter into Jerusalem are those who gather for the annual marking of the Feast of the Passover. They come to remember and to give thanks for the enduring love of God. One of the Psalms used in the Feast opens with the call: 'O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!' In turn, the Psalmist cries: 'Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.' (Psalm 118: 1, 19) In the Gospel of John, we see Jesus entering Jerusalem and welcomed, as one 'who comes in the name of the Lord!', with shouts of 'Hosanna!' and 'palm branches'. (John 12: 12-16) The cry 'Hosanna!' shall soon be replaced by 'Crucify!' and the 'palm branches' by a Cross, but in faith we believe that 'the enduring love of God' shall remain unvanquished.

On this Palm Sunday, we stand on the threshold of a time of renewal within our community and in the life of the Church and we join the company of all God's people to give thanks for the love that endures and conquers even death. We pray:

God whose love endures,
Hear us as we welcome the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hear us, as we remember
All that you have done in times past
And give thanks that your enduring love has embraced even us.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God whose love endures,
Hear us as we welcome the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hear us, as we gather in the company of your people,
Or in company alone with you,
And lift up our voices to cry: Hosanna!

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God whose love endures,
Hear us as we welcome the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hear us, as we journey
Through the week that is to come.
May we journey in the presence of the One who goes before us, even to the
Cross.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God whose love endures,
Hear us as we welcome the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hear us, as we listen to the voices
Who now cry: Crucify!
And may we know it was for us he hung and suffered there.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God whose love endures,
Hear us as we welcome the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hear us, as we wait
For the dawn to break
And for your enduring love to vanquish the darkness.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Signed by:

- Rt. Rev. Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland
- Most Rev. Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Roman Catholic Church
- Most Rev. Mark Strange, Primus, on behalf of the College of Bishops, Scottish Episcopal Church

- Rev. John Fulton, Moderator, United Free Church of Scotland
- Rev. Donnie G. MacDonald, Moderator, Free Church of Scotland
- Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator, United Reformed Church (Scotland)
- Rev. Martin Hodson, General Director, Baptist Union of Scotland
- Rev. Mark Slaney, District Chair, Methodist Church (Scotland)
- Rev. May-Kane Logan, Chair, Congregational Federation in Scotland
- Lt. Col. Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland, Salvation Army
- Adwoa Bittle, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Rev. Claire Fender, District Superintendent, British Isles North District, Church of the Nazarene
- Pastor Chris Gbenle, Provincial Pastor, Province of Scotland, Redeemed Christian Church of God
- Bishop Francis Alao, Church of God (Scotland)/Minority Ethnic Churches Together in Scotland (MECTIS)
- Rev Fred Drummond, Director, Evangelical Alliance (Scotland)