



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO GROW

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)

“ When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.” ’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

REFLECTION POINTS 5 APRIL 2020

Palm Sunday is the first day of holy week and celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

There is an argument that churches should stay out of politics – this is an argument both from within and outside of the church. There is no place for religion in politics and vice versa. But Jesus was always political – his message of love and grace was political as it was counter cultural and it challenged the authority of the Romans and religious leaders. Jesus challenged those in power.

If you’ve listened to the reflection, you’ll have heard Borg and Crossen’s belief that there were 2 parades on Palm Sunday:

1. Roman governor Pilate entering one gate in a military parade with finery, troops and armoury as a sign of strength to prevent any uprisings during the Passover when the Jewish people celebrated their deliverance from Egyptian slavery
2. Jesus entering on a colt with palm branches and cloaks thrown on the road by ordinary people

Add into this scene the echoes of Zechariah, the minor prophet involved in the rebuilding of the temple and the reversal of the fortunes of Israel, and this is a political message. Jesus is being presented by Mark as bringing about the new kingdom, but it will be the kingdom of God not an earthly one.

- how can we, as people of faith, work with those in political leadership?
- what is the alignment for you between being politically active and being a follower of Jesus? what motivates you to get involved?
- how can theological reflection help us to discern our political involvement?

Don’t forget the zoom discussion groups on Sunday at 11.30am and 3pm.