

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

www.stmagnus.org

Scottish Charity SCO 05322/CCL No 119086

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Welcome to St Magnus Cathedral this morning. It was founded in 1137 by St Rognvald, in honour of Magnus, his uncle. The Cathedral belongs to the people of Orkney and its doors are open to all. If you are a visitor, we hope this order of service will help you feel part of our worship together.

You can find our Sunday worship here.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation/>

or on YouTube here.

<https://youtu.be/8AdzzhEXEZo>

Join our Wednesday ZOOM meditation by signing up here.

stmagnuszoom@gmail.com

Candle Lighting and opening meditation

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.
Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for,
he is the Word who sustains us.

We wave palm branches in anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.
Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

We sing and dance with the crowds as we enter the city, joyfully we share the light of
God that is among us.

Christ, entered the city as a poor man, not in style but simply,
yet still he caused uproar, and questions everywhere;
he drew the expectations of a hungry crowd,
and brought buried conflicts to the light.
May we, who are sometimes swayed by the crowd's approval,
and who often avoid conflict
for fear of its cost to us,
hold fast to the gospel of truth and justice
and follow faithfully in his way of compassion and solidarity
with those who are poor and excluded,
wherever it may lead us.

Reading Luke 19: 29-40

Approaching Bethphage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions: "Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back. If anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it.' " They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said. As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you doing that?" They explained that the Rabbi needed it. Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount. People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!"

Reflection

On this Palm Sunday. There are so many - Interesting characters in the story.

And each of them will have their own story to tell. Of what they witnessed as

Jesus entered Jerusalem.

And how they felt.

And how, they wondered what was going to happen next.

So let's hear from one of those characters.

Simon the zealot.

A member of a group who were quite radical. And would go to great lengths If
their goal, which was to kick out the Roman oppressors from their land was to
be achieved.

In many ways, they would stop at nothing.

So here is what Simon perhaps was thinking and feeling.

Or not on very first Palm Sunday.

Imagine that he might say something like this.

What a day it was.

What a day.

It was a day I shall never forget.

The voices raised in jubilation, the arms outstretched in welcome.

The crowds lining the streets.

Waving their palm branches.

Hurling down their cloaks.

Welcoming their king.

The son of David, the one who came in the name of the Lord.

They believed that at long last the waiting was over. The Messiah finally come
to set them free.

We believed it had come to that.

After all his talk of suffering and death, we dared to hope he'd got it wrong.

For a moment, as I watched him, I wondered if he felt the same.

The way he responded to the cheers.

Laughter Playing on his lips.

A smile on his face.

A twinkle in his eyes.

He was enjoying himself.

I'm sure of that.

Determined to savour the moment.

But then I noticed it.

As we drew nearer to Jerusalem.

A tear in the corner of his eye.

So unexpected.

Not a tear of joy, but of sorrow.

Trickling slowly down his face.

Silent testimony to his pain.

He wasn't fooled by it all.

Not like the rest of us.

He knew what they wanted.

How they would change?

He knew they would offer the cross if he rejected their crown.

Prayer

When all is said and done,
when there is nothing left to say, when all the words
have been used up,
hold on!

The word still has something to say!
When we've run out of excuses, when all the words
have been spoken,
when we're tired
of speaking them, hold on!

The word still has something to say!
When the story has been told, when the betrayal is complete, when the words of denial
have been spoken,
hold on!

The word still has something to say!
When love is broken,
when Jesus is alone,
when all we've got left is silence, hold on!

The word still has something to say.
But this word speaks silently. This word talks in actions. This word will speak,
but without words,
now is for doing,
and this word has a lot to say.
Let's not say much more.

Let's us do something instead that speaks silently
of what the word has done for us.
So many little words that make one big word called love.

Blessing

May we go into this day in peace,
May all that we offer in our lives
be expanded and renewed by the life of God, the courage of Christ
and the joyful freedom of the Spirit.

May you stay safe in the Way of Christ, and may you be blessed by his Spirit this day
and always.

