

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**Readings and Prayers 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Palm Sunday**



**Isaiah 50:4-9**

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backwards.

I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;  
    who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
    the moth will eat them up.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
    did not regard equality with God  
    as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
    taking the form of a slave,  
    being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
    he humbled himself  
    and became obedient to the point of death—  
    even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
    and gave him the name  
    that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
    every knee should bend,  
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
    that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
    to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

## **Prayers**

As we face up to the costly loving  
shown by our God,  
let us approach him in humility  
and pray to him now.

To the bidding: Make us strong  
Please respond: to do your will in all things.

Make us strong:  
**to do your will in all things.**

O God, may the kingdoms of this world  
soak up the values of your kingdom;  
may their leaders and their peoples  
uphold what is right and just,  
and establish a social order  
which is rooted in godly love.

*Silence*

Make us strong:  
**to do your will in all things.**

O God, in all the heartaches and joys  
of human relationships,  
may we be governed by selfless love,  
faithful and forgiving like you,  
without limit.

***Silence***

Make us strong:  
**to do your will in all things.**

O God, draw alongside all who suffer  
that they may know the comfort of your presence  
and the healing power of your forgiving love.  
From our own community we pray especially for:

Joyce Pringle, Robyn Rooney, Paul, Chris Hankin, Rev. Michael Dunn, Peter Murphy, Anuwat Wanggane, Alan Coe, Sam and Andy Fellows, Jack Tubby, Stacey Pearce, Richard Mallaber, Rob & Lucy, Roger Jones, Patricia Ash, Jason Thomson, Ryan Day, Bryan Plester, Brenda Hulland, David New, and Adrina and Alan Price.

*Silence*

Make us strong:

**to do your will in all things.**

O God, we pray for all  
who are making that last journey of death,  
that they may be surrounded with your peace  
and rest forever in your love.

We remember the recently departed: Jo Bunn  
and we pray for all who mourn.

We remember with love and gratitude  
those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Patrick Greenow,  
Angela Smith, Dennis Shaw, Dorreen Wren, John Crutchley, Stewart  
Nichols, Dennis Roxburgh, Jean Lewis, Beverley Clarke, Bill Poole, Marian  
Stinton.

And we remember those we love but see no longer.

May they rest in peace  
and rise in glory.

*Silence*

Make us strong:

**to do your will in all things.**

O God, we give you thanks  
that the Messiah has come to save your people.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**