

Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 2nd April 2023

Palm Sunday

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith
to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

Amen



Readings this week:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalms 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Jesus prays...

Chapters 16 and 17 of John's Gospel, describing the farewell prayers of Jesus, are two wonderful passages to read, especially as we approach Holy Week. His public preaching was over, his work with the disciples finished. Jesus knew his hour had come, the hour of his passion, his trial, crucifixion and rejection.

Pouring his heart and soul out to his Father in heaven, he prayed for himself, his disciples and those that would follow. He had finished the work God gave him to do. He had tried many times before to prepare the disciples for what lay ahead, both for himself and them. They seemed to find it difficult to grasp: maybe it was too painful to take in. They had walked and talked with Jesus for three years and they probably couldn't deal with the thought of separation. Try to imagine how they felt when Jesus looked up to Heaven to pray for them. As they listened to Jesus praying they would have known that he was bringing them into his Father's presence. He presented them to his Father with joy and thanks and asked his Father to keep them safe. Whilst it was a wonderful experience for them, they knew there was no turning back. They would have experienced all sorts of emotions: the sadness and pain of parting, the fear of the unknown and perhaps a sense of being overwhelmed with the task that lay ahead.

Those friends of Jesus had yet to discover the power of the Holy Spirit that they had been promised. It would guide them, comfort them and help them to preach the Gospel. Jesus had chosen them, but he knew there would be times when they would fail him, they would doubt him, they would run away - but only for a time. Jesus wanted them to know he would still love them: the world would do its worst, but nothing could separate them from his Father, who was also their Father.

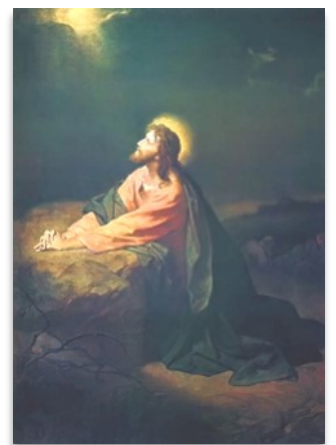
When Jesus had finished praying for the disciples, he then prayed for all who believed in him. Jesus was praying for all. That means we are all included. Those disciples were ordinary people just like us. Jesus chose them to continue his work: we also have been chosen. I think we can relate to those disciples, albeit in a lesser way, as we move forward in the new benediction: we may fear change, there can be nervousness of moving forward, but there will also be excitement of what God has planned. God is in control. We do not have to do this alone. Just as the disciples had the promise of the Holy Spirit, so do we.

Jesus said ask and you will receive. In his prayer Jesus asks that we may be of the same mind so that we might be able to complete the work. Those disciples were just the same as us, they had to work together, adapt to change. I think that it is wonderful that with the Cross being only hours away, Jesus was still thinking of others.

After this prayer with his disciples Jesus went into the garden, the garden of Gethsemane. As we journey to the cross again with all its pain, let us give thanks for the privilege of serving him and the knowledge that he still intercedes for each one of us.

Amen.

~Trixie Dye~



Christ in Gethsemane

by Heinrich Hofmann, 1886

(abstracted from reflection by Trixie Dye at Hempsall Group Zoom Evening Service, 26 March 2023, based on John 17:1-23)

Let us continue to support and strengthen each other

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord's Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

Our Services:

Sunday 2nd April 2023 Palm Sunday	09:40am Procession from Mill Centre to Hempnall Church (Optional)	Mill Centre to Hempnall Church
	10:00am Group Palm Sunday Service (non-Eucharistic service with extended reading of the Passion)	Hempnall Church
	4:00pm Family Praise	Hempnall Church
	6:00pm Palm Sunday Reflective Communion Service	Topcroft Church
Monday of Holy Week 3rd April 2023	6:00pm Evening Reflection	Via Zoom
Tuesday of Holy Week 4th April 2023	6:00pm Evening Reflection	Via Zoom
Wednesday of Holy Week 5th April 2023	6:00pm Evening Reflection	Via Zoom
Maundy Thursday 6th April 2023	7:00pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	Topcroft Church
Good Friday 7th April 2023	10:00am The Way of the Cross and Creation	Topcroft Church
	10:00am The Way of the Cross and Creation	Shelton Church
	2:00pm Family Service and the Easter Story	Hempnall Church
	2:00pm The Way of the Cross	Via Zoom
Easter Sunday 9th April 2023	6:30am Lighting the Easter Candle	Morningthorpe Church
	9:00am Group Easter Eucharist	Bedingham Church
	10:00am Family Service and the Easter Story	Topcroft Church
	10:00am Family Service and the Easter Story	Hardwick Church

This week we pray for:

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The persecuted Church
- ◇ The oppressed peoples of the world
- ◇ All who are lonely
- ◇ All who are near death
- ◇ All who are facing loss
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

FOOD BANK

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

Sunday 2ND APRIL 2023 Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm. Please phone before arrival - 01508 498157

Please ring us if you need:

**Group Office: Mon-Thu 9am-12.30pm
01508 498157**

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

WE REMEMBER:

Martin, Molly, Ian

Hempnall: Lesley and family,
Phillip, Sophie, Ross, Claire, David

Bedingham/Woodton:
Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie,
Carolyn, Kath, Bruce, Pat, Anthea, Harry, Sally

Topcroft: Gerald

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob
Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



RECENTLY DIED: Michael Soanes, Diana
Sowerby, Basil Walpole