

Daily Rhythm

Making worship part of the everyday
Rhythm of Worship // www.jamesnicolson.co.za

Devotional Diary 21 - 29 March 2015

Lectionary Readings for this week (thanks to www.gbod.org) This is the sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday.)

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 This is the processional psalm traditionally used on this day. As some may note, this psalm also provides the basis of the "Benedictus" ("Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord") and the "Hosannas" in the Great Thanksgiving.

Philippians 2:5-11 The way of Jesus Christ -- emptying himself, taking the form of a servant, accepting death on a Roman crucifix -- is to be the way of life for the people who bear his name.

Mark 11:1-11. Mark's story of the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Note that in this version, no one waves palms. In fact, there are no palms at all. Instead we see the entourage with Jesus placing cloaks and "leafy branches" in front of Jesus' colt as he makes his way through Jerusalem, sort of an impromptu, first-century "red carpet" treatment.

Monday:

Adoration Focus: God has chosen you and made you his holy people. Colossians 3:12

Confession: "When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins. Matthew 11:25". This week in our confessions we examine our relationship with our fellow human beings. Each day we will look at a specific sin that may form a barrier between others and ourselves. You are invited to allow God's Spirit to examine your life and then come to God to begin or continue the process of healing. Today's barrier: Jealousy.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom

Shared Focus: Each day reflect on the words of this line of the Lord's Prayer: "May your Kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Then think of our world, personal, local, international and pray as the Lord prompts you.

Personal prayers: (Use this section to list people you need to pray for or situations of personal concern that you need to bring before God in prayer)

Dedication: "And I will be with you always..." (The words of Christ: Matthew 28:20) As you go through the day that is ahead of you know this truth: God is with you.

Tuesday:

Adoration Focus: I will praise the Lord at all times; his praise is always on my lips. Psalm 34:1

Confession: See Monday. Today's barrier: Pride.

The Word:

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Personal Prayers:

Dedication: "And I will be with you always..." (The words of Christ: Matthew 28:20) As you go through the day that is ahead of you know this truth: God is with you.

Wednesday:

Adoration Focus: My whole being praises the Lord. Psalm 34:2

Confession: See Monday. Today's barrier: Fear.

The Word:

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Personal prayers:

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Thursday:

Adoration Focus: Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there. Psalm 139:7-8

Confession: "When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that you Father in heaven will also forgive your sins. Matthew 11:25". This week in our confessions we examine our relationship with our fellow human beings. Each day we will look at a specific sin that may form a barrier between others and ourselves. You are invited to allow God's Spirit to examine you life and them come to God to begin or continue the process of healing. Today's barrier: Arrogance.

The Word:

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Personal prayers:

Dedication: "And I will be with you always..." (The words of Christ: Matthew 28:20) As you go through the day that is ahead of you know this truth: God is with you.

Friday:

Adoration Focus: You have been saved by God's grace. Ephesians 2:5

Confession: "When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that you Father in heaven will also forgive your sins. Matthew 11:25". This week in our confessions we examine our relationship with our fellow human beings. Each day we will look at a specific sin that may form a barrier between others and ourselves. You are invited to allow God's Spirit to examine you life and them come to God to begin or continue the process of healing. Today's barrier: Overly independent.

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Personal prayers:

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Saturday:

Adoration Focus: All living things look to you for food, and you give it to them at the right time. You open your hand, and you satisfy all living things. Psalm 145:15-16

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Personal prayers:

Dedication: "And I will be with you always..." (The words of Christ: Matthew 28:20) As you go through the day that is ahead of you know this truth: God is with you.

Sunday:

Adoration Focus: Then I heard all creatures in heaven and earth and under the earth and in the sea saying: "To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever." Revelation 5:13

Confession: "When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that you Father in heaven will also forgive your sins. Matthew 11:25". This week in our confessions we examine our relationship with our fellow human beings. Each day we will look at a specific sin that may form a barrier between others and ourselves. You are invited to allow God's Spirit to examine you life and them come to God to begin or continue the process of healing. Today's barrier: Being Judgemental.

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Weekly Rhythm

Joining our stories with the stories of God's people.

Rhythm of Worship // www.jamesnicolson.co.za

In our spiritual tradition there is a daily, weekly and seasonal (yearly) cycle, all working together to breathe God's life into us and connect us in a worshipful relationship with our Creator. This resource explores these rhythms from the perspective of the Christian Year (using the Revised Common Lectionary). It is aimed at those who want to journey with these texts in a transformational way, particularly from a worship perspective. Each week we will share around the set texts as they inspire our daily, weekly and yearly rhythms.

Prayers to help you apply the readings: (Notes in italics are with thanks to www.gbod.org.)

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *This is the processional psalm traditionally used on this day. As some may note, this psalm also provides the basis of the "Benedictus" ("Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord") and the "Hosannas" in the Great Thanksgiving.*

Prayer

(based on Psalm 118:19-24)

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter, and give thanks to the Lord.

We will give You thanks, for You have answered us;

You have become our salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Christine Longhurst - <http://re-worship.blogspot.ca>

Philippians 2:5-11 *The way of Jesus Christ -- emptying himself, taking the form of a servant, accepting death on a Roman crucifix -- is to be the way of life for the people who bear his name.*

Jesus is Lord

(based on Philippians 2:5-11)

(gradually getting quieter)

Equal with God:

Jesus is Lord

Emptied himself:

Jesus is Lord

Came as a slave:

Jesus is Lord

Found as a man:

Jesus is Lord

Humbly obeyed:

Jesus is Lord

Went to his death:

Jesus is Lord

Death on a cross:

Jesus is Lord

(getting louder)

God raised him up:

Jesus is Lord

Gave him the name:

Jesus is Lord

Higher than all:

Jesus is Lord

Every knee bow:

Jesus is Lord

All tongues confess:

Jesus is Lord

Posted on the EngageWorship.org website.

Text by Michael Perry

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Mark 11:1-11. *Mark's story of the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Note that in this version, no one waves palms. In fact, there are no palms at all. Instead we see the entourage with Jesus placing cloaks and "leafy branches" in front of Jesus' colt as he makes his way through Jerusalem, sort of an impromptu, first-century "red carpet" treatment.*

Hold on to the Hosannas

(inspired by the events in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11,
Luke 19:29-44, John 12:12-19)

Let us stay with the Hosannas for a while
Let us let them keep on ringing in our ears
Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Instead of rushing on to hear the cries
that came later in the week
Let us stay with the Hosannas
Maybe once we have heard those
in a new way
we will be ready
to make the rest of the journey
A journey that was hastened
and given new purpose
by those Hosannas
For those Hosannas were not
simply the innocent cries
of palm branch waving children
Those Hosannas were the war cries of adults
tired of the oppression
of occupying forces
Those hosannas
were the hopeful cries
of a nation seeking liberation.
Those Hosannas
were an investment of hope
in one they thought would deliver.
Those Hosannas
that we have sanitized over the years
rang out in clear insurrection
sealing the fate
of one who rode on a donkey.
so, let us stay with the Hosannas
Let us wrest them from the lips of children
and allow them to ring in our ears
and spew from our mouths
as a call to action
a call to justice
a call to love.
Let us stay with the Hosannas
even as we journey
with the Christ
who carried those Hosannas
all the way to the cross
and ensured their fulfillment
as the justice and love of God.
Let us stay with the Hosannas.

— written by Rev. E. Crumlish of Castlehill Church, Ayr. Posted on the Church of Scotland's
excellent **Starters for Sunday** website.