



## Palm Sunday

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most churches have moved online to stay connected. God is faithfully connecting us to the people He has purposefully placed around us. Nothing, not physical separation nor pandemic, can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ, the hope we share in Him, and the celebratory anticipation of His assured return.

Through these uncertain times, when nothing looks the way we expected it would or are used to, one thing remains the same: God. *On the heels of Palm Sunday, as we begin this Holy Week, may we constantly be reminded of its significance and value for our lives today. That very important day in history, when Jesus began His journey towards the cross.*

Palm Sunday is the celebration of Jesus' entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies such as Zechariah 9:9: *“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* Those words- written 575 years before Christ - predicted that when the Messiah came to Israel, he would come riding on a donkey.

Jesus riding in on a donkey was significant, not only to fulfill prophecy but to assume His status as royalty. Otherwise, He could not have commandeered an animal of someone else's, recorded in Matthew 21:2-3. The people cheered, “Hosanna!” which means “save,” as Jesus rode into the city. *“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”* Mark recorded in his gospel account, *“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”* (Mark 1:9-10, ESV)

Christians celebrate Palm Sunday as a reminder of God's faithfulness. Messiah Jesus came from the royal line of David, just as God promised. The long generational line, and all of the very human things that happened - both good and bad - including a seventy-year exile - rode through the streets that day in Jerusalem. God's plan was always forgiveness for His people, and Jesus came to earth as a sacrifice on our account. We are forever forgiven and saved eternally when we come to God through Christ. He made a way. We celebrate who Jesus is -both then as He rode into the city - and now as He sits at the right hand of God.

God's promises remain true. His love reigns. His purposes are good. God's Word will be established on this earth. Pandemics will not stop the gospel. Just look at how we are finding ways to rally together, even though we are physically distanced.

Love is unstoppable because God is love. This year, as we celebrate Palm Sunday in our homes and across screens virtually, we can anticipate the hugs and the high fives that will come again. This won't last forever, but God's promises will. Amen.

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