

PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP WEST



2 April 2020

We don't need to tell anyone how challenging and unprecedented this new situation we find ourselves living in is. We have concern for the least privileged persons in our society. It is the most marginalised people, the elderly, unemployed, homeless, socially isolated, disabled and chronically ill people, who suffer most during pandemics and global disasters. The Presbytery believes that through the support that we demonstrate in our own communities, we will be able to contribute to helping individuals who currently require our assistance

We are all on a journey - Rev. Jeanne Beale (Deacon) - Presbytery Minister

As we prepare again to journey with Christ on the road to the Cross, I suspect this year it will be a journey like no other year. I sat with the Gospel text for this week ([Matthew 21:1-11](#)) and for the first time, the words "When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil" jumped out at me, I love the way our scripture has the power to speak into our lived experience, and for our world right now it is certainly one of "turmoil".

Oh how our world needs Jesus to enter into its cities right now and bring His life giving hope, peace, joy and love. So the question pleads: How might we reflect Christ in this devastating crisis? We as Christ's church hold the key. We have Christ's message of Hope to share with those who are experiencing hopelessness and helplessness, Peace to share with those who are scared and confused, Love for those who are lost and alone and the Joy of new life that comes with the awareness of God's Grace for us all.

Be assured my brothers and sisters in Christ, God is already stirring hearts; a growing culture of kindness is surging forth in our communities (check out "The Kindness Pandemic" Facebook page). The generosity of love for one another is a gift from God, in-built in our human DNA.

Jesus rode humbly (not triumphantly) on a young colt, toward rejection, pain, suffering and ridicule. He generously offered all he had for humankind to receive the news of God's unconditional love.

This Easter, what can we do from the isolation of our homes that speaks into Christ's humble witness? As the body of Christ, how does our understanding of church need to be "poured out and broken" so that all may receive God's saving Grace?

When I was the Chaplain at Aitken College, a favourite song that children would ask for was "Let your light shine" ([link](#)). Can we, in our new ways of being church, find ways to let our lights shine? Our world needs us right now. From the chaos of this pandemic will come a seeking for understanding, we have the secrets to how new life can/will come out of this chaos.

Like Jesus entered into the turmoil in Jerusalem, I pray that we can find ways to enter into the turmoil in our cities and inject God's hope, peace, joy and grace.

Upholding you all in prayer.

Presbytery News

Rev Narelle Collas and her husband Craig are currently in Queensland for two weeks following the death of Narelle's father on Tuesday. Our thoughts and prayers are with Narelle and her family during this sad and difficult time. Please refrain from contacting Narelle until after April 14th.

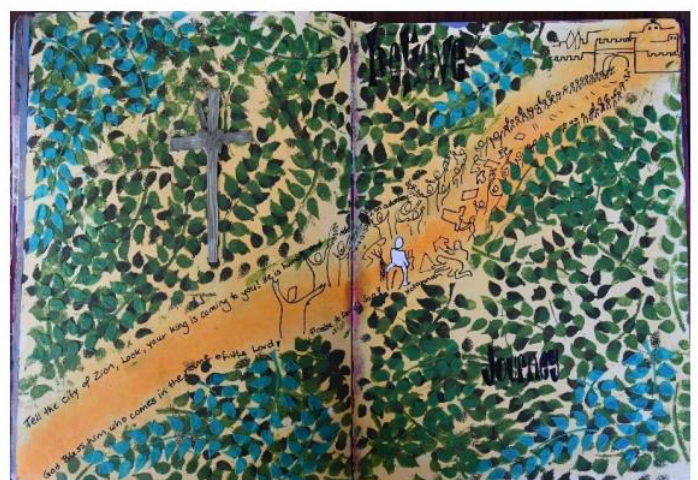


Image: Palm Sunday by Rev Linley Liersch (Art Journal Multi-Media)