**Salendine Nook Baptist Church – Church Together**

**Sunday 24th March 2024 - Inspiring Easter - Travelling To Jerusalem**

**Welcome**

The Bible Reading for today’s service is: **Matthew 21 v. 1 - 11**

The theme for our service today is: **Inspiring Easter ~ Travelling To Jerusalem**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for this **Palm Sunday Service** and that you would be able to **Inspired To Follow Jesus Throughout This Easter Period**

**Palm Sunday** gives us the opportunity to begin to become inspired by the events of the Easter Story.
This year we are going to be ‘**Travelling With Jesus**’ through different stages of his journey during the last week of his life. Enter with us into the wonders of what Easter is all about, and be ‘**Inspired By Jesus In your Own Life This Easter’**.

**A Palm Sunday Response From Psalm 118**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

**Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

Let Israel say, “His love endures forever!” and all who fear God say, “His love endures forever!”

**Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

With the Lord on our side, what can we fear? What can humankind do?

**Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

We shall triumph over those who surround us and stand in confidence in the Lord, our God!

**Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

The Lord is our strength and our might. The Lord has become our salvation!

**Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!**

**Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest**

**A Prayer For Palm Sunday**

Lord Jesus Christ, you had no interest in serving yourself, only in serving others.

You did not desire your own glory, only the glory of the one who sent you, and because of that God has highly exalted you, giving you the name that is above every name.

Teach us today, we pray, the true nature of your kingship, service, and authority, and so, help us to honour you as you desire, through loving God with all of our heart, mind, and soul, and loving our neighbour as ourselves.

So, inspire us and may we build your kingdom, until you return in glory and gather all things to yourself.

**Amen**

**Song Suggestion**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna In The Highest

**Moment Of Reflection**

Christ entered Jerusalem, and he enters our lives to assert the rule of God – over us and over all creation!

**What Is Palm Sunday?**

On Palm Sunday, Christian worshippers celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, an event that took place the week before the Lord's death and resurrection. Palm Sunday is a moveable feast, meaning the date changes every year based on the liturgical calendar. Palm Sunday always falls one week before Easter Sunday.

For many Christian churches, Palm Sunday, often referred to as Passion Sunday, marks the be- ginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. The biblical account of Palm Sunday can be found in all four Gospels: **Matthew 21 v. 1 - 11; Mark 11 v. 1 - 11; Luke 19 v. 28 - 44; and John 12 v. 12 - 19.**

**Palm Sunday History**

The date of the first observance of Palm Sunday is uncertain. A detailed description of a palm processional celebration was recorded as early as the 4th century in Jerusalem. The ceremony was not introduced into the West until much later in the 9th century.

**How Is Palm Sunday Celebrated Today?**

Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday as it is referred to in some Christian churches, is the sixth Sun- day of Lent and the final Sunday before Easter. Worshippers commemorate Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On this day, Christians also remember Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, praise God for the gift of salvation, and look expectantly to the Lord's second coming.

Many churches, including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican, Eastern Ortho- dox, Moravian and Reformed traditions, distribute palm branches to the congregation on Palm Sunday for the customary observances. These observances include a reading of the account of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, the carrying and waving of palm branches in processional, the blessing of palms, the singing of traditional hymns, and the making of small crosses with palm fronds.

In some traditions, worshippers take home and display their palm branches near a cross or crucifix, or press them into their Bible until the next year's season of Lent. Some churches will place collection baskets to gather the old palm leaves to be burned on Shrove Tuesday of the following year and used in the next day's Ash Wednesday services.

Palm Sunday also marks the beginning of Holy Week, a solemn week focusing on the final days of Jesus' life. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday, the most important holiday in Christianity.

**What Is A Palm Cross?**

A palm cross is just like it sounds. It is a palm leaf that has been folded into a cross. It can also be made from other materials and is used to commemorate Palm Sunday. A palm cross is made from the fronds of a palm leaf. The Palm Cross is used for Palm Sunday celebrations before Easter to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem just a few days before His Crucifixion.

Thousands of years later, palms are handed out at church services to remind us of Jesus’ pro- cession to His death that He willingly did for us. This year, Palm Sunday will be on March 24, 2024. This begins Holy Week which leads up to Easter Sunday on March 31, 2024. And if your church hands out palm fronds, you can learn how to make a palm cross with these step-by-step palm cross instructions below, and here is a YouTube video for reference. May it be a reminder you can keep throughout the year to remind you of how much Christ loves you.

**What Is the Meaning Behind the Palm Cross?**

*Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding (Jesus) as well as those following kept crying out: 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!'*
**Mark 11 v. 8 - 10**

Palms can be traced back to Jewish tradition and Christian history. Palms are mentioned several times in the Bible and pertain to significant historical moments. For example, the earliest mention of palms is found in **Judges 4 v. 5** which says: ‘She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, be- tween Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment’. Deborah conducted court under the shade of palm trees and King Solomon had Palms carved into the temple, adorning the inner and outer walls (**1 Kings 6 v. 29**). **Deuteronomy 34 v. 3** recognized the city of Jericho for having the finest palm trees.

Palms become significant in the fact they were a representation of the upright, righteousness, and victory which can be found in the Old Testament. In Leviticus 23, after God freed the Israelites from over 400 years of slavery and brought them to the Promised Land, it says:

Remember that this seven-day festival to the Lord—the Festival of Shelters—begins on the fifteenth day of the appointed month, after you have harvested all the produce of the land. The first day and the eighth day of the festival will be days of complete rest. On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees—palm fronds, boughs

from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then celebrate with joy before the Lord your God for seven days. You must observe this festival to the Lord for seven days every year. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed in the appointed month from generation to generation. For seven days you must live outside in little shelters. All native-born Israelites must live in shelters. This will remind each new generation of Israelites that I made their ancestors live in shelters when I rescued them from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.
**Leviticus 23 v. 39 - 43**.

In other words, these temporary shelters were a reminder that God had saved his people out of Egypt to live in tents in the wilderness. Other references of palms come in **Psalm 92 v. 12** when it is written the godly become referenced to the beauty of a palm tree. ‘But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.’. The background of the palm trees ties the Old Testament and the New Testament together because people had already begun to associate palms with victory. Not only did God’s people use them during their festivals, but they had also begun to associate the palms as tokens of joy, triumph, goodness, victory, and stead- fastness. So, it was no surprise that when they learned their King of kings was entering town, the people wanted to honour Him.

On the first Palm Sunday, the beginning of what is now Holy Week that focuses on the final days of Christ – Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, people gathered and laid down palm branches and cloaks throughout Jesus’ procession as they gave Him the royal treatment and hundreds of people shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ His triumphal entry is mentioned in all four of the Gospels. It is also mentioned in a prophecy in the Old Testament in Zechariah 9 v. 9, which says: ‘Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey’.

**Matthew 21 v. 1 - 11** says: Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified on the cross - only to rise from the grave to conquer sin and death in our place. What the people didn’t know at the time it was a pro- cession for a different kind of king - One that would die to save His people, and die to pay for the sins of the whole world.

**Bible Reading**

**Matthew 21 v. 1 - 11 NIV**

**Jesus comes to Jerusalem as king**

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’

4 This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

5 ‘Say to Daughter Zion,
“See, your king comes to you,

gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’
‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ 11 The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’

**Song Suggestion**

Ride On, Ride On In Majesty

**Offering**

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.

**An Adapted Version Of Meditation Of Simon The Zealot**

You should have heard them! as Jesus was travelling into Jerusalem.

What a noise they made!
What a sight they saw!
What a welcome they gave him!

I’m telling you; I’ve never seen the like of it before, not in all my born days, and there’s been a few of those I can tell you.

We’ve had kings visit here before, along with governors, would - be messiahs, and they’ve all had their moments, their fans have all been out in force to greet them, but there was nothing like this, nowhere near it! When Jesus decided to travel into Jerusalem.

They came out to greet him in their thousands, waiting to meet him, the news of his coming having raced before him, all they wanted to do was to be there when he arrived.

And it wasn’t just his followers who turned up on the day, it was everyone, men, women, and children, and they all began to pluck Palm branches from the trees, some of them were even tearing off their cloaks, and began carpeting the road before him, their voices hoarse with shouting out the praises from the Psalms.

‘Hosanna!’ they cried. ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’

When you really stop to think about it, it was treason, of course, and probably heresy too, but no one cared – we decided that we would all take the consequences, this was a time for rejoicing, and rejoice we did.

Yet if that was unusual - the abandonment, the jubilation - there were stranger things to follow during the week to come, for just a few days later, less than a week in fact, the scene was so very different.

Those same people by and large, once more part of a large crowd, but this time I noticed that it was not with love but hatred in their faces that I witnessed, not welcome but rejection, their waving hands suddenly had turned into shaking fists, their ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’ all at once became ‘We have no king but Caesar’.

I wouldn’t have believed it possible if I hadn’t been there and seen it for myself, but the sad fact is I not only saw it, in my own way I was part of the whole sorry business, for when the crisis came I was found wanting, concerned only to save my skin with no thought as to his, I let him down!

It was a chilling lesson, and one that I, like so many others, learned the hard way - the lesson that it’s easy to call someone king, but much harder to actually travel the journey with them and serve them all the days of my life.

**Song Suggestion**

You Are The King Of Glory

**Church Together Thought**

Jesus would have attended the synagogue each Sabbath to hear the Rabbi read from the Torah, the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These books were repeated over and over, so that, in the oral learning culture of that time, it became ingrained on the heart and mind of every devout Israelite. This was not only on the Sabbath, but there would have been synagogue prayers twice a week on the market days of Tuesday and Thursday. It seems highly probable that Jesus may have received extra tuition to become a Rabbi himself, for the Gospel accounts record Him being called Rabbi, Teacher, Master, and Lord. For example, Nicodemus addressed Jesus as ‘Rabbi’ in **John 3 v. 2**.

So, as we begin our thoughts around Easter this year, we begin by travelling to Jerusalem as we take a closer look at Jesus, on this Palm Sunday.

As the prophets before him, when words were insufficient for the point he wished to make, Jesus dramatically enacted his message. Therefore, as we celebrate on this Palm Sunday today, we see Jesus, demonstrating those actions, and fulfilling Scripture, as we see in **Zechariah 9 v. 9** which says: ‘Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey – even on a donkey’s colt’, in the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a dangerous place for Jesus. The chief priests and the Pharisees had their spies mingling with the crowds, ready to pounce at the first opportunity to arrest Him. Jesus it would seem had become too popular.

**THE COLT**

In this account of the entry into Jerusalem, which is recorded in Matthew’s gospel, we see a spectacularly high - profile Jesus. By riding down the Mount of Olives and up into Jerusalem on the back of a humble donkey, Jesus ensured all eyes were directed on Him, and after Jesus had been glorified, those w2ho were present might remember Zechariah’s prophecy. Also, the display was a loaded reminder from 11 BC when Simon the Maccabee rode into the Holy City on a donkey and cleansed the Temple from the Syrian desecration. (**In the Apocrypha, see 1 Maccabees 13 v. 51.**)

In describing Jesus’ preparations for travelling and entering Jerusalem, Mark’s and Luke’s Gospels tell us that the young donkey was one that no one had ever ridden before. Some might have thought such a donkey was useless for Jesus’ purpose, but Jesus can do wonders with those things that others count as useless!

Matthew however, in his account doesn’t include this detail, but he is keen to make explicit that Jesus is fulfilling the words of Zechariah as we have already said and seen in **Zechariah 9 v. 9**. He also adds a curious fact that the other Gospels omit. Here, two animals are mentioned, and the disciples bring both the donkey with its mother, as recorded in **Matthew 21 v. 2**.

Matthew, it seems is keen to establish that the Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled, and the presence of two animals here may have shown the immaturity of the colt in that it may not have been separated from its mother before. In this case, Jesus possibly shows his compassion even for the animals’ feelings, in letting the mother keep her foal company.

Matthew is also keen to emphasise Jesus’ humility by using only the first part of the quotation from Zechariah. Matthew abbreviates the story by omitting what happened when the disciples found the donkey but moves to say: ‘**and Jesus sat on them**’ (i.e. on the disciples’ cloaks on the colt), as in the other Gospels. We may not know or even understand what the reasons are that lie behind Jesus’ request of us at this moment, but we need to ask the question: does it matter if some of the details are not yet revealed? Have you ever wondered what unlikely request Jesus might be asking of us in these unprecedented times?

**THE MASTER**

Does ‘**the Lord needs them**’ mean God or Jesus needs them? What authority Jesus was claiming for himself if that is the case! Jesus rightly has that authority over all that we have and are.

Not only is Jesus the one in whom God lives fully, as we are told in **Colossians 2 v. 9**, which says: ‘For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body’, and through whom all things were created: ‘for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see - such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him’, as seen in **Colossians 1 v. 16**, but also the one through whom all beings in heaven and on earth could be brought back to God, through his blood, shed on the cross of Calvary, which in **Colossians 1 v. 20** says: ‘and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross’.

**THE GREETING**

The tribute suggested by the spreading of clothes in the road is illustrated in **2 Kings 9 v. 13**, after Jehu is anointed as the next king of Israel, and the crowds greeted Jesus as he travelled and entered Jerusalem with words from **Psalm 118 v. 25, 26** which says: ‘Please, Lord, please save us. Please, Lord, please give us success. Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord’.

‘Hosanna’ is the Hebrew for ‘save us’ as seen in **Psalm 118 v. 25** and is both a cry for help and a blessing. This Psalm was sung at the end of the Passover meal, it is probably the ‘hymn’ referred to in **Matthew 26 v. 30** and, as they sang this, the Jews looked forward to a new deliverance from their enemies, as they did so long ago while they were in Egypt.

These verses were seen as a greeting to the coming Messiah. We also need to recognise the potential political implication of the palm branches. Waving a palm branch was like waving the national flag. The palm was such a popular national emblem that it was used on Jewish coins. In the context of an occupied nation, entering the city waving palm branches was blatant and defiant nationalism. The statement that Jesus makes is unambiguously Messianic. He was determined to fulfill in himself the Father’s preordained and revealed purpose. Therefore, Jesus’ calculated action causes us to ask some poignant questions:

Was Jesus deliberately rousing a volatile and potentially explosive situation? And, if his prophetic actions held such clear scriptural, Messianic overtones, how was it that the people were blind to His message of justice, peace and compassion?

How could the meekness and majesty portrayed by Jesus in that triumphal entry into Jerusalem have been so badly misunderstood?

What steps do we need to take in order to know the will of God for our lives and how deliberate are we in seeking to fulfill it?

Did the crowds remember that these verses were preceded by **Psalm 118 v. 22**, which speaks of ‘the stone the builders, rejected’? Jesus certainly remembered **Matthew 21 v. 33 – 46** which clearly says: ‘Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 35 “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed an- other, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. 38 “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ 39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41 “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other ten- ants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” 42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

the Lord has done this,
43 and it is marvellous in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. 46 They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet, and within a week, they would be caught up in the fulfilment of that verse, also.

It is sometimes easy to quote those passages that speak of how God gives ‘blessing’ and victory, and to forget those that speak of the rejection we may have to bear for Jesus’ sake. If we would dare to share his kingly triumph, we must be prepared to follow him in the way of the cross.

Some were fascinated by him but not committed to him. There is more to discipleship than enthusiasm and experiences. In that crowd were opponents who resisted all he said, the indifferent who remained unaffected; the enthusiastic who ‘went with the action’; but only some who were committed to letting Jesus be Master of their lives.

If Jesus was to ask us personally today which group we belonged to, what would be your answer? Are you Inspired this Easter to also travel the way of the cross and be prepared to serve Jesus to the very end?

**Questions To Ponder**

Take a moment to think and reflect on what you have heard or read so far today. What request do you think Jesus is asking of you today at the beginning of this Easter period?

What steps do you think you need to take or make in order to know fully what Jesus is asking of you and are you prepared to take and make them for him?

If there was only one way that you could take in order to ’travel the way of Jesus’ what would it look like for you personally?

**Moment Of Reflection**

I will follow Jesus wherever He may go…

**Song Suggestion**

I Will Follow Him

**Song Suggestion**

King of Kings, Majesty

**Prayers Of Intercession on Palm Sunday**

This morning loving God, we thank you for your triumphal entry into our world each and every day. As we enter into Spring, we give thanks for the slow motion explosion of buds on the trees proclaiming their ‘Hosanna!’ to you. For the rushing water, falling from heaven, gurgling to the sea, that proclaims their ‘Hosanna!’ to you. For the fragrance of spring in the morning air which proclaims it’s, ‘Hosanna!’ to you and for all the beauty of nature that proclaims your praise!

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We long today to join with this chorus, giving you thanks and praise for who you are, for all you have created, and for all that you are creating. Thank you for sending us Jesus, who showed us your love for all creation, who shows your love for us. He opened our eyes to see your kingdom come here on earth. Forgive us today, we pray, for the times where we have gone about our own business, concerned with many things, oblivious to the needs of those around us, oblivious to the call of your love in our heart. God of grace, equip us and inspire us to be your servants, listening, eager and ready to serve, wherever we may be. May your words of joy and hope forever be on our lips in praise of your Holy name.

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Thank you loving Lord for your presence in our world, even in war - filled places. We especially remember today on this Palm Sunday the many situations that continues to rage around the world. Be with us we pray, when we are tempted to despair, and to think that you have forsaken us. When we are tempted to think that you are powerless. We pray today, that you would give us a vision of your entry into our world as the Prince of Peace, changing hearts, changing our hearts, one by one, creating peacemakers who say no to violence.

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

This morning Lord, open our hearts to be your hearts, open our hands to be your hands, open our arms, to be your loving arms for all who need your presence. You know the people in our congregation with pressing needs: those with new diagnoses, those waiting for tests, those coping with chronic pain. In these moments loving Lord, we lift them before you.

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

You place people in our road who are in desperate need of your good news, and we have walked by on the other side. Or we’ve said, ‘We’ll help them tomorrow, when we have more time or more money or more something’. Help us loving Lord Jesus, to be your hands and feet in this world; let us bring words of joy and hope to those who need them the most.

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of grace, we long to be your dear disciples, washing each other’s feet. We long to be faithful companions on the journey that you are taking us along, awaken our hearts and minds in the darkest hour. We long to follow in your footsteps, even if they lead to crosses on a barren hillside. These are the desires of our hearts.

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We ask all these things, in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

**Planting The Easter Story**

Bury the seeds and remember that Jesus died to save us. As the flowers grow, celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead to give us new life!

**Why Wildflower Seeds?**

In the past some Christians would plant wild seeds on Good Friday, the day that remembers Jesus’ death.

The cold & hard seeds, seemingly dead, represented Jesus’ death and the soil his burial in a tomb. There was a solemn moment of sadness and a recognition of our own spiritual sorrow and seeming deadness.

Then on Easter Sunday, the day of celebrating Jesus’ resurrection, they would joyfully pick the wildflowers that had grown from last year’s sowing.
It represented the remarkable offer of new life a faith in Jesus brings, and how it is accessible to everyone.

These wildflower seed cards might create just the space to wonder with our friends and family, colleagues,
and others about Jesus this Easter.

Both the sorrow and sadness of life, and the bursting new vibrancy Jesus offers all people everywhere through Easter!

It’s a wonderful and very ordinary way to wonder together what Jesus means as he says:
‘I have come to offer you life, and life in all its fullness.’

(Jesus, in **John 10 v. 10**)

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father who art in Heaven

Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

On earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

And the glory, forever and ever.

**Amen**

**Song Suggestion**

Majesty, Worship His Majesty

**Blessing**

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray; And in your mercy defend us From all perils and dangers of this life; For the love of your only Son, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, We pray this humble prayer. **Amen**