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Weekly Letter –29 March 2026

Matthew 21.1-11

Jesus knew we are possessed by what we possess

You will know what generally happens when Jesus enters Jerusalem 'Behold, your King comes to you, meek, and riding on an ass' (v.5).

As you read these verses I'm sure you will sense that Jesus the Christ enters the great city gently, quietly, not seeking dominance or praise, rather he once again shows his willingness to serve others. Jesus is in a word, 'meek', revealing his total surrender to God's will, which means Jesus has freely entrusted his life, plans, and desires to God, trusting that his wisdom and divine love will show him the way. I think it's important to note this is not passive resignation, rather it is an active loving trust.

We know Jesus is possessed with the desire to do God's will. "Not my will, but yours be done" Luke 22.42. Jesus is possessed by what he possesses— Love of God – God's plans, God's future, God's choices.

You and I know that fearing to lose what we think we cannot live without, means, we cannot come out of ourselves to receive from God what he desires to give us - life. The key is to note what we first desire, to whom we first belong. Is the Kingdom the pearl of great price (Matt.13:45-46), for which I am willing to give up pearls of lesser value? That is, do I want to follow God's will, as Jesus does, or to bind God to the shackles of my own unfree desires?

I hope you will ponder on this question during this Holy week, while your Christ freely chooses God's choices for you, and hopes that you too will follow him. For he knows only too well that humans are possessed by what they value. For Christ, meekly riding on an ass, nothing compares to doing the will of our Father.

O Jesus,
You entered Jerusalem not in triumph of force,
but in humility and peace.
Shape my heart to be like yours –
firm in truth, yet tender in love.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling
Bible Readings: Matthew 21.1-11: Matthew 21.12-16.**

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Hall Street

Lent Connections – Wednesday 1st April, 2:30pm in the Lounge

During Lent we have been looking at Bible stories, with opportunities for reflection and conversations. This week we will be meeting in the Lounge and responding to different occasions in Jesus' life and how they link together. What highlights would you share about Jesus' life?

Sunday, 5th April – Easter Sunday Worship at 10.30 am. We will celebrate Communion.

LITANY (Lectionary Readings: Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29: **Matthew 21.1-11**)

Jesus, you came to live among us, to show us the very being of God.
You surprised us with your parables and astonished us with miracles of hope.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Jesus you entered the city with defiant joy and the people acclaimed you as we greet you now.
And then you walked the way of sorrows, took your crown of thorns, and opened arms on a cross.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Jesus, you still walk in our streets today, as we search for you among the faces of strangers.
And you are truly present with us as we gather, as bread is broken and wine is poured.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Jesus, we greet you with our Hosannas, as we join with crowds of your followers,
across the world through the ages, with the angels and with all the saints ...
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Susan Durber (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP -2nd APRIL - SERVICES NEARBY

Mount Calvary – 11 am.

Wesley Methodist, Eaton Road, 6 pm - Communion Service led by Rev Howard Long

BARE FEET (Susan Durber - URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

(Lectionary Readings: Exodus 12.1-4, (5-10), 11-14: Psalm 116 1-2, 12-19: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26: **John 13.1-17, 31b-35**)

In our congregation, we like to keep it polite. We speak of the weather, of bus times and birthdays, families and hobbies, of the everyday and easy.

“You ought to wash one another’s feet”.

So, hard to imagine a community where we could be so confidently vulnerable, that we take off layers of socks, tights, leggings, and jeans, and reveal our imperfect and battered feet.

“You should do as I have done to you”.

Harder still to create a place where the deepest things of our hearts, the fears and guilts and traumas of our lives could be laid bare, held in love, held, soothed and bathed in holy water.

“Love one another, just as I have loved you”.

Show us, Jesus, how to be your disciples, and give us the courage to unbind our own wounds, as we bring real and tender love to the feet of the beautiful and broken in this world.

HERE IS YOUR MOTHER

(Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 52.13-53.12: Psalm 22: Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16: 5.7-9: **John 18.1-19.42**)

Jesus, I look at the bare cross in the chapel and see that your body is not there.
You are risen, and the cross a simple sign of a love that never ends.

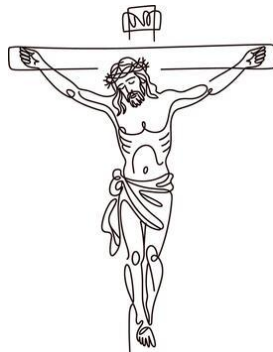
And, across the road, I look up at the crucifix in the Church, as you reign from a cross,
with Mary and the disciples standing by. I see that you are not there,
in stone and wood, but loving us still, here and now.

From the cross, in your pain, you cared so much that you gave us each other,
making a new body of Christ, in the Church.

i look at the people with whom I praise you, and I hear you say,
“Here is your mother”, “Here is your Son”.

These are your people and mine too. And I know that you will come and find me here, with them.

Susan Durber – URC Prayer Handbook 2026)



HE WAS HELD DOWN
A Prayer of confession
Luke 23.32-43

He was held down, one kneeling on him,
pinioning his arm as nails were driven into his flesh,
while he lay helpless on the hard ground,
people looking on, powerless in the face of authority
as he gasped,
“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”.
Father, forgive us each time we condone
injustice and hate, mob rule and violence,
or stand by while authority
goes unchallenged.

Forgive us when we refuse forgiveness, Peace or love,
For then Christ is crucified again.

Carol Dixon (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)